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*

June 24, 2026

Call to order (regular meeting): Vice Chair Rodney Rowton called the regular Petroleum County Conservation District meeting to order at 5:04pm. Those present were Rodney Rowton, Laura Kiehl, Ralph Corbett, Jay King (virtual), Butch Arthur, Brenda Brady and Tye Lund. Others present in person were Lesley Rolls, PCCD Water Coordinator; Brent Smith, CEMIST; Kenzie Schreiner, PCCD Fiscal Manager; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Other virtual attendees were Molly Taylor, National Wildlife Federation; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; Veronica Wolff, DNRC; and Jen Solf, Winnett ACES.

Approval of PCCD Minutes:
Tye Lund moved to approve the May 27, 2026, meeting minutes; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: Molly Taylor, Beaver Conflict Resolution Technician with the National Wildlife Federation, presented an overview of the beaver management program, which focuses on non-lethal conflict resolution and highlighting beavers as ecosystem engineers. Over 80% of Montana's wildlife species rely on beaver habitats for some portion of their life cycles. Their program offers free services to public and private landowners, including site assessments, permitting assistance, and device installation. Mitigation techniques for tree cutting include wrapping trunks with 2x4 galvanized wire, leaving space for growth to avoid girdling. Culvert and head gate plugging is managed via exclusion fences made of cattle panels that prevent damming without hindering fish passage. Since 2019, the program has completed over 100 successful projects and reached 1,700 people through various workshops and webinars.

Partner/Staff Reports:
MRCDC: Molly reported that she was currently attending MACD Spring Board in Helena. Good discussions on the grant system and processes and overview of funding. Mark Bostrom went over in detail the reason programs were cut in FY26. Looking positive for the future. MRCDC is receiving $110,400 of their $120K ask. Woody Invasive Working Group's Yellowstone River Tour is July 16 in Billings. Registrations due June 30. The River Rendezvous is scheduled for September 1-2 in Sidney. Comment letters for the administrative rules for conservation district grants are due July 6.

MWC: The MWC board voted to have Lesley take the interim coordinator position for MWC. MWC meeting planned for July 6, at 3pm. Need to get active board members, and get into the MWC email. Trying to get active board members. Suggested to get into current email. Tye Lund moved to approve

Lesley attending the River Rendezvous as long as funding allows; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

MSGOT: Trish reported the tentative plan is to meet up with landowners for monitoring/site visits on July 2. She had a work/training meeting with MSGOT June 23.

MSU Extension: No update.

DNRC: Veronica discussed CDA grant reporting, and posting agendas. They are meeting up again July 10 to go over CDAs. Will be sending award letters in July or early August.

NRCS: No update.

PCCD Water Program: Lesley reported that she will be meeting up with Clint July 10 to go over start up conditions. Tye Lund moved to have Lesley go forward with a fall salinity workshop; Rodney seconded. Motion passed. Lesley is meeting up with Patrick Majerus with WWC Engineering tomorrow. Trish will put together the McDonald project start up conditions' extension request letter.

Winnett ACES: Jen reported that they have been working on outreach and prioritizing meetings. ACES received hemp materials and there are still materials available. Taking applications for the Rangeland Improvement Program. June 25 is the Conservation Committee meeting and Pasture Walk. July 7th - Health Care Summit. July 8th - Prairie Plans & Possibilities with a land owner panel. plans and possibilities, land owner panel. July 28th – virtual fence Pasture Walk. July 30 – Tye McDonald (Downhome Financial), managing seasonal cash flow. August 21 – Grand opening of 55 Main, with music, food and other activities. Live music June 28th at 55 Main.

CEMIST: Brent stated that his report is in the meeting packet.

BLM: No report.

Supervisor Reports:
Brenda Brady: No update.

Laura Kiehl: Gave a short Ladies Day on the Range update.

Ralph Corbett: No update.

Jay King: No update.

Rodney Rowton: Musselshell bank project is working well and holding up, tested by recent flooding.

Butch Arthur: No update.

Tye Lund: Hang skunk on top of culvert and beavers won't go in it.

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

Old Business:

A. MRCDC PCCD MOU – Tabled.

B. CEMIST PCCD MOU – Tabled.

C. DNRC General Policy Compliance/Consent Agenda – Tabled.

D. MWC Coordinator position/discussion – Discussed earlier. Ralph Corbett moved to accept MWC's recommendation to hire Lesley Rolls as the Interim MWC Coordinator; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed. Trish will put together a hire letter to be signed at the July 6 meeting.

E. CDB PC 2026 CEMIST grant – Butch Arthur moved to approve the CDB PC 2026 CEMIST grant; Tye Lund seconded. Rodney Rowton abstained. Motion passed.

New Business:

A. 310 Updates – Adopt 310 Model Rules – Tabled. Veronica will send notes regarding a public hearing.

B. MRCDC Coordinator Annual Evaluation recommendation – Molly reported that the MRCDC Council recommended Molly receive a 4% COLA raise. Will approve at the next meeting.

C. MRCDC End of budget spending approval – Covered prior.

D. MRWA expense approval – Ralph Corbett moved to approve the $46.56 in MRWA admin fees; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed.

E. Administrative Rules for Conservation District Grants – Brenda Brady moved to send a comment letter pending review by the PCCD board; Rodney Rowton seconded. Motion passed. Trish will put together a comment letter and send to the board for review.

F. Update Telework Agreement, Approve updated CD staff/MRCDC agreements – Looked over Molly's edits in the telework agreement. Brenda Brady moved to adopt the new PCCD telework agreement; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed.

G. Event planning (Pasture golf, PCCD 75th, Sourdough workshop) – Brenda Brady moved to approve putting on a sourdough workshop; up to a $1000 for the event; Butch Arthur seconded. Motion passed.

H. MACD Convention Raffle/Auction – Rodney Rowton moved to put $100 towards the MACD Convention Raffle/Auction item; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed.

Administrative:

A. Grant & District Updates: Everyone looked over Trish's June admin report. Trish discussed SET training in August; might not attend the Monday morning session since it was tailored towards new administrators, and will save one night at a hotel. Discussed Trish helping at MACD Convention/planning; board was okay with whatever she decided to do.

Financial:

A. Audit – Katie and Kenzie will be meeting with the auditor next week, and then will be able to finish up the audit.

B. PCCD Credit Cards – Tabled

C. Moved financials discussion to beginning of the meeting. Checks will be paid later after money is moved. Molly discussed the $30K left in the grant and options, such as paying Molly's June time before July 1, and the purchase of a storage unit. Ralph Corbett moved to pay Molly's June time early and purchase a storage unit (including fees for highway use) based on MRCDC's recommendations to the PCCD; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed. *(Discussed after partner reports)*

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

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

Correspondence: None.

Governance Calendar: The Governance Calendar was reviewed for July.

Announcements:

A. Next Regular Board meeting: July 29, 2026, 5pm – PCCD office

Approval of absences: No one was absent

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

Laura Kiehl, Chair

Trish J. Smith, District Administrator

Brenda Brady, Board Secretary