Lewis and Clark Conservation District
790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 406.502.8591 https://lewisandclarkcd.org

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
November 12, 2026
1 pm
USDA Service Center Conference Room, Helena MT, 59601
& Via Zoom Conferencing
https://lewisandclarkcd.org/november-12-2026-regular-board-meeting-notice/

1:00 pm-Call to Order

- Introductions
- Public Comment
- 310 Permit Applications
    - CP-02-26 Little Wolf Creek Ranch LLC
    - CP-05-26 Drew
    - LC-45-26 Elliot
- Review Governance Calendar for November/December
- Minutes —October 2026
- Financial Statement October 2026 & Outstanding Bills
    - Decision on Financial issue with Valley Bank
    - Issue with QB and State Unemployment insurance
- Supervisor absences
- Correspondence

Reports

Printed reports are absolutely welcome.

NRCS
DNRC
    Survey
SRWG
MRCDC
LHWG
Helena CORE
WQPD
Weed District
MACD
    Convention
    Rotunda Day
    Legislative Meet and Greet
Supervisor Reports
Staff Reports

Old Business

Gehring Project Update-Joe
Bank limits recap-Chris-Word of caution
NASA Project recap-Chris/Becca
Procedures manual recap-Chris
Discussion about contracting post-retirement-Chris
Speaker series-Update-Joe/Chris

New Business

December planning meeting preparation (draft budget, old strategic plan, operations plan draft)-Chris

Announcements

Next meeting—December 10, 2026 **Special Meeting at 9 am, regular meeting at** 1 pm Helena Mt;

Adjournment

Upcoming Events & meetings

November 11-Veteran's Day–OFFICE CLOSED
November 12-Special Meeting to discuss hiring 11 am Helena
November 12-LCCD Board Meeting 1 pm Helena
November 18-CD Employee Roundtable
November 26-Thanksgiving Holiday-OFFICE CLOSED
November 27-Chris is using Floating Holiday hours
November 30-December 3-MACD Convention
December 10-LCCD Special Meeting 9 am Helena
December 10-LCCD Board Meeting 1 pm Helena
December 16-CD Employee Roundtable
December 25-Holiday-OFFICE CLOSED
January 1-New Year's Day-OFFICE CLOSED
January 14-LCCD Board Meeting 1 pm Helena
January 21-Rotunda Day
January 21-MACD Meet and Greet

Lewis and Clark Conservation District Public Participation Guidelines

Guidelines for Public Participation. The following guidelines shall serve to assure reasonable and fair public participation in the decisions of the Lewis and Clark Conservation District.

1. Be respectful: Any person who, while testifying, shall use indecorous or abusive language or who shall become boisterous or disruptive shall be barred from further presentation to the Board by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote of the Board.
2. Don't interrupt speakers or the proceedings. The public shall be invited to speak after and only after recognition by the presiding officer. Improper interruptions to the conduct of board business will not be allowed. (Please silence cell phones/other devices.)
3. The speaker should step to the front of the room, and for the record, give his or her name and, if applicable, the person, or organization he or she represents.
4. While the Board is in session, members of the public must preserve order and decorum. No person shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Board nor disturb any member of the public or of the Board while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer of the Board.
5. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes (total time) for items not on the agenda (the presiding officer may not allow comments for items outside of the Conservation District's jurisdiction) and 5 minutes (total time) for items on the agenda. The presiding officer, at situational discretion, may allow more comment time, or comments may be disallowed if they are repetitious. If commenters are not adhering to the guidelines, after one warning, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If they refuse to leave, the presiding officer may recess the meeting until the offender leaves or law enforcement escorts the offender from the meeting. The offender may be subject to disorderly conduct charges (MCA 45-8-101). Repetitive or off-topic comments are not allowed and will be interrupted by the presiding officer.
6. Written statements are welcome and should be provided to the District Administrator at least 1 day prior to the meeting for distribution to the entire board. Written statements may be emailed to admin@lewisandclarkcd.org or delivered to the office of the Lewis and Clark Conservation District, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601. Submitted written comments will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. Notes may be used during the public comment period. However, previously submitted written statements that are also read aloud during public comment shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become a part of the permanent record.

MONTH	FULL BOARD FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES	BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY
OCTOBER	**At the Board Meeting**	**Outside the Board Meeting**	**Outside (or prior to) Board Meeting**
	Treasurer/Finance Committee duties:	**Treasurer/Finance Committee Before the Board Meeting**	
	Treasurer's Report September's Treasurers report presented for board approval	Review September's financials per board policy and create written report for Oct meeting minutes	7 days **prior** to October Board meeting, prepare and forward **financial reports** to **Treasurer/Finance Committee** for monthly review per CD policy
	Authorization of Expenses September expenses presented for board approval	Review Q-3 financials and present to the board	Submit approved September minutes to County Clerk and Recorder's office and DNRC's CDB
	Payroll Taxes August payroll taxes presented for board approval	Reviews Payroll Tax report to ensure payments have been submitted	Begin process of revising budget and operational plan based on Mill Levy notice.
	Payroll Taxes 3rd quarter payroll reports have been filed		Make MPERA Payments 1 week after each pay day
	Review of 3rd Quarter Financials-Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss vs. Budget and End of Month Reports presented for board review & approval		Gather and distribute Resolutions for board discussion on district stance on resolutions approved at Area meeting
	Review October expense payments and make recommendations to the board for approval		Verify that quarterly payroll reports were completed by QuickBooks Online and that the UI tax payment was made.
	Secretary duties:	**Designated board members:**	Verify last month's Payroll Taxes were paid.
	Minutes September board minutes presented for review & approval	Begin work with the Administrator to draft the annual budget and operational plan.	Update progress on Ops plan and be prepared for reporting
	Signature Presiding officer signs board minutes		**Grant Reports:** Timely filing of DNRC grant reports
	Administrator:		
	Presents: Operations Plan Report - 3rd quarter annual operational work plan for review & approval; review of website metrics		

MONTH	FULL BOARD FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES	BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY
	Additional board items for discussion and/or approval		
	ACTION ITEM Designate two supervisors to lead District for officer and committee appointments/elections & orientation of new supervisors		
	ACTION ITEM Review and discuss all resolutions that passed at the Area meetings and vote on your district's stance for the MACD meeting		
	ACTION ITEM Designate a supervisor to represent your district during the MACD Convention		
	Other agenda items as needed		

MONTH	FULL BOARD FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES	BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY
NOVEMBER	**At the Board Meeting**	**Outside the Board Meeting**	**Outside (or prior to) Board Meeting**
	Treasurer/Finance Committee duties:	**Treasurer/Finance Committee Before the Board Meeting**	
	Treasurer's Report October's Treasurers report presented for board approval	Review October's financials per board policy and create written report for November meeting	7 days **prior** to November Board meeting, prepare and forward financial reports to Treasurer/Finance Committee for monthly review per CD policy
	Authorization of Expenses October expenses presented for board approval		Submit approved October minutes to County Clerk and Recorder's office and DNRC's CDB
	Payroll Taxes September payroll taxes presented for board approval	Reviews Payroll Tax report to ensure payments have been submitted	
	Review November expense payments and mak		Make MPERA Payments 1 week after each pay day
			Gather and distribute Resolutions for board discussion on district stance on resolutions approved at Area meeting.
			Verify last month's Payroll Taxes were paid.
	Secretary duties:	**Designated board members: Budget & Plans Review**	Finalize draft budget, strategic plan changes and operations plan for board member review in December
	Minutes October board minutes presented for review & approval	**Strategic Plan Review.** Review and make updates to strategic plan based on Local Work Group results and Resource Concern Survey. Review draft Operations Plan for next year.	
	Signature Presiding officer signs board minutes	**Upcoming Priorities.** Discuss and identify priorities for the upcoming year to be incorporated into the upcoming year's budget.	
	The Administrator Reports:		
	Filing of Minutes. Minutes are sent to the County Clerk each month.		

MONTH	FULL BOARD FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES	BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY
	Additional board items for discussion and/or approval	**Designated board members to lead Officer/Committee appointments and orientation of new supervisors.**	
	ACTION ITEM: Succession and Transition of Officers and New Supervisors. Designate board members to take lead on organizing officer/committee elections and new supervisor orientation.	Organize and schedule new board member orientation (before January).	
	ACTION ITEM: Discussion and approval of cost of living raises for staff for first payroll in January	**Designated board members - District Administrator Annual Evaluation**	
		Finalize the Admin and Resourced Specialist evaluation documentation and readies to lead board discussion at the April board meeting.	
	Other agenda items as needed	After the board meeting, draft feedback letter and two board authorized officers meet with Administrator to discuss evaluation feedback.	
	IMPORTANT DATES:		
	Supervisor Elections Held During General Election		
	MACD Fall Convention		

Oct Report for *Nov* meeting — *11/12/26* Bd Rpt

Received financial reports and the bank statement from Chris Evans, Dist Admin, L&C Cons Dist, *11/03/2026*

Balance Sheet	Prior Month	Current Month	Difference
Assets			
Checking Account	$33,461.92	$19,758.00	
Savings Account	$188,194.16	$188,194.16	
CD-4014 (cert of deposit) 13Mnth	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	
CD-2812 (cert of deposit) 13Mnth	$15,569.66	$15,569.66	
CD (cert of deposit) Short Term (emp leave pay)	$22,801.05	$22,801.05	
CD-7824 (cert of deposit) 90 Day	$15,654.65	$15,698.39	
CD-5144 (cert of deposit) 90 Day	$15,270.74	$15,270.74	
QB Tax Withholding	$3,412.12	$4,906.26	
Total Assets	**$309,364.30**	**$297,198.26**	**$12,166.04**
Liabilities & Equity			
Total Payroll Liabilities	$3,451.21	$5,871.32	
Total Equity	$305,913.09	$291,326.94	
Total Liabilities & Equity	**$309,364.30**	**$297,198.26**	**$12,166.04**

The number in Difference column represents the difference in Assets, Liabilities & Equity for the current month AND they should match!

	Financial Stmt (EOM Transactions)	Prior Month *end*	Current Month *start*	Difference
1*	Checking Account	$27,285.01	**$38,524.92**	**$5,063.00**
2*	Total Withdrawals *(employee pay, savings, cd transfers, ALL checks, etc)*	$25,708.09	$18,766.92	
	Total Deposits (including interest & savings transfers)	$31,885.00	$0.00	
	Ending Balance	**$33,461.92**	**$19,758.00**	**$13,703.92**
	The # in the difference columns should be $0.00, if not, there an issue to be resolved			
	Savings Account	$208,190.76	**$188,194.16**	**$0.00**
	Total Withdrawals *(employee pay, savings, cd transfers, ALL checks, etc)*	$20,000.00	$0.00	
	Total Deposits (including interest & savings transfers)	$3.40	$0.00	
	Ending Balance	**$188,194.16**	**$188,194.16**	**$0.00**
	Employee Taxes *{MPERA, MT State Fund, EFTPS (Fed Taxes), MT Dept of Rev}*	$5,241.72	$4,468.64	**$773.08**
3*	Employee Pay *(including pre-tax health benefit)*	$7,606.21	$10,514.41	**$2,908.20**
	The # in the difference columns indicate the differences from last to current month			

Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Prior Month	Current	Difference
Over Budget By:	$54,575.64	$69,161.79	**$14,586.15**

COMMENTS: CORRECTIONS & COMMENTS highlighted in yellow above

1*-difference in ending balance for Sep & start of Oct is $5,063 which was the check voided & returned to us from Water Quality Protection District

2*-total withdrawl's from last month was missing $.01, corrected here

3*-Appears more employee pay this month, it is because there were 3 paydays in Oct

All bills paid are legitimate

BILLS TO BE PAID: ***MACD convention registration (JR, KC, CE) $815***

Credit card for MACD convention for rooms (already paid) $457.08

NACD dues (last year we paid $250) $_____

Augusta FFA Chapter (year 4 of 5) $500

GOVERNANCE CALENDAR FOR NOV

**** Review Oct Financials ….*** ***This is my written report for Nov meeting.***

**** Review Payroll Tax Report(s)…*** ***- MT state unemloyment 3rd qtr lns paid $32,683.08: fed 3rd qtr taxes (fed, medicare & social sec) paid $9,18.54***

Jeanette Nordahl, Treasurer & Lincoln Area Supervisor ***11/092026***

LEWIS AND CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Balance Sheet

As of Oct 31, 2026

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	19,758.00
101001 Valley Bank - Savings	188,194.16
101003 Valley Bank-CD 13 month-4014	15,000.00
102106 Valley Bank CD-13 month-2812	15,569.66
102109 Valley Bank CD-Empl Lv PO-4539	22,801.05
120110 Valley Bank CD-7824	15,698.39
120111 Valley Bank CD-5144	15,270.74
Total Bank Accounts	**$292,292.00**
Other Current Assets	
185000 QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	4,906.26
Total Other Current Assets	**$4,906.26**
Total Current Assets	**$297,198.26**
Total Assets	**$297,198.26**
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
201200 Payroll Liabilities	$0.00
201201 FWT, FICA, MEDI Withheld	4,367.19
201202 MPERA-Employee	837.02
201203 Unemployment Ins.	64.11
201204 SWT, OFLT Withheld	503.00
201205 457B	100.00
Total for 201200 Payroll Liabilities	**$5,871.32**
Total Other Current Liabilities	**$5,871.32**
Total Current Liabilities	**$5,871.32**
Total Liabilities	**$5,871.32**
Equity	
260000 Opening Bal Equity	3,685.52
Opening Balance	356,803.21
Net Income	-69,161.79
Total Equity	**$291,326.94**
Total Liabilities and Equity	**$297,198.26**

LEWIS AND CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January-October, 2026

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
310000 Taxes & Assessments				
311010 County Mill Levy	58,991.75	177,000.00	-118,008.25	33.33 %
312372 Permissive Levy for Benefits	4,083.48	12,000.00	-7,916.52	34.03 %
Total for 310000 Taxes & Assessments	**$63,075.23**	**$189,000.00**	**-$125,924.77**	**33.37 %**
334000 State Grants	$50,530.08	$48,300.00	$2,230.08	104.62 %
334005 Grant Administration Costs	1,338.83	6,200.00	-4,861.17	21.59 %
334007 310 Funding		5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0 %
Total for 334000 State Grants	**$51,868.91**	**$59,500.00**	**-$7,631.09**	**87.17 %**
340000 Charges for Goods and Services				
341010 Sale of Merchandise		$500.00	-$500.00	0.0 %
341703 Ownership maps	55.00		55.00	
Total for 341010 Sale of Merchandise	**$55.00**	**$500.00**	**-$445.00**	**11.0 %**
341011 Meeting Registrations		500.00	-500.00	0.0 %
Total for 340000 Charges for Goods and Services	**$55.00**	**$1,000.00**	**-$945.00**	**5.5 %**
360000 Other Revenue				
362000 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	25.00		25.00	
363000 Bank Account Interest	43.12	150.00	-106.88	28.75 %
365000 Contributions and Donations				
365010 Annual Sponsor		2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0 %
Total for 365000 Contributions and Donations		**$2,500.00**	**-$2,500.00**	**0.0 %**
Total for 360000 Other Revenue	**$68.12**	**$2,650.00**	**-$2,581.88**	**2.57 %**
370000 Investment Earnings	$558.50		$558.50	
371011 CD Interest Income	949.77		949.77	
Total for 370000 Investment Earnings	**$1,508.27**		**$1,508.27**	
Total Income	**$116,575.53**	**$252,150.00**	**-$135,574.47**	**46.23 %**
Cost of Goods Sold				
Gross Profit	**$116,575.53**	**$252,150.00**	**-$135,574.47**	**46.23 %**
Expenses				
410000 General Government				
410500 Financial Services	2,375.25	5,000.00	-2,624.75	47.5 %

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget
410540 Treasury				
410551 Payroll Expenses				
410552 Wages	105,958.40	123,000.00	-17,041.60	86.15 %
410553 MPERA-Employer	9,621.55	11,143.91	-1,522.36	86.34 %
410554 Workers Comp	1,044.51	1,000.00	44.51	104.45 %
410555 Payroll Taxes	9,326.44	10,000.00	-673.56	93.26 %
410556 Health Benefits	4,000.00	4,800.00	-800.00	83.33 %
410557 PML Health Benefits	10,000.00	12,000.00	-2,000.00	83.33 %
Total for 410551 Payroll Expenses	**$139,950.90**	**$161,943.91**	**-$21,993.01**	**86.42 %**
Total for 410540 Treasury	**$139,950.90**	**$161,943.91**	**-$21,993.01**	**86.42 %**
411800 Other General Govt Services				
411830 Association Dues	595.00	810.00	-215.00	73.46 %
Total for 411800 Other General Govt Services	**$595.00**	**$810.00**	**-$215.00**	**73.46 %**
Total for 410000 General Government	**$142,921.15**	**$167,753.91**	**-$24,832.76**	**85.2 %**
480000 Conservation of Nat Res.				
480200 Supplies	$35.55		$35.55	
480210 Office Supplies	1,742.11	1,500.00	242.11	116.14 %
480211 Marketing	351.62		351.62	
480250 Supplies for Resale		500.00	-500.00	0.0 %
Total for 480200 Supplies	**$2,129.28**	**$2,000.00**	**$129.28**	**106.46 %**
480300 Purchased Services				
480304 Employee Cell Phones	1,370.22	1,440.00	-69.78	95.15 %
480305 Chair phone Stipend	1,800.00	1,200.00	600.00	150.0 %
480306 Google Workspace	587.10	620.00	-32.90	94.69 %
480310 Postage	24.56	400.00	-375.44	6.14 %
480320 Printing and Reproduction	139.23		139.23	
480330 Publicity, Dues and Subscriptio	$234.99		$234.99	
480331 Advertising/Publicity/Marketing	605.34	550.00	55.34	110.06 %
480333 Subscriptions	1,094.38	1,200.00	-105.62	91.2 %
Total for 480330 Publicity, Dues and Subscriptio	**$1,934.71**	**$1,750.00**	**$184.71**	**110.55 %**
480340 Equipment Rental	60.00		60.00	
480360 Repairs and Maintenance	2,330.71	2,000.00	330.71	116.54 %
480370 Travel Expenses	1,831.37	3,500.00	-1,668.63	52.32 %
480380 Education				
480381 Seminar Expenses	171.30	250.00	-78.70	68.52 %
480383 Camp Sponsorships	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0 %
480382 Training		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0 %

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget
480385 Envirothon		1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0 %
480386 Ag Ed		300.00	-300.00	0.0 %
Total for 480380 Education	**$1,171.30**	**$4,050.00**	**-$2,878.70**	**28.92 %**
Total for 480300 Purchased Services	**$11,249.20**	**$14,960.00**	**-$3,710.80**	**75.2 %**
480400 District Projects	$147.62		$147.62	
480410 Meeting Expense	$138.00		$138.00	
480411 Board Meetings	663.40	800.00	-136.60	82.92 %
480412 MACD	557.08	500.00	57.08	111.42 %
480413 Virtual Mtg. Account	176.27	200.00	-23.73	88.14 %
480414 Area 6	60.00	200.00	-140.00	30.0 %
480415 Employee Organization		150.00	-150.00	0.0 %
480416 Local Work Group		150.00	-150.00	0.0 %
Total for 480410 Meeting Expense	**$1,594.75**	**$2,000.00**	**-$405.25**	**79.74 %**
480420 310 Expenses	588.87	600.00	-11.13	98.15 %
Total for 480400 District Projects	**$2,331.24**	**$2,600.00**	**-$268.76**	**89.66 %**
480460 Bank Service Charges	$30.00		$30.00	
480462 PayPal fee		50.00	-50.00	0.0 %
Total for 480460 Bank Service Charges	**$30.00**	**$50.00**	**-$20.00**	**60.0 %**
480700 Grants, Contributions, Donation				
480730 Donations				
480740 Watershed Support				
480742 SRWG	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.0 %
Total for 480740 Watershed Support	**$4,000.00**	**$4,000.00**	**$0.00**	**100.0 %**
Total for 480730 Donations	**$4,000.00**	**$4,000.00**	**$0.00**	**100.0 %**
480770 State	16,959.53	48,300.00	-31,340.47	35.11 %
Total for 480700 Grants, Contributions, Donation	**$20,959.53**	**$52,300.00**	**-$31,340.47**	**40.08 %**
480900 Capital Outlay				
480940 Machinery and Equipment	141.59	3,000.00	-2,858.41	4.72 %
Total for 480900 Capital Outlay	**$141.59**	**$3,000.00**	**-$2,858.41**	**4.72 %**
Total for 480000 Conservation of Nat Res.	**$36,840.84**	**$74,910.00**	**-$38,069.16**	**49.18 %**
480470 Interest Expense	8.33		8.33	
510000 Miscellaneous				
510300 Other Unallocated Costs				
510330 Comp Liability Insurance	4,977.00	5,000.00	-23.00	99.54 %
510335 Surety Bond	140.00	250.00	-110.00	56.0 %
Total for 510300 Other Unallocated Costs	**$5,117.00**	**$5,250.00**	**-$133.00**	**97.47 %**

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget
Total for 510000 Miscellaneous	**$5,117.00**	**$5,250.00**	**-$133.00**	**97.47 %**
Total Expenses	**$184,887.32**	**$247,913.91**	**-$63,026.59**	**74.58 %**
Net Operating Income	**-$68,311.79**	**$4,236.09**	**-$72,547.88**	**-1612.61 %**
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
480600 Other Expenses				
480608 Montana Biological Weed Control	850.00	850.00	0.00	100.0 %
480602 Water Test Cost Share		450.00	-450.00	0.0 %
480606 Special Projects		2,436.09	-2,436.09	0.0 %
480609 Augusta FFA		500.00	-500.00	0.0 %
Total for 480600 Other Expenses	**$850.00**	**$4,236.09**	**-$3,386.09**	**20.07 %**
Total Other Expenses	**$850.00**	**$4,236.09**	**-$3,386.09**	**20.07 %**
Net Other Income	**-$850.00**	**-$4,236.09**	**$3,386.09**	**20.07 %**
Net Income	**-$69,161.79**	**-$0.00**	**-$69,161.79**	

LEWIS AND CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

End of Month Transactions

October 2026

Distribution account	Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Split	Amount	Balance
101000 Valley Bank - Checking								
Beginning Balance								38,524.92
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/02/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Joseph RY Kremer-Herman	Pay Period: 09/12/2026-09/25/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-1,463.18	37,061.74
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/02/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Christina M. Evans	Pay Period: 09/12/2026-09/25/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-2,159.88	34,901.86
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/02/2026	Tax Payment		Intuit QuickBooks Workforce	Tax withdrawal	QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	-1,694.93	33,206.93
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/02/2026	Expense		Lowes	LOWE S Wheel Chock	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Repairs and Maintenance	-10.58	33,196.35
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/05/2026	Check	5589	Meagher County Conservation District	Area 6 meeting registration for Karl and Chris	Conservation of Nat Res.:District Projects:Meeting Expense:Area 6	-60.00	33,136.35
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/05/2026	Expense		Joseph RY Kremer-Herman	Reimbursement of pre-tax premium payment-October	General Government:Treasury:Payroll Expenses:PML Health Benefits	-360.06	32,776.29
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/05/2026	Expense			INTUIT QBOOKS ONLINE	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Publicity, Dues and Subscriptio:Subscriptions	-103.55	32,672.74
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/05/2026	Expense		Burdicks Locksmith	Hitch lock keys for RR Trailer	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Repairs and Maintenance	-10.00	32,662.74
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/05/2026	Expense		Google	Google Workspace	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Google Workspace	-50.40	32,612.34
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/08/2026	Expense		High Country Plaza-Helena	Fuel for truck	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Travel Expenses	-52.42	32,559.92
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/09/2026	Expense		MPERA	MPERA Retirement and 457 Payments		-925.97	31,633.95
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/15/2026	Expense		Spectrum	SPECTRUM MOBILE	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Employee Cell Phones	-30.00	31,603.95
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/15/2026	Expense		Spectrum	SPECTRUM INTERNET	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Publicity, Dues and Subscriptio:Subscriptions	-60.00	31,543.95
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/16/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Christina M. Evans	Pay Period: 09/26/2026-10/09/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-2,159.89	29,384.06
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/16/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Joseph RY Kremer-Herman	Pay Period: 09/26/2026-10/09/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-1,463.18	27,920.88
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/16/2026	Tax Payment		Intuit QuickBooks Workforce	Tax withdrawal	QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	-1,694.91	26,225.97
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/16/2026	Expense		USPS	310 Mailing	Conservation of Nat Res.:District Projects:310 Expenses	-6.37	26,219.60
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/21/2026	Expense		Town Pump	Fuel for truck	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Travel Expenses	-80.17	26,139.43
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/21/2026	Expense		Burdicks Locksmith	Keys-Truck, RRT, etc.	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Repairs and Maintenance	-28.00	26,111.43
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/22/2026	Expense		High Country Boats	RRT Bow Hitch Part	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Repairs and Maintenance	-8.39	26,103.04
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/22/2026	Expense		Love’s Store	Fuel for truck	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Travel Expenses	-62.59	26,040.45
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/23/2026	Expense		MPERA	MPERA Retirement and 457 Payments		-925.97	25,114.48
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/27/2026	Expense		First Bankcard	1st night cost for each room for convention	Conservation of Nat Res.:District Projects:Meeting Expense:MACD	-457.08	24,657.40

Distribution account	Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Split	Amount	Balance
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/29/2026	Expense			Hiring Meeting lunch	Conservation of Nat Res.:District Projects:Meeting Expense:Board Meetings	-137.14	24,520.26
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/29/2026	Expense		Home Depot	THE HOME DEPOT	Conservation of Nat Res.:Purchased Services:Repairs and Maintenance	-6.28	24,513.98
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/30/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Joseph RY Kremer-Herman	Pay Period: 10/10/2026-10/23/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-1,334.62	23,179.36
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/30/2026	Payroll Check	DD	Christina M. Evans	Pay Period: 10/10/2026-10/23/2026	Direct Deposit Payable	-1,933.66	21,245.70
101000 Valley Bank - Checking	10/30/2026	Tax Payment		Intuit QuickBooks Workforce	Tax withdrawal	QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	-1,487.70	19,758.00
Total for 101000 Valley Bank - Checking							**-$18,766.92**	
1005 Personnel Services (deleted)								
Beginning Balance								0.00
Total for 1005 Personnel Services (deleted)								
Total for 101000 Valley Bank - Checking with sub-accounts							**-$18,766.92**	
101001 Valley Bank - Savings								
Beginning Balance								188,194.16
Total for 101001 Valley Bank - Savings								
101003 Valley Bank-CD 13 month-4014								
Beginning Balance								15,000.00
Total for 101003 Valley Bank-CD 13 month-4014								
102106 Valley Bank CD-13 month-2812								
Beginning Balance								15,569.66
Total for 102106 Valley Bank CD-13 month-2812								
102109 Valley Bank CD-Empl Lv PO-4539								
Beginning Balance								22,801.05
Total for 102109 Valley Bank CD-Empl Lv PO-4539								
120110 Valley Bank CD-7824								
Beginning Balance								15,654.65
120110 Valley Bank CD-7824	10/16/2026	Deposit		VALLEY BANK	INTEREST ADDED BACK	Investment Earnings	43.74	15,698.39
Total for 120110 Valley Bank CD-7824							**$43.74**	
120111 Valley Bank CD-5144								
Beginning Balance								15,270.74
Total for 120111 Valley Bank CD-5144								

SRWG Update to LCCD, November 2026

- Madison and Bayley planted more willows at Allen Beck's place last week.

- Muddy Creek: Engineers are working on the next phase of design for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review, then will finish 90% design, and get re-submitted for permits. Cultural and Historic survey was completed last month for the newly expanded project area. Hoping for winter construction.

- Engineers will have the draft Floweree Preliminary Engineering Report ready for TAC review by Friday 11/6; final report to be completed by the end of November.

- Consulting team has sent a draft of the Watershed Planning and Prioritization Report for TAC review. Will address comments and complete the plan this spring.

- Water quality monitoring and river surveys have wrapped up for the season. Bayley's term with SRWG ends 11/6.

- Bayley and Madison attended the Montana Salinity Control Association's workshop November 6 and 7.

- SRWG's WaterSmart Grants expire in October of this year except the one for Muddy Creek which expires June 2027. We are starting to look for funds for future projects/programs beyond those dates. Thank you for providing a letter of support for our work.

- Our library speaker series was popular last year, so the library has asked us to partner again this year. Speakers will be the third Thursday of the month, January – May, at the Great Falls public library.

- We will be holding a water efficiency workshop again this February 13 in Great Falls. Will have "save the date" and agenda by your next meeting. Will feature water leasing, exempt wells, other relevant legislative updates as well as an update from the MSU water quality study at Mitch Konen's place and the Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology's groundwater study on the Greenfields bench.

- Main tasks are: wrapping up field work, work-planning and budgeting for 2027, applying for grants.

Coming events – see website for details

January 21	SRWG board meeting, details TBD
Feb 13	Water efficiency workshop in Great Falls

Sun River Watershed Group
PO Box 1057
Great Falls, MT 59403

(406) 214 2868
tracy@sunriverwatershed.org
www.sunriverwatershed.org

MRCDC
PO Box 118
Winnett, MT 59087

Phone: (406) 454-0056
mrcdc@macdnet.org
www.missouririvercouncil.info

November 2, 2026

Re: October MRCDC Coordinator Report

MRCDC Council Members, Partners, and District Administrators:

This year is flying by, as we approach the holiday season! Here are the activities the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) was up to during the month of October.

October has been a month of catching up on some items and beginning reporting and convention season. The first full week of October, I attended the Big Horn Conservation District meeting to give an update on the Woody Invasives Working Group (WIWG) River Tour and work moving forward. We look forward to continuing to work together. I also gave an update about the WIWG to the Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council meeting in mid-October.

Working with the Invasive Species Action Council (ISAN), we continue to plan for the full WIWG meeting to be held November 19 in Lewistown and zoom. The draft agenda for the day is attached. We also continue to look for and apply for grants to help with WIWG efforts. Most recently we have had discussions about options for satellite imagery, and a new publication sharing native species shelterbelt options.

Discussion regarding the Milk River Watershed Alliance joining MRCDC fully has continued. We will be looking at this much closer in the coming weeks and specifically at MRCDC's Quarterly meeting November 30, being held in conjunction with MACD's Annual Convention.

The US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP), the umbrella over the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) held a few meetings over the month. The first was a meeting between the Human Considerations, Bird, and Tribal Work Groups. The USACE is taking lessons learned from stakeholder engagements leading up to, during and after the 2024 Fort Peck Dam Test Flows, to engage stakeholders that may be affected by piping plover sandbar habitat creation by the USACE. Another committee of MRRIC that met was the Members, Policies, and Procedures committee. We are meeting to update these policies and be sure they match the federally approved Charter for the MRRIC.

Another nearly two full days of MRRP Science Advisory Panel meetings were held for the Upper and Lower Missouri River Basins regarding research and findings for pallid sturgeon. I definitely learned a few takeaways from these meetings in regard to the Fort Peck Test Flows including habitat findings, pallid sturgeon movement and female reproduction cycles.

MRCDC continues to work with Petroleum County CD's new fiscal manager, Iceberg Support, to get all our financials up to date and grant reimbursement requests submitted. So far, it has been a great transition. Shortly, things will be caught up and moving right along!

I did participate in October's Petroleum County CD (PCCD) Board meeting, giving updates regarding MRCDC, and staying up to date on PCCD happenings.

If you have any questions or follow up about the report or anything MRCDC, I can be reached at 406-454-0056 and mrcdc@macdnet.org. Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, enjoying all we have to be thankful for.

God Bless,



Molly Masters
MRCDC Coordinator

COMING UP

November

4-5: MISC Summit, Helena
6: WIWG satellite imagery meeting
11: Veterans' Day, closed
18: MRRIC Plenary, zoom
18: CEMIST meeting
18: MDA EDRR webinar
19: WIWG Full Group meeting, Lewistown
25: PCCD Board meeting
26: Thanksgiving, closed 🦃
30: MRCDC Quarterly, 2:00pm-5:00pm, Fairmont and Zoom

December

1-3: MACD Convention, Fairmont
25: Merry Christmas! 🎄
29: MRCDC Exec. Committee, 9:00am
30: PCCD Board meeting



Hybrid Working Group Meeting
November 19, 2026
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lewistown DNRC Conference Room
613 East Main Street
Lewistown, MT 59457

Draft Agenda - Subject to Change

Timeline	Agenda Item – Presenter, Affiliation
10:00 am to 10:05 am	**Welcome**
10:05 am to 10:20 am	**River Tour Summary** – Molly Masters, MRCDC, and Sara Ricklefs, ISAN
10:20 am to 10:25 am	**2027 River Tour Ideas –** Open Discussion
10:25 am to 10:45 am	**Common Buckthorn Bioblitz** – Brent Smith, CEMIST, and Russ Hartzell, MISC
10:45 am to 10:55 am	**Buckthorn Blitz Q&A** – Open Discussion
5-minute break	
11:00 am to 11:20 am	**Encouraging Community Involvement** – Megan Hoyer, Montana Department of Agriculture
11:20 am to 11:30 am	**Community Involvement Q&A** – Open Discussion
11:30 am to 11:50 am	**Outreach –** TBD
11:50 am to 12:00 pm	**Outreach Q&A** – Open Discussion

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	**Lunch**
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	**Monitoring Best Practices** – TBD
1:30 pm to 1:40 pm	**Monitoring Q&A** – Open Discussion
1:40 pm to 2:00 pm	**Upcoming Grant Objectives** – Open Discussion with Introductory Remarks
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	**Partner Updates & General Comments** – Open Discussion

Virtual Option Information:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89019874762?pwd=fapoUDfqBBvzskWXT5pqDlYTZKbB8q.1

Meeting ID: 890 1987 4762
Passcode: 4444

Thanks to partnering organizations for helping to make this meeting happen!

Meeting Space

Use of OWL & Zoom

Lunch

Coordination Support

REPORT TO W. MT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 2026

My November report includes important reminders and updates. **Please review the CDB newsletter for additional updates and information.** If you are not receiving the CDB newsletter, please contact me and I will get you signed up.

The FY27 P3 Cycle 1 grant hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 1, at the MACD Convention. The CD Bureau received 9 applications this cycle. Links to the application gallery and public comment portal are provided below.
Supervisor scholarships are available for the MACD convention, please use the sign-up link below to apply.
The CD Bureau will be holding several events at the MACD Convention.
Reminder that there are revised Education Mini Grant reporting requirements and CDs are also reminded to submit copies of their Policies and Procedures for Operations to the CD Bureau.

If your district has hired a new administrator, I am happy to schedule a DNRC onboarding meeting with them.
Please let me know if you would like me to attend a board meeting. I'm available via Zoom or, schedule permitting, in person.

FY27 P3 CYCLE 1 GRANT HEARING

- The P3 grant hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. at the MACD Convention. The room location will be announced once confirmed.
- Applicants will receive an email with feedback on their applications and instructions for presenting at the hearing.
- The CD Bureau received 9 applications totaling $170,441. The budget for this cycle is $150,000.
- Here are links to the gallery and public comment portal to view and comment on the submissions.
- CD Bureau is looking for grant reviewers for the CD Grant Review Panel. Reviewers will evaluate applications against the grant guidelines and provide scores, written feedback, and funding recommendations. The panel will meet on November 12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you are interested in serving on the panel, please contact me or Stephanie Criswell steph.criswell@mt.gov no later than October 30.

SUPERVISOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MACD CONVENTION

- DNRC is offering scholarships of up to $650 to eligible conservation district supervisors to support attendance at the MACD Convention.
- To be eligible, applicants must be current elected supervisors serving on the board of a Montana conservation district. Scholarship funds are limited, and awards are not guaranteed.
- Applications must be received by Friday, November 20, 2026.
- Scholarship payments will be made after the convention and only after the recipient provides proof of registration and attendance. Payments will be issued to the recipient's conservation district, which will be responsible for disbursing the scholarship funds to the recipient.
- Here is the link to apply: Supervisor Scholarship Application

CD BUREAU AT MACD CONVENTION

- The CD Bureau will be hosting the following events at the MACD Convention.
- **Tuesday, December 1**
  - 3:00–5:00 p.m. — CD Planning, Project, and Pollinator Grant Hearing

- **Thursday, December 3**
  - 2:15–3:00 p.m. — 310 Training
  - 3:00–4:00 p.m. — 310 Office Hours
  - 3:00–5:00 p.m. — CD Bureau Office Hours
- Please visit our table to speak with staff, pick up resources, and share feedback on bureau programs and services. We welcome your suggestions on how we can better support conservation districts. Hope to see you in December.

EDUCATION MINI GRANT REPORTING UPDATE

- To simplify and make grant management more efficient for Education Mini Grants, quarterly reports are no longer required. Conservation districts only need to submit a final report, reimbursement request, and all required deliverables to close out the grant.
- Districts may still submit reimbursement requests throughout the grant term. To do so, please email me to request a reimbursement and reporting form through Submittable.
- Please let me know if you have any questions about your current Edu Mini Grants and the progress reporting.

SUBMISSION OF DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- In accordance with § 76-15-315(3), MCA, conservation districts are responsible for providing DNRC with documents of importance.
- Please submit a copy of the district's adopted Policies and Procedures for Operations to me so the CD Bureau can have them on file.
- If your CD does not have adopted Policies and Procedures for Operations, please review the Conservation District Model Operations Policies and Procedures document.
- If you have any questions about your district adopting new Policy and Procedures for Operations, please reach out to me.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Nov. 4-5 MISC Summit, *Helena*
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1-3 MACD Convention, *Fairmont Hot Springs*
Dec. 2 or 3 DNRC P3 Grant Hearings, *Fairmont Hot Springs*

Please let me know if you'd like me to attend a board meeting or schedule a new Administrator onboarding meeting. I'm available via Zoom or, schedule permitting, in person.

Catey Bauer |Conservation District Specialist
Conservation Districts Bureau, CARDD
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1539 Eleventh Avenue, Helena, MT 59601
PHONE: 406-465-0948 EMAIL: **catey.bauer@mt.gov**

2026 District Awards

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
Montana Conservation District Employee Organization (MCDEO)

Help recognize exceptional conservation district staff, supervisors, and partners at the 2026 MACD Convention, held from December 1-3 at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Anaconda, MT. Please review the eligibility and award details below, then complete the nomination form on the reverse side.

Nominations due by October 31, 2026.

MACD Awards

Hit the Ground Running Award
Someone who is enthusiastic, highly effective, and made a strong impact within their first two years of working with their district.

Conservation Initiative Award
Innovative conservation projects or initiatives with significant local impact and collaboration among conservation partners, landowners, and communities.

Mentorship Award
Someone who supports and uplifts others across conservation districts.

Supervisor of the Year Award (Supervisors Only)
A supervisor who has exhibited exceptional dedication to the mission and work of their conservation and/or conservation districts across the state of Montana

Employee of the Year Award (Employees Only)
An employee who has exhibited exceptional dedication to the mission and work of their conservation and/or conservation districts across the state of Montana

Conservation Partnership Award (State and Federal Partner Employees)
A state or federal employee who demonstrates exceptional collaboration with conservation districts, fostering impactful conservation efforts and inspiring sustainable change

MCDEO Awards

Conservation Champion Award (Employee Only)
An employee who makes an outstanding contribution to environmental stewardship in their position with a conservation district.

Legacy Award (Employee Only)
An outstanding employee whose impact will be felt for years after they're gone, and who comes to mind when you think about a lifelong conservationist.

Trailblazer Award (Employee Only)
An individual who is leading the way in new, fun and exciting conservation programs, practices and outreach. A true conservation leader.

Helping Hand (Employee Only)
An employee who generously shares time, knowledge and experience to support and guide fellow employees. They lead with patience, encouragement and a spirit of collaboration, helping others learn the ropes and succeed in their many conservation district roles.

Outstanding Newcomer (Employee Only)
An employee with a willingness to dive in and work with passion and grit. Our Conservation World is a better place since they've come along!

Please submit one nomination per form. Completed forms can be emailed to lauren@macdnet.org or mailed to MACD at 1101 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601.

Nominations due October 31, 2026

Select the award you would like to nominate someone for:

- ☐ Hit the Ground Running Award
- ☐ Conservation Initiative Award
- ☐ Mentorship Award
- ☐ Supervisor of the Year Award
- ☐ Employee of the Year Award
- ☐ Conservation Partnership Award
- ☐ Conservation Champion Award (MCDEO)
- ☐ Legacy Award (MCDEO)
- ☐ Trailblazer Award (MCDEO)
- ☐ Helping Hand Award (MCDEO)
- ☐ Outstanding Newcomer Award (MCDEO)

Name of Nominee:_____

District or Organization:_____

Position:_____

Why should the person you are nominating receive this award? (Note: If they win, this information will be shared with the membership at the awards banquet. Stories and examples are much appreciated for this purpose and for determining award winners!)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Is there an award we missed that you think someone should be nominated for?

_____

_____

Your Name:_____

Email:_____ **Phone Number:** _____

District Administrator Report

Nov 12, 2026 Board Meeting

Executive Summary

The following table provides a high-level status of primary district activities for the current reporting period. Detailed project updates and administrative notes follow on the subsequent pages.

Category	Status	Key Action Items
Financials	Complete	August and September payroll taxes paid; MPERA processed for August and September; Grant Applications submitted. Quarterly financials are done.
Governance	Ongoing	Minutes filed; hiring planning started
Outreach	In Progress	MACD website transfer is complete.
Programs	Planning	Winter speaker series is being planned for Tuesday evenings in February.
Personnel	Active	Weekly staff training.

Operational Updates

District Governance & Records

- Minutes & Filings: All approved minutes have been successfully filed with the DNRC and the County. They are also available for public viewing on the district website.
- Records Management: We are still awaiting a final “okay” to dispose of the 19 boxes of paperwork in the shed from the Records Disposal personnel.
- Procedures Manual: The manual is substantively complete. Final efforts are focused on finishing up a few draft documents and determining the most effective document format for long-term staff use.
- Governance Calendar: Updates from the October 27 staffing meeting are being incorporated, with the checklist as a 5th Column.

Technology & Outreach

- Website Migration: Should be complete, but I’m doing some follow up to be sure. Once I know for sure, I’ll contact our old Web Host–who we will still be paying for our domain name–know that we can let the web host and email host part go. Now Joe and I can work on training for that, and adding new photos, and the member page.
- Digital Organization: Work continues on streamlining the Administrator Google Drive to improve file accessibility and long-term organization.
- Instructional Content: Development has begun on WordPress "how-to" guides to assist staff with future website maintenance. This will also benefit other CD employees whose districts have a website on the MACD multi-site.

Financial & Grant Management

Payroll & Compliance

- Tax Liabilities: Payroll taxes for September have been fully reconciled and paid.
- Quarterly reports for 3rd quarter: Complete
- Retirement Contributions: MPERA payments for October were processed according to schedule.
- Training: training focus has broadened. With the migration of the website, we will shift to training in WordPress, MailChimp, and social media. The “training checklist” that I’ve prepared for staff transition will be utilized moving forward for Joe.
- I’ve spent hours and hours on the phone with Annaliese at Workmosis and QuickBooks Online trying to resolve a glitch in QBO that caps wages related to the State of Montana Unemployment insurance. No resolution on that one, as of now.

Grant Reporting

- Upcoming Deadlines: None til January.

Grant Applications

- No word on the potential federal grant funds for Threemile Dam.
- I will be presenting on the Feathered Pipe Foundation’s application at the Convention hearings.
- The Gehring Project grant application is still in its preliminary stages-See Joe for details

Personnel & Training

Staff Development

- Joe and I meet at least once a week to assess transition concerns and training. We are specifically training on critical District related tasks regarding financial and other "keeping the lights on" activities, basically "cross-training" Joe on my duties.
- I am currently working to pare down my annual leave balance since I can only carry over 384 hours. Most of my Fridays are blacked out, as well as some time over Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Years.
- I hope to begin advertising the position in late January/February, but will be waiting on a legal review of job description, advertisements, etc.

Community Education & Programs

Future Workshops

- Speaker Series: A draft list of potential experts and topics for a winter/spring multi-night speaker series is currently being compiled. Kremer-Herman will take the lead on planning this series. We have Peter Kolb secured for Forest Management/Pile Burning on February 2nd. He'd like to do a "day 2" the next day to actually go out and burn a pile on a site where the landowner would be okay with that. Jeff has agreed to do a Stream Project presentation, with CD Staff helping put together a presentation. Other potential topics include Pollinators, Wells and Stream Interaction, Bear Awareness. Joe is taking the lead on these sessions.
- Pollinator 2027 will be advertised in the January newsletter with a link to the sign up sheet, and updated materials as we determine the final seed mixes with the supplier. We will also advertise the planned April/May pickup days in Helena, Lincoln, and Augusta in the January and April newsletters.

Monitoring Items

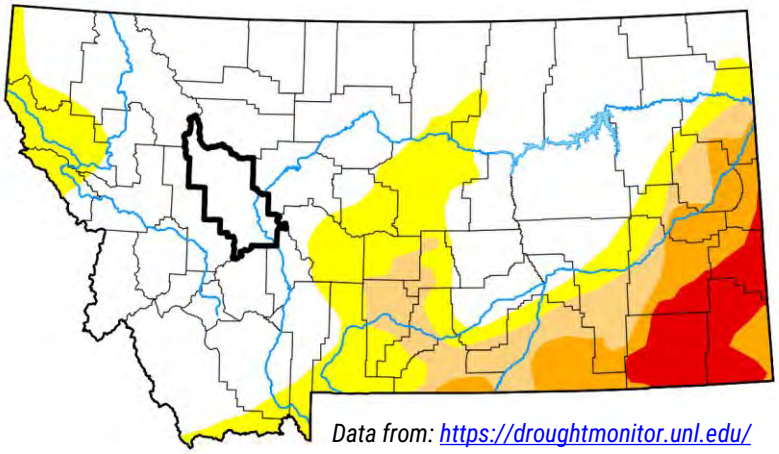
- Planning Board: We are continuing to monitor proposed changes to local planning board structures and will update the board as developments occur.

Committee Work

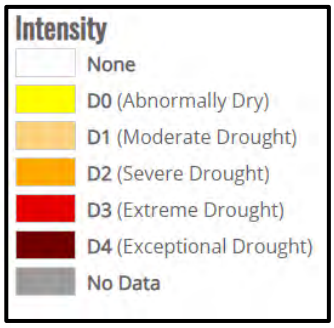
- MACD Training Work Group: Monthly meetings continue.
- Convention Planning: Participation in the statewide convention planning group is ongoing to ensure District representation in the agenda. The Employee Organization is working on the auction planning, and Area 6 Employees will be combining items for a "fly fishing" package, along with some other items.
- The EO has Raffle Tickets for sale, $20 each or 3 for $50. There are 6 prizes: Dewalt 1600 Portable Booster pack with air compressor; Lone Mountain Cooler with Fly Fishing Accessories; U of M Men's and Women's basketball season ticket package; Grill Package; 2 tickets to the Charlie Russell Chew-Choo with a $100 gift certificate; and a $1000 Scheel Gun Package. Chris Evans has tickets.

UPPER MISSOURI WATER SUPPLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2, 2026

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation



2026-10-29



OVERALL DROUGHT

- Conditions remain the same with **no drought conditions** (**100%**) across the county.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

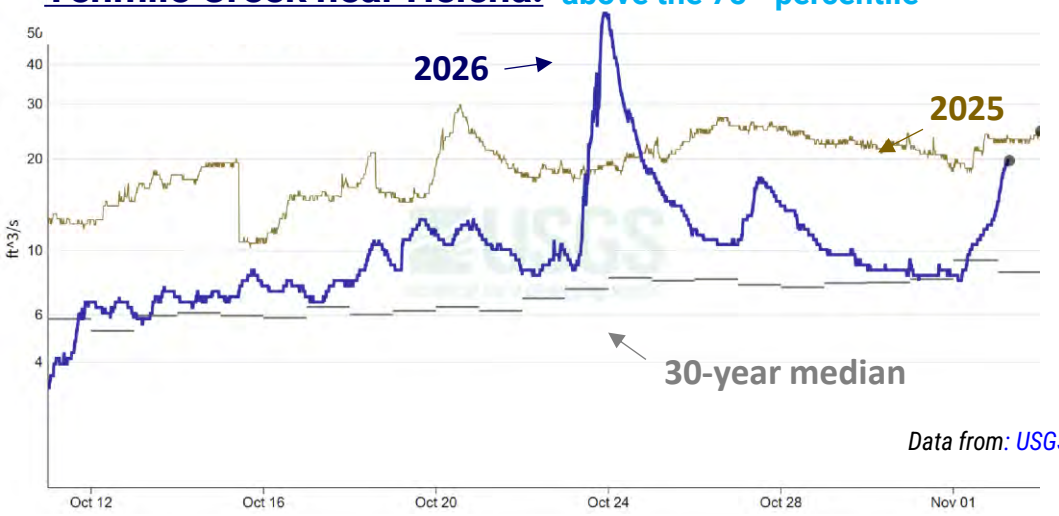
- Canyon Ferry is **79%** full, **93%** of the 30-yr average.

August 2026	September 2026	October 2026	November 2026
None	None	None	None

STREAMFLOW

- Streamflow has been steadily increasing to above normal conditions across the basin. Recent rains produced spikes and elevated the streams.
- Within the Helena Valley, streamflow at both Tenmile Creek sites (Rimini and Helena) and PPC are all **above 75th percentile**.
- Streamflow at the Missouri River at Toston is **above the median (50th percentile)** and higher than the historical median. Flows are influenced by reservoir operations.
- Flooding potential remains low with dry conditions expected for the next week.

Tenmile Creek near Helena: above the 75th percentile



Data from: USGS

Prickly Pear Creek near Clancy: above the 75th percentile

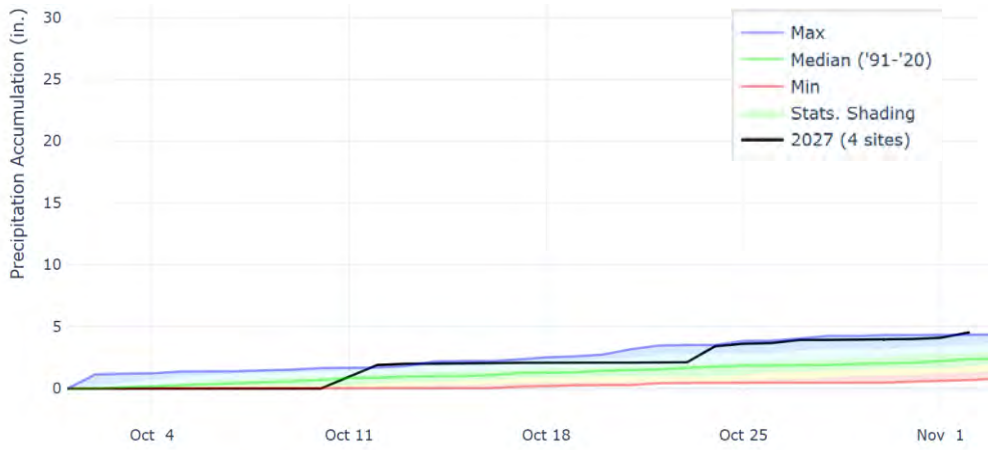


Data from: USGS

PRECIPITATION

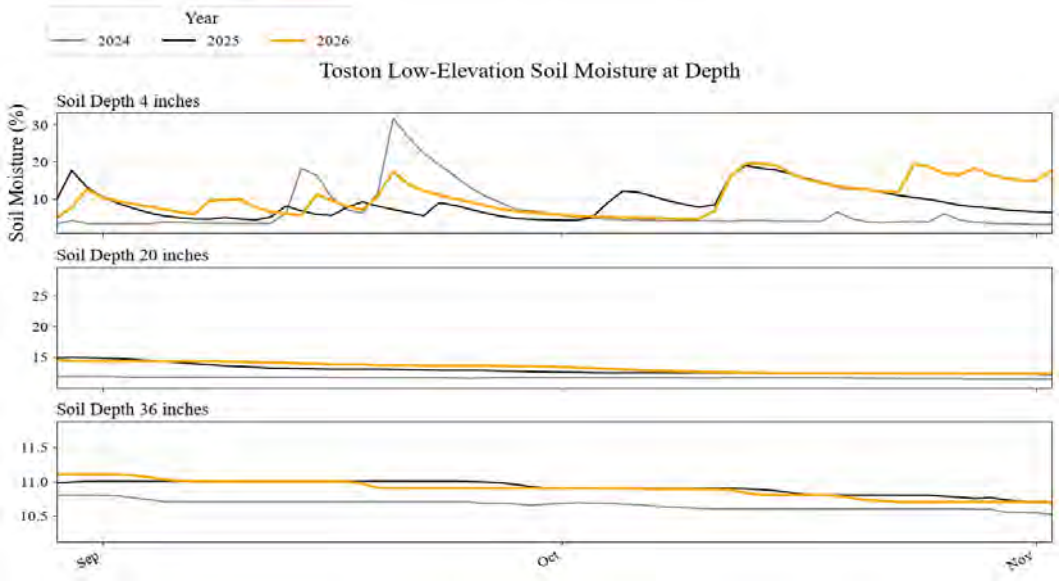
- Helena precipitation in October totaled **1.27 inches,** well above the 30-yr median (**0.41 inches**; AgriMet).
- Helena Valley precipitation is the highest on record **(100th percentile)** for the start of the 2027 water-year.
- The most recent rain event over the weekend, added 0.26 inches of precip in November.

Helena Valley Total Precipitation



Data from: https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/basin-plots/#MT

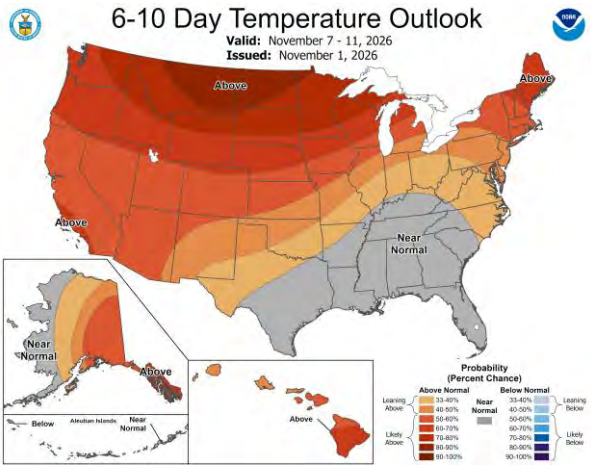
SOIL MOISTURE

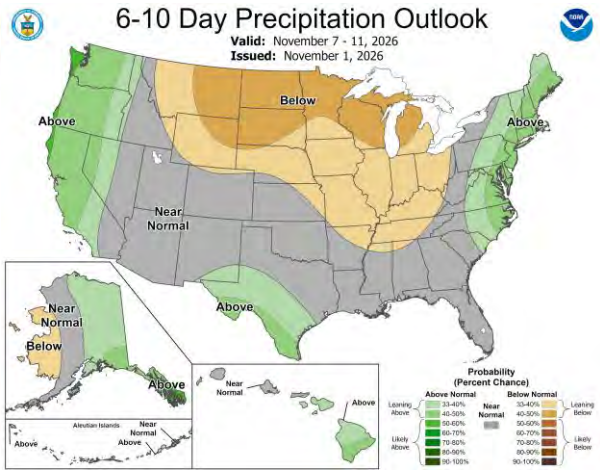


- Soil moisture at 4 inches increased in response to rain events and has remained elevated through October.
- Deeper soil moisture (20 and 36 inches) remained stable with a slight decline through October.

Data from: https://climate.umt.edu/mesonet/

NOVEMBER WEATHER OUTLOOK





Data: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

- Conditions are trending towards an El Nino pattern.
- Above-normal temps and drier conditions are expected early November.
- Precipitation is possible around 11/11, but storm track is uncertain.

Produced by: *Maddie McKeefry | Hydrologist | Montana DNRC | Madeline.mckeefry@mt.gov*

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | EXTENSION

MSU Extension Invasive Plants
Monthly Weed Post, November 2026

Early Detection, Rapid Response Program: Overview of the 2026 Field Season

By Josh Wagoner, EDRR Coordinator, Montana Department of Agriculture, josh.wagoner@mt.gov

Introduction The 2026 field season was a quiet one for Montana early detection and rapid response (EDRR) noxious weeds, at least for non-crop weedy species. If high-priority species are out there, they need to be found and reported, but no news is considered good news. This tranquility was encouraging and something to celebrate. With two pigweeds, the new species threatening Montana's cropland, the news wasn't nearly as good.

Successes Unlike the significant findings of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) east of the Continental Divide in recent summers, there was only one instance of notable eastward movement of this species in 2026: A lone plant was found east of Livingston in the I-90 median. This finding is cause for concern and continued vigilance is vital. The three Lewis & Clark County sites all had considerably less plants than were found in the past few years, and there were no plants at the sites discovered in Beaverhead and Broadwater counties in 2025. This difficult and concerning forb not continuing to spread from the far western Montana areas it has occupied for several decades, where there's a concerted effort to contain it, is a real positive. Regarding EDRR grasses, no new locations of medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) or European common reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*) were detected. Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*), the fastest spreading invasive plant in Montana over the past several years, was not recorded in any additional counties. Sometimes weed management can seem daunting and discouraging, but this field season showed that positive differences can and are being made.

Concerns Montana is one of the last states in the Lower 48 where Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) hasn't established as a major issue in cropland. Montana law treats it as a restricted weed seed with a zero-tolerance standard. First found in the state in 2023, it's been a growing problem since, and 2026 proved to be the worst year yet. This summer it was found in fields in five counties (Chouteau, Gallatin, Hill, Pondera, and Roosevelt). Stopping this weed in its tracks is critical for Montana agriculture. You can help by looking for pigweeds with long, thin inflorescences, or any pigweed that stands out as unusual, then reporting suspected plants to your local Extension agent, county weed coordinator, or the Montana EDRR program. Waterhemp (*A. tuberculatus*), a close relative to Palmer amaranth with similar traits, adverse effects, and legal regulation, should also be reported if found. Millet seed has been a primary vector for both species.



Palmer amaranth in a Roosevelt County field. Photo: Josh Wagoner, MDA.

Learn More For additional information on rush skeletonweed, weedy pigweeds, and other high-priority weed species, visit the Montana EDRR page or check out one of many Montana Extension publications here.

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Fall 2026 EDRR Webinar
Wednesday, November 18, 1-2 p.m.

Please join the Montana EDRR program and special guest Greta Dige of the Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program for the fall 2026 EDRR webinar.

1:00-1:20 p.m. Update on summer 2026 EDRR happenings, Josh Wagoner

1:20-2:00 p.m. Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program introduction, tips, and how to get started with an application, Greta Dige

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
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