

Pondera County Conservation District

406 North Main- Conrad MT 59425- Phone (406) 278-7611 ext. 101- Fax (406) 278-7997

January 20, 8:00AM

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Paul Jones at 8:10AM.

2. Attendance

Present: Colton, Eric, Roger, Paul, Heather, Ali, Ramsey

3. NRCS Report

Currently working through 2026 CSP applications (App date was Jan. 15

Regenerative Pilot Program:

Focus on Soil Health

Five-year contract including full farm assessments.

State discussions underway regarding EQUIP & TIP programs addressing resource concerns identified by the local Conservation Districts. Prioritizing primary resource concerns within the county.

4. Eric and Paul met with the State Office; later an email raised questions about the funding of the Gates.

Discussion followed about grant writing procedures and procurement requirements for cost-share projects.

Response received from the State indicated the initial approach wasn't going to work. Heather exchanged emails about procurement requirements related to the engineering firm, which raised additional questions and confusion.

Manufacturing time for the Gates is approximately 8 months, creating urgency prior to Canal Company needing to file a 3-year extension.

PCC cannot legally advertise on behalf of the District. Heather will consult WWC and NRC to identify procurement procedures and possible solutions.

Eric noted that Lower Musselshell District has previously navigated this process; Paul will reach out to them as the only other private district in the state.

5. Hiring Discussion

Motion by Ramsey to run a public job advertisement in the local newspaper for 2 weeks; seconded by Roger; motion passed.

Job description will be based on the document previously used to hire Kacey.

Wage discussion; general agreement that a rate above \$20/hr is necessary to attract qualified applicants.

Paul contacted Casey Todhal, who expressed interest in the position.

6. Financial & Administrative Items

Kacey will meet with Andrea at H&R Block to complete year-end documents and Final Report.

Eric and Ramsey will conduct an audit of Kacey's books on Wednesday, January 28, including final timesheet review.

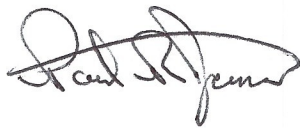
7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 10.

8. Adjournment

Paul adjourned the meeting at 9:04AM

Upcoming Events: Feb 2-4: Soil Health Symposium, Billings MT



CHAIRMAN

2-10-2026