



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*

April 29, 2026

Call to order (regular meeting): Chair Laura Kiehl called the regular Petroleum County Conservation District meeting to order at 5:05pm. Those present were Laura Kiehl, Rodney Rowton, Jay King (virtual), Ralph Corbett, Butch Arthur, Brenda Brady and Tye Lund. Others present in person were Lesley Rolls, PCCD Water Coordinator; Brent Smith, CEMIST; Reba Ahlgren, NRCS; Mackenzie Schreiner, incoming PCCD Fiscal Manager; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Other virtual attendees were Desi King, Winnett ACES; and Katie Lund, PCCD out going PCCD Fiscal Manager.

Approval of PCCD Minutes:

Tye Lund moved to approve the March 25, 2026, meeting minutes; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Ralph Corbett moved to approve the April 22, 2026, special meeting minutes; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: None.

Partner Reports:

MRCDC: No update.

MWC: No update.

MSGOT: Trish reported that she has been visiting with MSGOT and will be getting monitoring scheduled with landowners soon.

MSU Extension: No update.

DNRC: Everyone looked over Veronica Wolff's update in the meeting packet.

NRCS: Reba reported that they held a formal roundtable 4/28 at the PCCC to gather producer input on 5-6 specific conservation practices out of the 126 available in Montana. This has been the first roundtable in over 30 years. Good attendance. They have been working on project pre-approvals. Four projects have been pre-approved; 2 EQIP and two CSP projects. Also working on pipeline project designs.

PCCD Water Program: Lesley discussed grants she has been working on and she sent out a letter to the water users along McDonald Creek. Had a site visit on the Murphy ranch; they are interested in cost share grants. Looking at putting on a fall Rain Barrel workshop, possibly a 2 day event with salinity workshops. MWC has asked Lesley to help with salinity monitoring. PID asked Lesley to help manage the PID grant. Ralph Corbett moved to approve Lesley applying for the WaterSmart Grant; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

Winnett ACES: Desi reported on the Conservation Program with Winnett ACES. They hosted MCC crew leader training and Big Sky Watershed training. Skylar Stenson is at TREX training to be red card certified for prescribed fire burns. Jen Solf put on a tree planning workshop, attended Garfield CD Kid's Day, is planning for Harvest of the Month, and kid's activities during the pasture walks. The CEC mailed out health care assessments, and planning for the 10 year ACES celebration August 21, along with the 55 Main grand opening. The courthouse will be done then also. Charsi Shearer ordered furniture for 55 Main. Drywall is being completed. CEC meeting was in April. First tourist grant advisory committee meeting was also in April. The Grass Bank and Land Committee is looking at purchasing property. Kendall Morgan has started her Soil Health Program, monitoring and testing soil. Also preparing for summer Pasture Walks, and will be going to Mongolia for a Whole Health program with doctors this summer for 3 weeks. ACES received a Tourism Grant for \$1.5 million for the 1st 3 years, and will receive another \$1.2 million after projects are completed (over 5 years total). Planning upgrades to Flatwillow Hall, Winnett Airport, Winnett sidewalks, Winnett elevator, Petroleum Courthouse, Dovetail Hall, etc. the first Pasture Walk will be May 19.

CEMIST: Brent stated report in folder.

BLM: No report.

Supervisor Reports:

Brenda Brady: Brenda wanted to relay a good job to Brent and Lesley on their grant proposals, and thanked Jay for his input.

Laura Kiehl: No update.

Ralph Corbett: Discussed meeting with NRCS on the office.

Jay King: In favor of MT salinity control being added to a future agenda to report on what they do.

Rodney Rowton: The Big Sky Watershed group came out to the Musselshell River project on the Rowton Ranch to place hemp erosion control blankets and plant willows. They put in 16 700 lb hemp bales.

Butch Arthur: No update.

Tye Lund: No updated.

Governance Calendar (Current Month): Governance calendar reviewed for April. Will be adding PCCD specific items and removing items that does not pertain to the PCCD.

Old Business:

- A. MRCDC PCCD Representatives – No one is stepping up at this time; tabled.
- B. Admin grant & PCCD Budget – Discussed and amended the PCCD FY27 budget. Brenda Brady moved to approve the PCCD CDA DNRC grant FY27 budget in the amount of \$78,087; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.
- C. MRCDC Budget approval – DNRC grant – Brenda Brady moved to approve the MRCDC CDA DNRC grant FY27 budget in the amount of \$120,000; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed. Brenda Brady moved to approve the MRCDC grant application; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.
- D. MRCDC sponsorship fee and MRCDC MOA Review/Edits – Discussion was had and edits were made to the MRCDC MOA. Brenda moved to approve the edited MRCDC MOA pending MRCDC Executive Committee approval; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

- A. 310 Updates – Adopt 310 Model Rules – Tabled.
- B. SET Training – Ralph Corbett moved for Trish, Kenzie and Lesley to attend the SET Training in August if they want to; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed.
- C. PCCD Credit Cards – Tabled.
- D. Telework Policy – Looked over and signed Kenzie's telework policy agreement. Molly and Trish will need to get their telework policy agreements updated; adding to next agenda.
- E. MRCDC support letter approval – Brenda Brady moved to approve the MRCDC support letter; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.
- F. MRWA account and expenses – Rodney Rowton moved to transfer the remaining MRWA funds from Valley County CD to MRCDC/PCCD and approved the MRWA expenses; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed.
- G. 406 Grazing Academy Scholarship – Rodney Rowton moved to offer two \$500 scholarships for the 406 Grazing Academy to the first two applicants that apply; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed.
- H. Fiscal Manager Supplies and Duties – Brenda Brady moved to approve up to \$200 for a new monitor for Kenzie; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.
- I. DNRC General Policy Compliance – Discussion was had on the DNRC General Policy Compliance. Will look into a consent agenda for all partners/committees. Tabled until the next month's meeting and Trish will use the MACD CD legal support request form to help with direction and how to move forward.

J. Admin Annual Review date set – Set date for May 27th, prior to the regular board meeting at 4pm. Tentatively in the PCCC Rebecca room.

Administrative:

A. Grant & District Updates: Discussed MWC NRCS grant, and putting together a meeting with the PCCD Board and MWC Council. Everyone looked over the April admin report.

Financial:

A. Audit – Kenzie reported that they are working on the PCCD Audit and will be reviewing it soon.

B. **Petroleum CD:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay the PCCD unpaid bills; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

C. **Missouri River CD Council:** Ralph Corbett moved to pay the MRCDC unpaid bills; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Brenda Brady moved to donate \$75 to the Montana Biological Weed Control; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Governance Calendar: The Governance Calendar was reviewed for May.

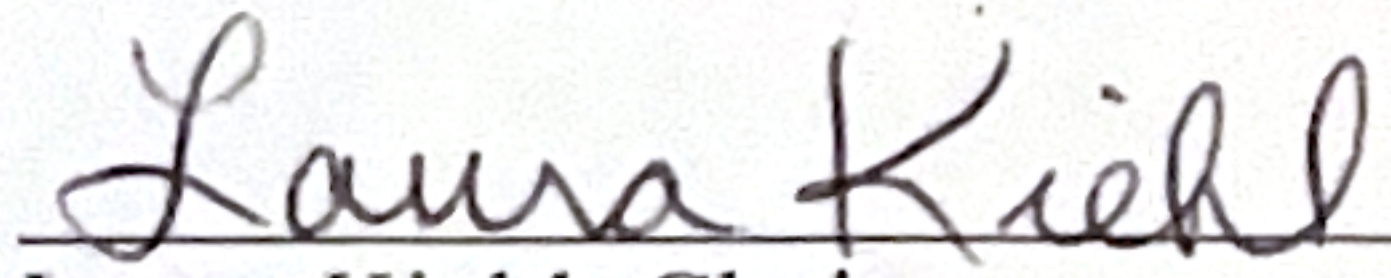
Announcements:

A. Next Regular Board meeting: May 27, 2026, 5pm – PCCC (TBD)

B. Special Closed meeting (Admin yearly review) - May 27, 2026, 4pm – PCCC (TBD)

Approval of absences: All board members were present.

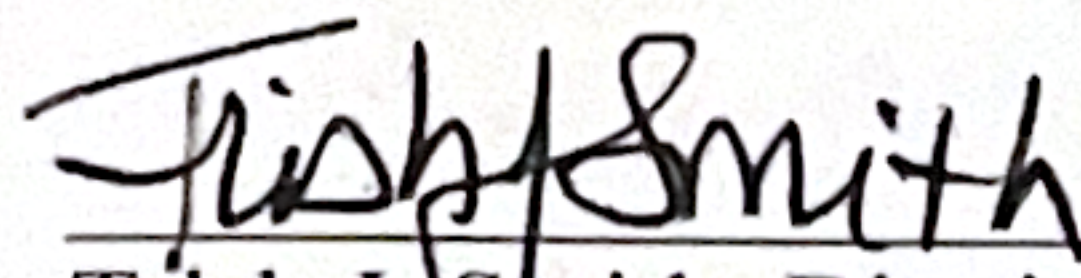
ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm



Laura Kiehl, Chair



Brenda Brady, Board Secretary



Trish J. Smith, District Administrator