

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 29th, 2026

Prairie County Court House Court Room
217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349

www.prairiecounty.org

Prairie County Board of Commissioners, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. Commission Devlin not in attendance. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Call to order, pledge of allegiance. Public Comment. No public comment.

9:06 a.m. Commissioner Keltner announced that the 250th celebration committee will meet tonight at 6 p.m. in the courthouse.

9:30 a.m. Hope Barker with MACo Property & Causality Insurance meet with commissioners to discuss the 26['] -27['] insurance renewal. Joining the meeting Delite Dukart with Watt's Insurance. Hope explained that pooling insurance through MACo has benefits such as stability, savings, coverage and it is member driven (counties are the members). This year there will be an increase in cost of insurance at 2.74% compared to last year, there was an increase in property value of \$418,000. She also explained property loss over the last 3 complete years; main loss is building damage due to weather events. Then she went over services provided by MACo insurance.

10:30 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided the commissioners with payroll to review and sign.

Prairie County Voucher # 1117 \$65,917.40

Prairie County Voucher # 1118 \$17,883.78

Prairie County Voucher # 1119 \$2,278.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1120 \$17,046.70

Prairie County Voucher # 1123 \$32,719.39

Prairie County Voucher # 12 \$7,158.97

10:45 a.m. Commissioners reviewed and signed claims

Prairie County Voucher # 1127 \$1,450.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1126 \$148.46

Prairie County Voucher # 1124 \$7,494.40

Prairie County Voucher # 1125 \$8,004.47

11:00 a.m. Commissioners reviewed expenditure sheets

11:30 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the resignation letter from Road Supervisor Todd Henry, that will be effective 12/30/2026.

11:35 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the April 15th, 2026, commissioners meeting.

11:50 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 15th, 2026 commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

11:51 a.m. Commissioner Teske read the minutes from the April 23rd, special commissioner meeting.

11:54 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 23rd, special commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

11:50 a.m. Commissioners reviewed the 2027 Fiscal Year Alcohol Tax Funding Review and designation form.

11:51 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign 2027 Fiscal Year Alcohol Tax Funding Review, seconded Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Commissioners adjourned to attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and LAPC will run and keep minutes. Next meeting July 29th, 2026. The audio from the meeting will be on the county website under commissioner minutes.

1:00 p.m. Dale Butori the District Field Officer for Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), and John Pisk DES. Dale gave a quick explanation of his position and what he does. He is the regional DES officer and covers the southeast corner of Montana. Grants that DES receive are held up at a higher level, and future funding is unknown at this time.

1:30 p.m. 250th celebration committee meeting. Cheryl Morrison, Aliceson Kay Burnard, and Owen Devlin joined the meeting. There has been about \$5000 in donations. Cheryl provided an update from the last 250th celebration committee meeting. The donations will only be used for this event. Mary Elisabeth Grue is still working hard on donations and other organizational projects. Owen went over various businesses that might contribute to the donation fund, many not having store fronts but do lots of business within prairie county.

1:50 p.m. The computer recording the meeting started an update and shut down. Recording started again at 1:55 p.m.

2:22 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to send and sign a drafted letter in support of the Bridger Pipeline Expansion Project, seconded by Commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

2:27 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept an amended list of election judges to add a judge, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment: No public Comment.

3:30 p.m. Discussion on backup janitor, the current janitor will need someone to cover time off. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson will post a job description.

4:00 p.m. Road supervisor Todd Henry, Cemetery board and fair board members joined the meeting.

The discussion focused on current county equipment that might be able to be used in other departments. The fair board doesn't need a pickup all the time. The cemetery has a smaller pickup that isn't needed. If there was a department that needed a vehicle it would be better to transfer to another department, rather than sending it to auction.

The fair board could use a grader and water trucks during fair and use someone at the fair to do the work needed. The fair board is just looking into options going forward. Discussion on how the fair board and road department could work together for the county fair needs.

Jessica Tomason with the cemetery would like access to a dump truck for hauling grass clippings etc. The road department is willing to work with them.

4:30 p.m. Commissioners discussed employee wages within the road department. The discussion is about the temporary employees within the department. The goal is to have a pool of employees that are temporary employees, there is no employee position like this currently. More work is needed to define and lay out the framework for a pool position, as well as starting wages and sliding scales for experience.

Todd Henry went over the plan for the next few months in the road department. Told the commissioners about a couple vehicles he would be interested in for the road department. The department is over in the supply and in need of some more supplies but still come under budget overall.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to allow \$7500 for bidding plus 5% commission for a total of \$8000 for surplus equipment seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passes.

Signed this 6th day of May 2026

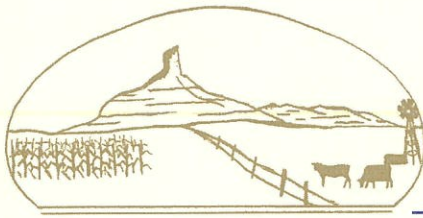


Christine Keltner, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder



Prairie County
Montana

Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 125 • 217 Park St W • Terry, MT 59349

Phone: (406) 635-5575 • Fax: (406) 635-5576

April 21, 2026

Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office
Attn: Bridger Pipeline Expansion Project Comments
111 Garryowen Rd
Miles City, MT 59301

Copy: Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

To Whom It May Concern,

Prairie County offers this letter in support of the Bridger Pipeline Expansion Project and the selection of Route Option 1. We submit these comments as part of the federal review process and also in recognition of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's ongoing evaluation of the project under the Major Facility Siting Act. We encourage DEQ to move forward with approval of the Certificate of Compliance.

Prairie County ranks among the least populous counties in Montana—currently the fifth smallest by population. While our population is limited, the scope of our responsibilities is not. County government must still maintain roads that span long distances, ensure emergency services are available when needed, and support the basic infrastructure that keeps our communities functioning—all with notably fewer taxpayers than many of the other counties across the state.

For Prairie County, the value of a project like the Bridger Pipeline Expansion is straightforward. It provides both near-term and lasting economic support. During construction, the project brings workers, activity, and demand into the area—something that directly benefits local businesses that operate on thin margins. Over time, infrastructure like this contributes to the property tax base, helping counties like ours fund essential services without placing additional strain on residents.

We recognize that projects of this scale require careful planning, particularly in rural areas where land use, natural resources, and community interests are closely tied together and we believe that the proposed Route 1 of the Bridger Pipeline Expansion balances these varied interests.

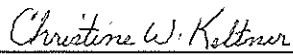
Ultimately, Prairie County evaluates projects like this through a practical lens: whether they help sustain the ability of local government to serve its residents.

For these reasons, the Prairie County Commission supports the Bridger Pipeline Expansion Project and Route Option 1. We respectfully ask the Bureau of Land Management to continue advancing the project and encourage the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to approve the requested Certificate of Compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Prairie County Commission

Prairie County, Montana



Christine Keltner, Commissioner



Dennis Teske, Commissioner


Todd Devlin, Commissioner