



Stillwater Conservation District

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July 1st, 2025-Permissive Levy Meeting Minutes

Time: 5pm **Location:** USDA Service Center Conference Room (334 N. 9th Street, Columbus, MT)

Meeting called to order by: **Bob** at **5:37pm**.

This meeting is being audio recorded for accurately recording any motions made, the outcome of votes, and the decisions reached to create the Minutes of this meeting.

Please state your name for the recording

Supervisors: Robert Van Oosten (Chairman), Noel Keogh (Vice Chairman), Butch Behrent (Treasurer), Steve Story (Secretary), Darryl Thompson (Associate Member)

Supervisors Approved Absent: 3 vacant seats

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

The purpose of the public hearing will be to set the conservation district budget and to consider levying a permissive medical mill to help with the Health Insurance cost for the upcoming year.

Permissive Levy - Motion to request a \$10,000 permissive levy for health insurance costs for the district (a \$6,000 increase over previous year): **Steve** **Seconded: Noel** **Discussion:** Tax revenue comprises \$35,000 from the regular mill levy and \$4,000 from the current permissive levy for health insurance (totals \$39,000) in the Budget. Increasing insurance premium: Blue Cross Blue Shield annual premium increased, from ~\$10,173.12 to \$11,496.24 annually. Permissive levy can only be used for health insurance expenses; amount requested cannot exceed the district's "out-of-pocket" insurance costs (specifically, it can cover all but the first \$999.95, which must come from regular funds). Cannot profit from the permissive levy; if no eligible insurance expense exists, the levy is terminated. The board will not have certified taxable values until August 5th; numbers used are estimates from last year. The Board agreed to request the full \$10,000 permissive levy for health insurance costs for the next fiscal year. Discussion of past budgeting procedures and the challenge of "running at a negative" due to timing of revenues and expenses. Prepare and submit the revised permissive levy request (\$10,000) via the Stillwater Finance Department by the stipulated deadline (next Monday from the meeting). Notify DNRC of changes to the budget as a result of the new levy amount once approved. **Vote: Approved**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: _____ **SECONDED:** _____ **MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** _____ pm

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 Meeting 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 Flemetis

Minutes Approved on

9/9/25

Signed by Bob Van Oosten