

APRIL 7, 2025 – APRIL 11, 2025
COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Sweet Grass County Commissioner meetings are held in the office of the county commissioners in the Sweet Grass County Annex in Big Timber, Montana, unless otherwise noted in the minutes. The first Monday of each month a department head staff meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Claims will be reviewed and approved for payment every Thursday unless a conflict arises. At least one commissioner will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily unless they are at a conference or a meeting requiring them to be out of the office.

NOTICE: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder (MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b)).

Monday, April 7, 2025

All Commissioners are in.

Commissioner Chairman Roe called the Department Head meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Planner Page Dringman said her office had been working on Upper and Lower Deer Creek subdivisions, several other COS's and flood plain applications.

County Attorney Pat Dringman said the Mirro case is wrapping up, he has been watching some legislative issues and they had a week-long trial.

Clerk of District Court Barb Swanson reported on her case numbers, and they were busy with the jury trial; she has a convention in Billings and a clerk meeting in Bozeman coming up.

Weed/Safety Coordinator Connie Weston has worked on weed review at the subdivisions, worked with the conservation district for a grant for up the Boulder, is hiring for summer and is holding a weed summit on 4/22. She has also been pricing equipment needed for employees after their ergonomic review.

Financial Officer Vicki Uehling has been working on the ARPA report and budget sheets; she attended the salary compensation meeting.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her Justice and City Court numbers; she worked on some old warrants, watched the legislature, has clerk training in Missoula next week and judge training in Butte after that, and she met with the Mental Health counselor about services.

Sheriff Alan Ronneberg reported on his call numbers which were steady. He went to Billings for the Angel Program, and was peripherally involved with the MHP officer involved shooting.

Extension Agent Marc King said it's quiet right now due to calving and lambing, they did ship out all of 2023 and 2024 wool, had 4H demo day and have seed potatoes in.

DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy said he has been catching up on mitigation and emergency plans and grants.

Superintendent of Schools Susan Metcalf said it is election season, the STARs Act will help new teacher salaries, and they are winding down the school year.

Clerk & Recorder Dawn Curry stated she had been working on changes to the employee policy manual, attended the salary compensation board meeting, had a Clerk & Records District Meeting in Billings, and has been preparing for sending out school election ballots. She also noted to the department heads again about how the standard withholding

for federal and state taxes has been lowered and employees need to complete a new W-4 with the payroll office if they want more held out.

Commissioner Melanie Roe attended a Beartooth RC&D meeting in Hardin, attended a Senior Center meeting, and had been working on budget preparations.

Commissioner Bill Wallace has been working a lot with the road department and attended meetings for the PMC board, the Mental Health Center and the MACRs conference.

Commissioner JV Moody attended meetings on the possible new elevator for the courthouse, the Flemming Bridge, the salary compensation board, LEPC, and the DUI Task Force. The Commission has also been working on encroachment permits, new subdivision matters, the safety audit, and reviewing legislative bills.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM. (This meeting was recorded.)

Commissioners met with County Attorney Dringman to discuss the Klein petition DV-24-33.

Commissioner Wallace went out to assist the road crew.

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

All Commissioners are in. Commissioners Moody and Roe are in the office and Commissioner Wallace will be assisting the road crew in the p.m.

Commissioners listened to SB 117 hearings regarding the proposed changes to the formula for calculating Mill values.

Chairman Roe called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Dawn Curry and Lana King came in as representatives of the Big Timber Trails Network. The group has put together a grant proposal with the help of Great West Engineering to be submitted to Montana DOT Alternative Transportation Grant Program. The proposed trail – phase I – will go from Town Pump Conoco and Town Pump Exxon to the west interchange. The Trails group is a 501C-3 non-profit entity and has been supported by the Lions Club with seed money. They have created a master plan. The group also has several other alternative financing options including being part of the Crazy Mountain Collective – Pilot Community Tourism Program Grant of which the trails program was a recipient. The Trails group has requested that Sweet Grass County be the sponsoring organization as the grant funds must be released to a government organization. Commissioner Moody moved to write a letter of support for trails project. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.

Commissioner Moody moved to accept the responsibility of the county being the sponsoring agency for the Trails grant with the conditions that trails will provide the matching funds and will organize and be responsible for the payment of the maintenance on the trails. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.

This meeting was adjourned.

Discussion was had on the Community Funding Project grant application from Representative Downing's office. This money could potentially be used for help with funding the courthouse elevator project. Planner Dringman was going to investigate the grant opportunity further.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Commissioners Moody and Roe are in the office. Commissioner Wallace is assisting the road crew.

A local resident inquired about the possibility of the county assisting with the bathrooms at the Shepherd Square Project. If they were constructed as an improvement to the Civic Center/Emergency Shelter and also open to the public via Shepherd Square, he wondered if it would be possible for the Civic Center committee to provide approximately 1/3, the county 1/3, and Shepherd Square 1/3 of the money.

All Commissioners attended the airport board meeting.

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Commissioners Moody and Roe are in the office. Commissioner Wallace is assisting the road crew.

Chair Commissioner Roe called the meeting to order at 9:53 AM. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dodge came in to prepare the agenda for the week of April 14 through April 18. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM. (This meeting was recorded)

Commissioner Roe attended a Crazy Mountain Collective meeting.

Claims for the week were reviewed and signed.

Friday, April 11, 2025

Commissioner Moody is in.

Finance Officer Uehling was in to talk about budgets.

A resident from Madison County called to ask about the "forms of governance" process.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners

Melanie Roe

Melanie Roe, Chairperson

Date Approved: July 2, 2025

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk

Dawn M. Curry

