

MARCH 2 – 6, 2026  
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)).**

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**Monday, March 2, 2026**

Commissioners Wallace and Roe are in.

Commissioner Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:28 am for the Department Head Meeting.

County Attorney Pat Dringman said he will have two jury trials in April. He will also be going on vacation soon. The criminal docket is about normal.

County Planner Page Dringman has had several surveys and flood plain issues. She had a call from Van Haven but nothing has been submitted so far. The Deerfield subdivision has a deadline at the end of the month. Lana is doing 9-1-1 updates in their office.

Clerk of District Court Barb Swanson reported on her case numbers, with 229 filings in January and 322 in February with 12 new cases. She confirmed there are two jury trials scheduled for April. She also has the maintenance head Joe Mobley installing key pad locks in her office.

Weed/Safety Coordinator Connie Weston said the weed board had recently had a meeting. The weed summit is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> and she has 5 speakers lined up. She met with the Boulder River Watershed about some joint education. She will be starting to run an ad for hiring summer employees.

Financial Officer Vicki Uehling is starting to work on budget and salary matters for FY 2027.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her case numbers with 6 new cases and 74 pending in city court and 28 new and 752 pending in justice court. She is training a new employee and they have been organizing and cleaning old files and boxes. She has been working on the curriculum for judges training and has attended several meetings and councils. The civil side has been busy.

Superintendent of Schools Matt Kleinsasser said it is a slow time and all of the county schools are good right now.

DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy said there have been no disasters lately and he has been working on office matters.

Sheriff Alan Ronneberg reported on his complaint numbers with 223 in January and 199 in February. He had 11 new cases in January and 5 in February. His undersheriff recently had surgery and he has a new dispatcher that just started.

Road Supervisor Chuck Schuman said they have been hauling gravel up Big Timber Canyon and has worked on bridges and maintenance.

Clerk and Recorder Dawn Curry attended the Election Administrators' Summit in Helena recently, she is preparing her presentation for training election judges and her office has been working on voter registration cleanup.

Commissioner Melanie Roe said the Commission has been busy with bridge work, helping Park County with a letter of support, overseeing the new courthouse project, and the airport pavement and gate project. She has worked on cleaning up old gravel permits and getting the new sanitarian orientated. She attended the MACo conference recently. The Commission is talking about updating the website and noted the Fly In is scheduled at the airport on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Following the department reports the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am. This meeting was recorded.

A local resident called to enquire about fencing along the right-of-way on 191 just north of town. She was referred to the local MT DOT section boss.

A local resident dropped off an encroachment permit application for a driveway on Lower Sweet Grass Road. This was referred to the Road Supervisor.

### **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

All Commissioners are in.

Commissioner Moody reported that the utility company that had left a large hole in North Yellowstone Trail Road had repaired it.

The Commission received five responses to the request for qualifications for the design and project management of the courthouse project. RFQs were received from:

- Nelson Architects of Great Falls, MT
- Schutz Foss of Billings, MT
- Slate Architecture of Helena, MT
- Cushing Terrell of Billings, MT
- Collaborative Design of Billings MT

The Commission spent the morning independently reviewing and discussing the RFQs. The Commission reviewed MCA 18-8-204 which outlines the procurement process for architectural, engineering and land surveying services. It also outlined the criteria used for establishing the most qualified firm to provide the services being desired.

### **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

Commissioners Wallace and Moody are in. Commissioner Roe came in after lunch.

The driver's examiner will be adding an additional day (Tuesday) every other week starting next week.

A local resident came in to inquire about the Sanitarian's office hours.

Commissioner Wallace called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. All Commissioners were present and a member of the public was also present. The proposals were ranked in the following order by the commission.

1. Collaborative Design
2. Slate Architecture
3. Nelson Architects
4. Shutz Foss
5. Cushing Terrell

A brief discussion outlining the process was held. The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm. This meeting was recorded.

An adjacent landowner to the Bainter Bridge called to discuss the upcoming replacement. Superintendent of Schools Matt Kleinsasser stopped in to visit about his office and how everything is going.

**Thursday, March 5, 2026**

Commissioners Wallace and Moody are in the office. Commissioner Roe came in later in the morning.

Claims for the week were reviewed and signed.

Commissioner Roe attended a Crazy Mtn Collective meeting.

Commissioner Wallace called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm. Clerk and Recorder Curry was present to prepare the agenda for the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm. This meeting was recorded.

Administrator Schuman is working on finding a more responsive company to manage the county website due to a lack of response from our current one. Our IT company had a couple of suggestions she is following through on.

Commissioner Moody attended a Fair Board meeting at the fairgrounds.

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

All Commissioners are in the office.

Commissioner Chairman Wallace called the commission to order at 9:30 am for the purpose of awarding the courthouse contract to the highest-ranking architecture firm who responded to our request for qualifications. Commissioner Moody moved to award Collaborative Design out of Billings, MT the contract. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with three ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am. This meeting was recorded.

Clerk & Recorder Curry stopped in to discuss a couple of things coming up in her office. She will be receiving a grant from HAVA (Help America Vote Act). It is approximately \$11,500.00 and can be used for election security and upgrades.

She also reminded us that the Chamber of Commerce Interlocal agreement will be coming up for renewal shortly and we will need to update it.

The need to get rid of some of the numerous saved documents in the basement was also discussed. She let us know that she would be shredding the old (2007 – 2020) time sheets. The current Secretary of State retention policy says we must keep the last four years.

The Commission wrote letters to let respondents of the RFQ know that they had not been selected and contacted Collaborative Design to see what the next steps are.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners  
*William Wallace*  
William Wallace, Chairperson

Date Approved: 21 APRIL, 2026.

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk

*Dawn M. Curry*

