



Liberty County
Conservation
District

LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

18 Main Street
PO Box 669
Chester MT 59522
Phone: 406-759-5778, ext. 2262

The Liberty County Conservation District Public Meeting Minutes March 19, 2026

Present:

Megan Hedges	Rod Oraw	Geoff Osterman	Kurt Matkin
Tyler Jones	Patty Bierma	Matti Osterman	Michael Nelson
Diane Roberts			

Absent/Excused:

Robert Pugsley	Tyler Streit	Lanny Jones
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CALL TO ORDER: Rod Oraw called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Motion by Tyler Jones, seconded by Mike Nelson to approve the minutes of the February 2026 meeting.
Motion carried.

Motion by Tyler Jones, seconded by Kurt Matkin to file the Treasurer's Report for February 2026.
Motion carried.

Motion by Tyler Jones, seconded by Kurt Matkin, to pay February 2026 bills.
Motion carried.

**Conservation District
Income
February 2026**

Date	Name	Memo	Account	Amount
02/23/2026	Riverview Colony	1 map	3417003 · Maps	30.00
▶ 02/23/2026	Liberty Co.	Special Assessment	317350 · Special Assessment	269.79 ◀
02/23/2026	Liberty Co.	Permissive Health	317351 · Permissive Health	114.84
02/23/2026	Liberty Co.	Regular Assesment	317352 · Regular Assessment	123.58
TOTAL				538.21

**Payments
February 2026**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
02/02/2026		HSA Bank	HSA Jan 26	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
02/02/2026		HSA Bank	HSA Jan 26	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
02/03/2026		PERS	Patty Jan 26 Pers 114.16 E...	131 · Retirement	245.22
02/04/2026	ACH	Postmaster	Water Rights Bureau DNRC ...	310 · Postage	2.72
02/11/2026	283	MCDEO	2026Dues -1 employee	332 · Dues Expense	30.00
02/11/2026	285	NACD	NACD 2026 Dues	332 · Dues Expense	75.00
02/11/2026	284	Reed Accounting, PL...	Taxes 2025	350 · Professional F...	200.00
02/23/2026		Riverview Colony	1 map	201.1 · Maps	-30.00
02/25/2026	288	PERS	Patty Feb 26 Pers 107.44 E...	131 · Retirement	230.79
02/28/2026	286	Patricia A Raudensky...	Payroll February 26	Net Payroll	848.52
02/28/2026		HSA Bank	Feb 26 HSA	130.1 · LCCD contr...	34.58
02/28/2026		HSA Bank	Feb 26 HSA	130.2 · Permissive ...	529.42
TOTAL					2,730.25

NRCS Written Report – Matti Osterman

March 19th, 2026

NRCS Report

- High Priority EQIPs will be ranked by the 20th. Will know which are preapproved by the 27 th, then moving on to lower priority applications
- CSP Ranking deadlines are the end of April. Planning on those will begin next week.
- CRP signups are open at FSA. Liberty County has tough odds.
- There is a pending fishery project near Joplin with MT FWP and DNRC. Mentioning for LCCD awareness. A Certified Wetland determination is needed first and will occur this spring/summer.

Matti Osterman
Acting SDC Chester/Shelby Work Unit
and Resource Soil Scientist
NRCS Montana

Extension Report – Jesse Fulbright (not in attendance-nothing to report)

LCCD LOCAL ACTIVITY

- **Election/appointment of Officers** – Lanny Jones and Rod Oraw completed. Kurt Matkin will complete.
- **Peer to Peer** – It was determined not to do Peer to Peer this year. Matti suggested a Winter Workshop and Summer Field Tour.
- **Tree Sales** – MT Conservation Seedling Nursery 01/21/26 @ 8 am (406)-542-4244 <https://conservationseedlings.mtdnrc.gov> – **still have available** – Limited space on truck – cannot order larger ones at this time as truck is full.

- **Sage Creek Watershed Alliance** – will check with Lanny on this.
- **Ag in the Classroom** – Jesse is working on getting this set up – sometime in May.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop** – 10 Barrels donated by Coca Cola. Board approved to purchase supplies for this workshop. Megan Hedges motioned and seconded by Mike Nelson, motion carried to purchase supplies around \$560.00. This will be a summer workshop.
- **Groundcover** – Advised Board Toole CD has Weed Barrier and it is now \$150.00 per roll, Board advised we can wait to see if we need to order any before we do so. As of 03/23/26 Toole Co CD has 70 rolls in stock.
- **Planter Workshop** - workshop with Julie Meissner, River's Edge Greenhouse -\$25.00 pp Approx to be held on Apr 7. Matti Advised to reach out to Logan Health Assisted Living to see if the workshop can be held there. LCCD will charge \$10 for each person to hold their spot. The completed planter will have a value of approximately \$40.00. Julie will supply plants, soil, and containers. Megan Hedges motioned and seconded by Mike Nelson, motion carried to proceed with this workshop.
- **Patty Out of Office** – March 25-26, April 20-21, May 6-7, May 14-18.
- **FY 2027 CD Administrative (CDA) grant** -cycle opens March 1 and closes May 31, 2026 - approval CD Administrative funding for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) Kurt Markin motioned and seconded by Tyler Jones, motion carried to proceed with applying for CDA Grant.
- **Envirothon – April 20-21, 2026** – CJI is sending one team of five students. LCCD paid for this Teams Registration of \$150.00 and for 3 rooms for two nights for CJI, Sunday night and Monday night (19 & 20).
- **Pugsley Bridge Project**
From Nate Wyatt, PE - Principal Restoration Engineering Team Lead | Whitefish
 We are in a holding pattern till fall. We will be working toward a wood source in the meantime, nothing new to report.
 Thanks,
 Thanks, **Nate Wyatt, PE**

From Peter Brown PhD | Aquatic Habitat Coordinator Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

We are working on sourcing wood from a logging contractor and will report back when we have more information.

Thanks for keeping in touch,
 Peter

REGIONAL AND STATE

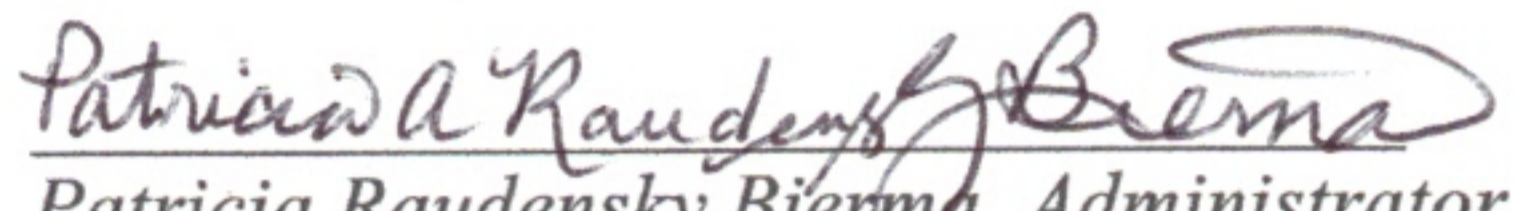
Handout was presented as an update from Catey Bauer for March 2026.

Next Meeting April 16, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:46 pm

CALENDAR:

- CEMIST Quarterly Meeting | March 26, 10 am to 12:15 pm | Virtual Only
- Montana Envirothon | April 20-21, 2026 | Holiday Inn Great Falls – 1 team from CJI
- 406 Grazing Academy | June 2-4, 2026 | Pray, MT
- Montana Range Tour | June 17, 2026 | Gold Creek, MT
- Watershed Tour – MT Watershed Coordination Council | September 14 - 18, 2026 | Check back for details.


Patricia Raudensky Bierma, Administrator


Lanny Jones, Chairman

District meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the USDA Service Center, Chester, 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noticed.

MISSION: TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE, IMPROVE, AND SUSTAIN OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

VISION: Having a community that is economically stable with the natural resources conserved by:

1. providing education and encouraging control of nuisance weeds and eradication of noxious weeds
2. having no soil blowing above their tolerance level—ideally no soil or water erosion
3. sustaining and improving water quality, with rivers and streams running clear.
4. encouraging tree planting for shelterbelts and wildlife
5. encouraging recycling
6. working jointly with all other agencies/organizations to enhance conservation practices within the district.
7. improving the public perception of the Conservation District