

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 12, 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, September 8, 2025

All commissioners are in.

The Department Head meeting was called to order @ 9:30 AM.

Extension Agent Marc King said our fair went well. He has been grading carcasses at other fairs, done a few pesticide licenses and has been pulling soil samples, but the ground is hard.

Weed/Safety Coordinator Connie Weston has been spraying a lot, but her crew is gone now. She is cleaning up and winterizing, attended the weed board meeting and is planning next year's weed summit. It seemed like there were more weeds this year and we had less participation on the county cost share program.

Financial Officer Vicki Uehling said she had finished up the budgets and was now getting ready for the auditor. She will be gone the rest of the week.

DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy reported there have been no major disasters. Now, they will prepare for winter.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her numbers of cases which have been steady. She attended 2 meetings with the Office of Public Defenders, trying to get better public defender representation. Her school will be the last week of September and they just got new computers from the State.

Superintendent of Schools Susan Metcalf said they have the Farm Fair on Thursday and a Dailey Lake trip coming for rural students. They got emergency teaching authorizations that were needed and home schoolers are currently registering. Her budgets were done quickly and she is working on some e-grants.

Clerk & Recorder Dawn Curry reported that she had attended her convention in August where they received more training in recording and legislative changes for elections. She had also overseen Alex installing the new Sentinel One antivirus on everyone's computers obtained through a grant. She had also been busy with training new personnel in her office and getting ready for the municipal election.

Commissioner JV Moody reported they had worked on budgets a lot. He had also attended the LEPC meeting, met about the Big Sky Rail and public health nurse. The County lost the sanitarian contract with Park County. The fairgrounds bleachers arrive today and will be done around the first of October. They also met with the Fish and Game about a few issues in our area.

Commissioner Bill Wallace spent a lot of time on Melville Rd., installing new culverts on Elk Creek, Swamp Creek, and N. Yellowstone Trail. He had also attended PMC and mental health meetings.

Commissioner Melanie Roe added the work they had done on Flemming Bridge issues with the Forest Service and construction permits. They had a Dept. of Revenue meeting to go through the mine gross proceeds and other changes. They are waiting for a structural engineer to report on the courthouse and there were some McLeod school issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am. Commissioner Moody moved to draft a letter of support for the Crazy Mountain Museum expansion. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am. This meeting was recorded.

Resolution 09-08-2025A, a resolution to request joining the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority was discussed. Commissioner Wallace moved to adopt, and Commissioner Moody seconded. The motion carried with 3 ayes. Following the adoption of the resolution, Peter Fox was appointed to represent Sweet Grass County.

Commissioner Wallace went to help the road crew at the airport.

Road Superintendent Schuman stopped in to let us know they had gotten the grader stuck at the fairgrounds and they will need to figure out a way to stabilize the ground prior to having concrete poured.

The Commission requested DES/911 coordinator Brophy do some updates on social media for the Flemming Bridge construction project.

Commissioner Roe attended a Conservation District Meeting.

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

All Commissioners are in. Commissioner Wallace is helping the road crew.

Commissioner Roe gave an update on the conservation district meeting.

Commissioner Moody is working on updating the Fair Grounds Building Permit.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Commissioner Roe is in the office, Commissioner Moody is helping at the Reed Point Cemetery. Commissioner Wallace is at a Custer Gallatin Working Group Meeting.

The Commission reviewed the Change Order for the Melville Fire Hall and thought it reflected accurately the increases. Fire Chief Kris Novotny will need to sign the change order and attach it to the contract.

A local resident came in to inquire about whether or not his road was considered a county road. Because there isn't a clear record of approval of the road petition being acted upon by the county commission in 1941, he will need to initiate a new petition with his neighbors for it to be considered.

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Commissioners Moody and Roe are in the office.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Clerk & Recorder Curry was in to prepare the agenda for the week of September 15th through September 19th, 2025. The meeting was recessed at 9:35 am.

The meeting was called back into session at 9:59 am. Commissioner Moody moved to accept the funding contract for \$38,570.04 between MSU Extension and Sweet Grass County to fund the county share of the Extension Agent position. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 2 ayes.

A local resident stopped in to inquire about installing a septic system. He was referred to the sanitarian.

Claims were reviewed and signed.

Checks were also prepared, reviewed and signed.

Friday, September 12, 2025

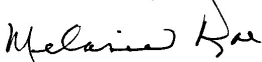
Commissioners Moody and Wallace are in.

Airport Fixed Base Operator called regarding expanding the airport as there are some folks who would like to see our airport become a Class B.

A local resident came in to inquire about the cemetery policy for headstones or markers when there are no remains.

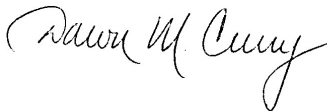
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners


Melanie Roe, Chairperson

Date Approved: October 29, 2025

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk





RESOLUTION #09-08-2025

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO JOIN THE BIG SKY PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY,
ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND
IMPROVEMENT OF ABANDONED RAIL SERVICE IN SOUTHERN MONTANA**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board"), as follows:

Section 1. Authorization. Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 14, Part 16, as amended (the "Act"), boards of county commissioners are authorized to create railway authorities. Under the Act, a "railway authority" may be authorized by law as either a county rail authority or by joint resolution by two or more counties the counties may create a regional rail authority. The Act gives a railway authority all the powers set forth in the Act necessary to provide for the preservation and improvement of abandoned rail service, including passenger rail service.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of an authority is to provide for the preservation and improvement of abandoned rail service for agriculture, industry, or passenger traffic and to provide for the preservation of abandoned railroad right-of-way for future transportation uses, when determined to be practicable and necessary for the public welfare. The establishment of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority provides:

- A means to further the health, safety, welfare, and economic prosperity of the region by advocating for rail as a public transportation option;
- The governance structure to investigate, analyze, seek funding for, and develop long-distance, inter-city rail service across southern Montana; and
- Other undertakings contemplated by the Act.

Section 3. Name of District and Duration. The Regional Rail Authority (Authority), known and designated as the "Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority," was created by a Joint Resolution Creating A Regional Rail Authority, last adopted on November 18, 2020. The duration of the Authority is perpetual, provided that, if no bonds, or other debt of the Authority, are outstanding and the Authority determines that it is in the best interest of the counties' inhabitants or that the purpose of the Authority has been fulfilled, the Authority may dissolve the Authority pursuant to the rules established by the Authority.

Section 4. Governance. The powers of the Authority are vested in a board of directors.

(1) Appointment of Directors. The Boards of County Commissioners in the original participating counties appointed the initial directors of the Authority. The Authority will have the authority to increase the number of directors after the Authority is established and the appointment of the initial directors. If the Authority expands the number of counties, and directors, beyond the initial participating counties, each Board of County Commissioners in subsequent added counties will make board appointments to the Authority.

(2) Number of Directors. The Authority board will have at least five directors. If five or more counties join the Authority, the board membership will equal the number of counties in the Authority, with one member appointed by each county.

(3) Qualifications of board members. The appointed directors must have an interest in furthering the mission of the Authority and bring varying expertise and knowledge to the Authority.

(4) Length of term. Each director will be appointed for a term of three years.

Section 5. Proposed Boundaries of District. The limits and boundaries of the Authority may be, as set forth below, enlarged to encompass in the aggregate the boundaries as approved by each participating county. The boundary of the area proposed to be included in the Authority for each county shall be the boundary of the county unless designated otherwise.

Section 6. Rule Making Authority to Enlarge District. The Authority has the authority to adopt rules pursuant to MCA § 7-14-1631, including but not limited to procedural rules for the addition of a county not included in the original joint resolution, with the county requesting to join adopting a resolution and submitting such resolution to the Authority. If this request is granted or the county has been previously approved on a provisional basis by the Authority, the Board of County

Commissioners of the petitioning county will select, pursuant to its own process, its representative to the board of the Authority.

Section 7. General Powers of Authority. The Authority has all the powers necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act, including but not limited to:

- (1) sue and be sued, have a seal, and have perpetual succession;
- (2) execute contracts and other instruments and take other action as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act;
- (3) receive and disburse federal, state, and other funds, public or private, made available by grant, loan, contribution, tax levy, or other source to accomplish the purposes of the Act. Federal money accepted under this subsection must be accepted and spent by the authority upon terms and conditions prescribed by the United States and consistent with state law. All state money accepted under this subsection must be accepted and spent by the authority upon terms and conditions prescribed by the state;
- (4) sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of real or personal property acquired pursuant to this part. The disposal must be in accordance with the laws of this state governing the disposition of other public property;
- (5) borrow money and issue bonds pursuant to MCA 7-14-1636; and
- (6) all other powers provided by Montana statutory authority.

Section 8. Public Hearing. Pursuant to MCA 7-14-1621(2), the undersigned County certifies that it held a public hearing and published notice of the hearing pursuant to MCA 7-1-2121, and published a copy of this proposed Resolution as required.

Section 9. Acceptance of Provisional Approval. Having been provisionally accepted by the Authority by Resolution 2021-2 dated October 13, 2021, Sweet Grass County passes this Resolution requesting to join the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. The Board of County Commissioners of the County authorizes and directs that the Resolution be presented to the directors of the Authority. Upon confirmation of receipt from the Authority, the Commission will appoint a member to the board and provide notice to the Authority of the appointment.

BOARD OF SWEET GRASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Melanie Roe
Melanie Roe, Chair

William Wallace
Bill Wallace, Commissioner

Jay Moody
Jay Moody, Commissioner

ATTEST: Dawn M. Curry
Dawn Curry, Clerk & Recorder

