



Stillwater Conservation District

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October 28, 2025 SBC Special Meeting Minutes

Location: Columbus Fire Hall (944 E Pike Columbus MT)

Meeting called to order by: Bob at 6:04pm

Supervisors: Robert (Bob) Van Oosten (Chairman), Noel Keogh (Vice Chairman), Butch Behrent (Treasurer), Steve Story (Secretary), Dorothy Gallager (Supervisor), Lynda Grande (Supervisor) and Darryl Thompson (Associate Member)

Supervisors Approved Absent:

Others Invited: Sharon Flemetis (District Admin)

Guests: Will Hendrickson (FJ & Associates, Auditor via Teams), Denise Rivette (Montana Independent News), Aimee Bailey (Carbon Conservation District, Admin via Teams)

Public Comment

** 3 Minute Limit * The Public will conduct themselves in a professional manner or be asked to leave. **

None

REPORTS

Bob Van Oosten Next Planning Board meeting scheduled for **November 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm** in Absarokee. Agenda includes review of a single-lot subdivision; materials provided to board members.

Butch Behrent - No Report

Noel Keogh - Announced a Fire Wise Community Program on **October 30, 2025, 6:00 pm** at the Draft House/Platinum. Event is co-sponsored by the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council and the local Fire Department, focusing on fuels reduction and fire-safe initiatives, especially for residents near timber or in areas with substantial fuel loads.

Dorothy Gallager - No Report

Lynda Grande - No Report

Darryl Thompson - No Report

Sharon Flemetis - Convention

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting - Oct. 7th, 2025 Meeting Minutes Discussion: Previous meeting minutes not ready; approval tabled to next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Grant Updates to the Board - Discussion: no new updates since last meeting

Financial Reports Discussion: Financial reports were not provided, as no new bank statements have been received since the last meeting. Decision taken to defer until later in the meeting.

Monthly Warrants- Motion: To approved warrants as presented Made by: Noel Keogh Seconded by: Dorothy Gallager Discussion: Reviewed activity in four accounts, detailed bills, reimbursements, payroll liability, and a transfer from savings to checking. Approved for payment of all presented warrants and accounts. Vote: Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

FY2023 & FY2024 Federal/State Audit-

Motion: Made by to approve FY 2023 Audit as presented: Dorothy Gallager Seconded by: Noel Keogh. Discussion Below Vote: Motion carried

Motion: Made by to approve FY 2024 Audit as presented: Lynda Grande Seconded by: Butch Behrent Discussion: Below Vote: Motion carried

Discussion Will Hendrickson (Auditor) presented findings for FY2023 and FY2024 audits conducted by FJ & Associates. Contract for audit services was awarded in July 2025 (covering fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025). The Montana Department of Administration is a counterparty to the contract. Audit work for FY2023 began mid-year with initial findings presented at prior board meeting; final FY2023 and nearly-final FY2024 reports were distributed for board review.



Summary of Audit Findings

Opinion: Unmodified ("clean") opinions issued for both 2023 and 2024 audits; no material weaknesses or misstatements detected

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Opinion: Unmodified ("clean") opinions issued for both 2023 and 2024 audits; no material weaknesses or misstatements detected

Financial Position: Substantial assets and cash on hand, primarily due to grants for homeowner property work. Notable increase in net assets and cash flow in 2024 due to a full year of activity (vs. partial year for 2023). Sufficient positive cash flow and increase in net assets for both years.

Compliance and Federal Single Audit: Single Audit Triggered due to federal expenditures exceeding \$750,000. Only finding: Late submission of audit reports to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (reporting was not completed within the nine-month federal deadline). This was the only reason the district was considered not "low-risk." There are no red flags or other compliance concerns. After two years of on-time filing, the "late submission" finding will drop off; FY2025 audit is anticipated to be completed by end of November 2025 to meet all deadlines.

Discussion Points and Board Questions/Board Next Steps

Late submission does not trigger penalties but results in extended audit testing and loss of "low-risk auditee" status for two years. No findings related to financial integrity or processes; Sharon and Darryl commended for their diligent work. Public access protocol: Audits must be available at the district office and summarized in a local newspaper (findings only). FJ & Associates will submit to the State of Montana and prepare federal submission for the board's review and signature.

Board, not auditor, is responsible for federal clearinghouse submission. FY2025 audit is scheduled for completion by end of November 2025 and will be targeted for approval at the December 2, 2025 board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Carbon vs Stillwater no new updates since last meeting

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Received	Decision
25-022E	David Carse	Stillwater	2 nd app for upper bank stabilization	10/17/25	Motion: Approve as is -Butch Second: Steve Discussion: Application extends prior approved streambank stabilization project. Prior permit addressed with installation of wattles and vegetation to prevent erosion (site inspected by district, Army Corps, and Fish, Wildlife & Parks). New work extends stabilization further downstream; no work in stream channel, no armor or riprap used, additional willows/dogwood planted. Motion made and approved to approve permit extension. Vote: Motion carried

COMPLAINTS/VIOLATIONS

#23- 052V & 23-065V -Krone - Discussion: No updates since last meeting

#25-006CV – Lincoln Ponds on Stillwater River side channel- Discussion: No updates since last meeting

#25-014CV – Lincoln Powers- berm-closing off a side channel - Discussion: No updates since last meeting

SAVE THE DATES:

11/11/25& 11/27/25-Holiday Office Closed	
12/2/25 Monthly Board Meeting	

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Butch Behrent SECONDED: Steve Story MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 6:46pm

310 Applications must be received by 12pm seven days prior to the meeting and have been inspected to be reviewed. Agenda items must be submitted to the CD Office by Noon the Monday before the scheduled meeting. Agendas are available at the CD Office upon request and at stillwatercd.org once finalized. All meetings of the CD are open to the public. Once approved the minutes will be available at stillwatercd.org and the County Clerk and Recorders Office.

All Meetings with SCD will be recorded and the recording is a tool to help the SCDBS or SCDA with the creation of meeting minutes, only. Audio recordings of any meeting with the SCD will be retained until after the minutes of that particular meeting have been adopted by the SCD Board. This will allow space for future audio recording.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sharon Fletmetis

Minutes Approved on 1/13/26 Signed by Bob Van Oosten