Petroleum County Conservation District
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Local Common Sense Conservation
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Laura Kiehl – *Chairman*, **Rodney Rowton,** *Vice-Chairman*
Brenda Brady –*Treasurer & Secretary*, **Ralph Corbett** – *Urban Supervisor*, **Jay King** – *Rural Supervisor*,
Butch Arthur – *Urban Supervisor*, **Tye Lund** – *Rural Supervisor*

July 29, 2026

Call to order (regular meeting): Chair Laura Kiehl called the regular Petroleum County Conservation District meeting to order at 5:03pm. Those present were Laura Kiehl, Rodney Rowton, Ralph Corbett, Jay King, Butch Arthur, and Tye Lund. Others present in person were Brent Smith, CEMIST; Reba Ahlgren, NRCS; Skylar Stenson, ACES/NRCS; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Other virtual attendees were Lesley Rolls, PCCD Water/MWC; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; and Veronica Wolff, DNRC. Brenda was absent.

Approval of PCCD Minutes:
Tye Lund moved to approve the June 24, 2026, meeting minutes; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: None.

Partner/Staff Reports:

Administrator: Everyone looked over the Administrator report for July. Discussed the upcoming Sourdough Workshop event and grant reporting. Laura Kiehl motioned to pay Wade Hoge $84.00 for the difference paid for the No-Till Drill; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

PCCD Water: Leslie reported that she has been visiting with Tera (MSCA) and coordinating site visits. Visited with Kyle Tackett; might have funding with the geomorphology grant. Rodney Rowton moved to pay up to $250 for the Salinity Workshop; Jay King seconded. Motion passed. MWC might be able to cover it; will vote at their next meeting Aug 3. Waiting on an engineer to come out to McDonald Creek project area. Clint Smith has looked at the area and gave his recommendations. Kyle Tacket approved up to 30 hours a week with MWC. Started to work on the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

MRCDC: Molly reported on the upcoming River Rendezvous event in the Sidney area September 1-2. Sent out registration info today.

CEMIST: Brent reported that the current quarter is expensing since finishing up two grants and getting through funding; all reimbursable. Discussed the Bio-blitz email he sent out.

DNRC – Veronica discussed the CDA and when to expect award letters. Discussed options for a new fiscal manager. Will hold off on the PCCD CDA FY27 award letter until the budget can be amended for additional fiscal manager funds.

NRCS: Reba reported that they have a new NRCS chief, Colton Buckley. There is new reorganization for the agency. All employee call August 6. Montana is changing direction for TIPS; moving to locally lead conservation proposals and will be having local work group meetings. Will focus on top priorities and one county wide proposal. Last two contracts obligated by Friday and been having a lot of field work and surveying for next year's work.

Winnett ACES: Skylar reported that they are advertising for a new conservation technician position. This position will help to support other surrounding county offices, farm bill projects, etc. Open till Aug 8 for one fulltime or two parttime positions and two years of funding. The Rangeland Improvement Program is cost share and rolling applications. Kendall is back from helping with soil health education in Mongolia. Strong progress on 55 Main. Camp ground is open. Financial management workshop July 30. Engage the Range workshop will be August 3-5; hands on range in classroom. Grand opening of 55 Main and ACES 10-year celebration will be Aug 21.

Supervisor Reports:
Brenda Brady: No update.

Laura Kiehl: Discussed the smoke and how there are new birds and found a snapping turtle.

Ralph Corbett: No update.

Jay King: No update.

Rodney Rowton: No update.

Butch Arthur: No update.

Tye Lund: Jay did a good job with his virtual collar presentation.

Governance Calendar (Current Month): Governance calendar reviewed for July.

Old Business:

A. MRCDC PCCD MOU – Tabled.

B. DNRC General Policy Compliance/Consent Agenda – Ralph Corbett moved to adopt the Consent agenda going forward (just minutes, month prior); Jay King seconded. Motion passed.

C. Pasture Golf – Tabled, looking at September. Will discuss at the August board meeting.

D. MRCDC Coordinator evaluation – Jay King moved to approve MRCDC's recommendation of a 4% raise for the MRCDC Coordinator starting July 1; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

A. 310 Updates – Adopt 310 Model Rules Public Hearing date – Tabled.

B. PCCD resolution proposals for MACD – None.

C. PCCD banner for 75th table – Butch Arthur moved for Trish to put together and order a PCCD 75th Anniversary banner for up to $200; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Financial:

A. Audit – Laura, Katie and Kenzie met with the auditor June 29. He was out July so will work on it in August. Received an extension till Oct 31. Molly stated that he inspected her vehicle. Will need to look at anything the CD sells/rents.

B. Bank accounts (add and remove) – Discussed balances in the accounts and credit cards. Katie is off the accounts and now just board members on the account. Jay King moved to move forward contacting 3 contractors to contract with, and after see quotes will make a decision on a contractor or employee locally; Rodney Rowton seconded. Will still advertising locally. Motion passed. Jay King moved to accept Mackenzie Schreiner's resignation as fiscal manager; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

C. Petroleum CD: Ralph Corbett moved to pay the PCCD unpaid bills; Jay King seconded. Motion passed.

D. Missouri River CD Council: Ralph Corbett moved to pay the MRCDC unpaid bills pending further information; Jay King seconded. Motion passed.

Brent discussed his upcoming CEMIST purchases totally around $7,000.

Correspondence: DEQ letter and MT Bio Control thank you card.

Governance Calendar: The Governance Calendar was reviewed for August.

Announcements:

A. Next Regular Board meeting: Aug 26, 2026, 5pm – PCCD office; Special meeting will be determined later.

Approval of absences: Brenda Brady was absent. Ralph Corbett, Butch Arthur and Laura Kiehl approved her absence. Jay King, Rodney Rowton and Tye Lund did not approve. Brenda Brady's absence was approved.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Laura Kiehl

Laura Kiehl, Chair

Trish J. Smith

Trish J. Smith, District Administrator

Brenda Brady

Brenda Brady, Board Secretary (not present)