



Stillwater Conservation District

Po Box 48 * 334 North 9th Street Columbus MT

January 13, 2026 SCD Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room (334 N. 9th Street, Columbus, MT)

Meeting called to order by: Bob at 6:09pm

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

Supervisors Approved Absent:

Staff/Guest/Public: Sharon Fletmetis (District Admin), Garrett Larson (NRCS),

Public Comment

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

None

REPORTS

Bob Van Oosten

- Missed last month's planning board meeting- no update.
- 310 Civil Rules Committee -Part of a DNRC group. The group meets bi-weekly online.

Butch Behrent

- Watershed meeting at the end of the month.
- Awarded a ten-year service award.

Noel Keogh

- Watershed meeting coming up, possibly on the 21st.

Dorothy Gallagher – No Report

Lynda Grande – No Report

Darryl Thompson – No Report

Garrett Larson

- NRCS has EQIP and CSP signup deadlines on January 15th. Changes to CSP and EQIP ranking process. Countywide fund pools are gone, moved back to Area 1. Cost share list reviewed via teleconference. Gail Berry is the permanent state conservationist.

Sharon Fletmetis– No Report

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting October 7th, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve with spelling corrections of names: Noel Seconded: Dorothy Discussion: spelling errors of names Vote: Approved

Minutes of the previous meeting October 28th, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve with spelling corrections of names: Noel Seconded: Lynda Discussion: spelling errors of names Vote: Approved

Minutes of the previous meeting December 2nd, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to Table: Butch Seconded: Noel Discussion: none Vote: Approved

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Grant Updates to the Board - USFS, ARPA

Financial Reports- Monthly reports provided: profit/loss, balance sheet, cash balances.

Financial Reports Motion to approve as presented: Noel Seconded: Butch Discussion: Board discussed computer software, The Federal Clearinghouse submission was accepted. The auditor needs to provide general entries for the new accounting software. Public notice for audits is required, stating the audit is available in the office and on the website. Vote: Approved

Monthly Warrants Motion to approve as presented: Noel Seconded: Steve Discussion: Reviewed /accepted -payment of checks -Hydro Solutions invoices, payments to the attorney, Yellowstone Group is for the audit, MACD is for dues from the admin grant that we just received, The auditor is for the 2024 audit (2025 invoice is not yet received).. Vote: Approved



NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Supervisor Roles for calendar year 2026

Chairman- is to provide leadership to the board. Keep the board on the mission, vision, and goals of the board. Manage business matters. Represent the Stillwater Conservation District.

Elected Chairman: - **Bob VanOosten** Motioned by: **Butch** Seconded: **Dorothy** Discussion: **none** Vote: **Approved**

Vice Chairman- is to assume all duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Chairman in conducting the meetings. Also assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District.

Elected Vice Chairman: - **Noel Keogh** Motioned by: **Butch** Seconded: **Steve** Discussion: **none** Vote: **Approved**

Treasurer- is to overlook the financial transaction & records including Bank Statements for accuracy. Also assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District.

Elected Treasurer: - **Butch Behrent** Motioned by: **Noel** Seconded: **Lynda** Discussion: **none** Vote: **Approved**

Secretary- is to assist (backup) with agenda or/and minutes. Also assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District.

Elected Secretary: - **Lynda Grande** Motioned by: **Noel** Seconded: **Butch** Discussion: **none** Vote: **Approved**

Member- is to assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District. **Steve Story**

Member- is to assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District. **Dorothy Gallager**

Member- is to assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District. **Vacant**

Associate Member - is to assist the board in decision making and represent the Stillwater Conservation District.

Elected Associate: - **Darryl Thompson** Motioned by: **Dorothy** Seconded: **Noel** Discussion: **none** Vote: **Approved**

310 Survey- Motion to approve sending in the 310 Survey: **Steve** Seconded: **Lynda** Discussion: Discussion- Survey to be filled out by Sharon. Question about the number of violations in the last five years (estimated between 9 and 11). Question about how many times a financial penalty has been issued (between 1 and 10). Discussion on how the CD determines the final penalty amount: Speaker: "It is up to the board." Time is recorded to justify the fine amount. Fines can be a flat fee or a daily rate. Tracking Violations - Tracking based on time invested justifies higher fines, especially in court. A range for first/second offenses is better than a fixed amount. A statewide system to track violations is needed. Currently, there is no way to look up violations across different counties. The current system relies on individual administrators' knowledge, which is lost when they leave. **Vote: Approved**

OLD BUSINESS

Carbon Conservation District vs Stillwater Conservation District – **Bob** attended another Carbon CD Monthly Board Meeting last month and will be attending one tomorrow.

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Received	Decision
25-034E	Bernie Kelly	West Rosebud Creek	Ice Jam was forming causing flooding to occur a residence home.	12/19/25	Motion: Bob to Approve the Emergency work that was done. Second: Noel Discussion: The project is located at the fishing access on the west Rosebud. Work was done on an old head gate due to ice jams and flooding, with new planks installed and gravel pushed against them. Vote: Approved



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26-001	Big Ditch	Yellowstone	Headgate repair	1/9/26	Motion: Steve to approve as is. Second: Butch Discussion: Inspection Team met with the Big Ditch people. Ben from Fish and Game had no problem with the project, noting that sedimentation will go down the ditch, not into the river. They want to dewater the area to pour peers and aim to do it while the weather is good, potentially waiving the 15-day waiting period. Vote: Approved
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COMPLAINTS/VIOLATIONS

#23- 052V & 23-065V -Krone – Caitlin (DNRC Attorney) is SCD's legal representation

#25-006CV – Lincoln Ponds on Stillwater River side channel- Discussion: waiting on 310 Application

#25-014CV – Lincoln Powers- berm-closing off a side channel - Discussion: waiting on 310 Application

Meeting with Lincoln, Judi Powers, Army Corps and FWP to discuss moving forward. They want to list out what the different agencies want so that they can move forward. They're dealing with DEQ, water rights, and FWP, having to drain ponds and deal with crayfish.

SAVE THE DATES:

01/19/26 - Holiday Office Closed		
2/3/26 Monthly Meeting		

Motion to Temporary Close Public Meeting: Noel Seconded: Steve Meeting Approved to Closed at 7:57pm

CLOSED MEETING

Executive Session- Purpose -Confidential Attorney-Client Communication & Legal Strategy

Meeting called to order by: Bob at 8:33pm

Krone vs. SCD- Motion to File a claim with the SCD's Insurance company for legal representation: Butch Seconded: Noel

Discussion: Closed Meeting Vote: Approved

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Dorothy Gallager SECONDED: Lynda Grande MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35pm

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 Records 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 5/5/2026 Signed by Bob Van Oosten