



Petroleum County Conservation District

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Local Common Sense Conservation

www.petroleumcd.org

Jay King – *Chairman, Brenda Brady, Vice-Chairman & MSCA,*
Laura Kiehl – *Treasurer & MRCDC, Ralph Corbett* – *Urban Supervisor, Rodney Rowton* – *Rural Supervisor, Butch Arthur* – *Urban Supervisor, Tye Lund* – *Supervisor*

January 28, 2026

Call to order (regular meeting): Chair Jay King called the regular Petroleum County Conservation District meeting to order at 5:05pm. Those present were Jay King, Brenda Brady, Laura Kiehl, Ralph Corbett, Butch Arthur, and Tye Lund. Others present in person were Lesley Rolls, PCCD Water Coordinator; Desi King, Winnett ACES; Reba Ahlgren, NRCS; Brent Smith, CEMIST; Katie Lund, PCCD Fiscal Manager; and Trish Smith, PCCD Administrator. Virtual attendees were Veronica Grigaltchik, DNRC; and Allison Martin, MWC Coordinator.

Approval of PCCD Minutes:

Ralph Corbett moved to approve the December 17, 2025, meeting minutes as amended; Tye Lund seconded. Motion passed.

Guest/Public Comment: None.

Partner Reports:

MRCDC: Trish stated that they had their Executive Committee Meeting yesterday. The River Rendezvous event was voted on to be in the Sidney, MT area; no date set yet. Next Quarterly Meeting will be March 23rd in Lewistown.

MWC: Allison reported that she had a call with Bill Milton, Wendy Jones, and Trish this week discussing the future outlook of the Coalition. Trish helped put together an outreach letter that will go out with the next February 12th meeting announcement. The NRCS grant expires September 30. Coordinator time for new grant searches can't be charged to the NRCS grant. Discussed possible future projects. Discussed the need for sponsorship from CDs to keep the MWC website going. Ralph Corbett moved to donate \$50/year to MWC for their domain/subscription for the MWC website; Brenda Brady seconded. Motion passed.

MSGOT: No report.

MSU Extension: No report.

DNRC: Veronica reported that the preliminary budget deadline is the end of February for next year's CDA requests (funding needs column only); actuals due later with CDA in May. March is the deadline for election year documentation.

NRCS: Reba reported that training & guidance is ongoing for 2026 programs and contracting. Fair amount of changes to programs, ranking and payment schedules for the coming year. Application deadline was January 15. NRCS is funded through Sept 30, so no concerns with possible gov shutdown Jan 30. NRCS is back in the office; still moving things back in.

PCCD Water Program: Lesley reported that Jim Brady is exploring drop-down storage at Vogel Reservoir to prevent overflow erosion into Box Elder. Lesley had a site visit. Key partners meeting will be scheduled in March with Ducks Unlimited, FWP, and BLM. FWP has funding through the Migratory Bird Program. Discussed the possible Warhorse Reservoir project; on hold for now. Discussed the McDonald Creek Project and options. Discussed several grants including a DNRC Planning Grant, RRG grant (needs a site plan and design), Climate Smart Grant and possible FWP fisheries funding with potential match from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussed getting Lesley a business card; Trish will get made up with her updated card, and get ordered. Lesley discussed upcoming events in the next two weeks. The scholarship for the Soil Health Symposium only covers registration. Brent suggested that the CD puts together a Water Program Committee for Lesley to bounce ideas and give updates, and the committee/Lesley brings those to the board meetings. Jay, Tye and Lesley will be on that committee but all are welcome to attend those separate meetings.

Winnett ACES: Desi reported on the recent ACES Annual Meeting, encouraging feedback and stated it was a success with great turnout. Upcoming events include the Landowner Lab Series, starting on February 16th with a large workshop and subsequent smaller hands-on sessions, and Conservation Committee Meetings every second Wednesday of the month that combine education and social activities, including the Pasture Walk. The Annual Invasive Grasses Workshop is scheduled for March 11th, and the next Board Meeting on March 4th will feature Rachel Frost and Stacey Barta. Land Committee met with the Nature Conservancy; looking at needs. No Education Committee meetings until Jen Solf is back from maternity leave. Community Enhancement meetings will be coming up soon. Attending the Soil Health Symposium. Tye brought up no office hours on the ACES website. A note will soon be added stating, "Office meetings available upon request." A future relocation to the courthouse is anticipated.

CEMIST: Brent reported that CEMIST will be tabling at the MATE show on February 11th-14th in Billings. The Invasive Annual Grasses workshop will be in Winnett on March 11th. Presenting March 23rd to the MISC grant council for the AIS grant application they submitted. Discussing funding at the next Executive Council meeting in February to determine if CEMIST will be applying for the CDB project grant in the spring cycle. Brent will present to the CD Board at the February BOD meeting.

BLM: No report from BLM. Jay reported that Katie Decker will be in a detail at the Malta office for a few months.

Supervisor Reports:

Brenda Brady: Need to get a meeting set up for Lesley's 6-month review.

Laura Kiehl: Orren and Kevin met with Amanda from FCA; 1st phase of project will be starting soon; \$4 Million project, PID cost is \$1 Million. Writing a Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report to be filed with NRCS. Moving forward and working on funding. Testified today with Lance; \$900K ask for the airport. Swapping land and making it layout more east to west.

Ralph Corbett: No report

Jay King: No report.

Rodney Rowton: No report.

Butch Arthur: No report.

Tye Lund: Discussed the Carter video and thinks would be nice for the PCCD to do something similar.

Governance Calendar (Current Month): Governance calendar reviewed for January. Discussed MACD/MWCC dues and timing of renewals. Trish will check when need to be paid.

Old Business:

- A. McDonald Irrigation – Covered prior.
- B. Annual Workplan – Tabled until Feb meeting
- C. Possible Garfield CD Pilot Project Presentation 2026 – No update.

New Business:

- A. 310 Updates – Kiehl – Brenda Brady moved to approve the 2026-1 Kiehl 310 permit; Ralph Corbett seconded. Laura Kiehl abstained. Motion passed.
- B. Officer Elections (Board Positions) – Jay stated that he is stepping down from the Chair position. Tye Lund nominated Brenda Brady as Chair; Brenda declined. Jay King moved to nominate Laura Kiehl as Chair, Rodney Rowton as Vice Chair, and Brenda Brady as Treasurer/Secretary; Ralph Corbett seconded. Motion passed.
- C. MCDEO Dues - Tye Lund moved to pay the \$30 MCDEO dues for Trish and Lesley; Butch Arthur seconded. Motion passed.

Administrative:

- A. Grant & District Updates: Everyone looked over Trish’s January Admin report in the packet. Trish discussed grant reporting, submitting the new NACD TA 2025 Grant application, and several upcoming and potential events/workshops in 2026. Discussed helping CEMIST set up their table at the MATE show February 11, and helping man the table the afternoon of February 13, and all-day February 14. No tree sales so far.

Financial:

- A. CD Audit – Katie discussed the Kentra Accounting Professionals proposal, which was significantly higher—twice the initial rate discussed over the phone. Ralph Corbett moved to move forward with Kentra Accounting Professionals for the CD audit, after approved by the state: Tye Lund seconded. Discussion: Brenda inquired about our financial position to cover this cost in addition to what the grant will cover. Katie suggested allocating potential extra funds to the “Professional Fee” category in the budget. Veronica discussed procurement procedures and suggested sending the limited procurement document for DNRC for review once the chosen company receives state approval. Motion passed.
- B. Discussed moving \$1000 from Supervisor travel over for Lesley to use. Lesley was approved to attend the MT Water Resources Association event in Anaconda and the Soil Health Symposium in Billings next week; she will split both events for time.

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

D. Missouri River CD Council: Ralph Corbett moved to pay the MRCDC unpaid bills; Tye Lund. Motion passed.

Correspondence: There was a BLM notice of proposed decision document.

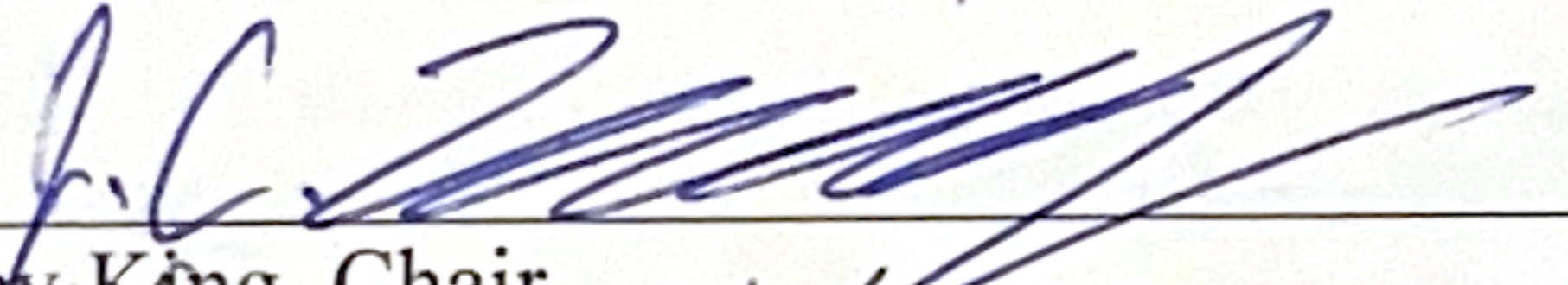
Governance Calendar: The Governance Calendar was reviewed for February. Election needs to be added on for the next agenda.

Announcements:

A. Next Regular Board meeting: February 25, 2026, 5pm - PCCD

Approval of absences: Jay King called for a vote on approving Rodney Rowton's absence. There was a motion by Ralph Corbett to approve his absence. Jay King and Tye Lund opposed the motion. Laura Kiehl and Butch Arthur voted in favor, while Brenda Brady abstained from voting. As a result, the absence of Rodney Rowton was not approved due to the lack of a majority.

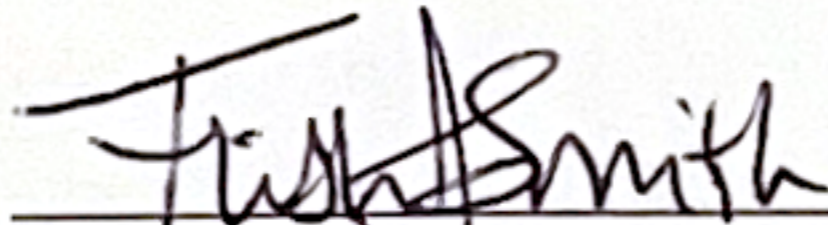
ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm



Jay King, Chair



Laura Kiehl, Board Secretary



Trish J. Smith, District Administrator