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Quarterly Meeting NOTES – no quorum
June 11, 2026 – In Person & Zoom

At 12:01pm, Dallas Diehl opened the MRCDC quarterly business meeting. Council members present in person were Dana Berwick, Roosevelt CD (virtual); Dallas Diehl, Broadwater CD; Lorri Schafer, Fergus CD (virtual); Karl Christians, Lewis & Clark CD (Virtual); Dick Iversen, Richland CD (Virtual); Monte Billing, Garfield CD; and John Chase, High Plains CD. Others present in person were Brent Smith, CEMIST; Tenlee Atchison; Molly Masters, MRCDC Coordinator; and Trish Smith, Petroleum CD/MRCDC. Robbie Savelkoul, Roosevelt CD; Barb Martin, Big Sandy CD; Liz Lodman, MISC; Rayelynn Brandl, MACD; and Julie Goss, Richland CD were in attendance virtually.

General
Dallas gave a general introduction for the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Public Comment
None.

Minutes
No quorum so the March 23, 2026 and April 28, 2026 minutes were read but not approved.

Financial Report
Molly went over May financial report again (no changes). Dallas suggested that the MRCDC puts together a finance committee like Broadwater CD has. Finances are then looked over separately of the meeting. Karl stated they do the same thing and a one-page summary is brought to their meetings. Bills are still getting paid regardless of quorum at MRCDC meetings. The 707 grant cycle ends on June 30, 2026, and requires the expenditure of remaining funds. Molly estimates approximately $30K dollars remains in the grant budget that must be spent by the deadline. Potential expenditures discussed include a large deposit into the vehicle depreciation fund, which currently holds nearly $33,000, or the purchase of a portable, mouse-proof storage trailer for equipment and documents. The vehicle depreciation fund was previously budgeted at $9,000 dollars per year, and Dick Iverson noted that a full trade-in for the 2019 F-150 would likely exhaust the current balance.

Old Business
DNRC Programs Policy – Molly reported on what was discussed with the PCCD. PCCD will go through the MACD legal process. Molly read an email from Cami (legal). Need to update MOU/MOAs. Might adopt a consent agenda. The council discussed the DNRC programs, focusing on policy and legal advice concerning the MRCDC and Petroleum County CD. MRCDC and MRWA aren't registered entities and can't manage finances independently, with Petroleum County CD holding fiscal authority. Molly will update the MOU to clarify roles and billing

processes. The council plans to draft a comment letter by July 6, 2026, possibly seeking an extension and advocating for reinstating the Resource Conservation Advisory Council for grant peer reviews.

MRCDC/PCCD MOA – Approved.

CMRCWG.org website domain – The website domain is up for renewal at a cost of $265 dollars for five years, though the council is considering a one-year renewal to evaluate the site's long-term necessity. Liz Lodman clarified the ADA compliance for all state websites. No quorum so did not vote.

Coordinator telework agreement – Went over changes. Will be aligning with the CDs telework agreements so they all match. No quorum so did not vote.

New Business

End of budget spending – Lori stated that there is approximately $30K left that needs to be spent by the end of June. Will need to have an Executive Committee meeting to approve spending after Lori, Kenzie and Molly meet to go over financials. Discussed a storage unit or enclosed trailer, and a WIWG retractable banner(s). Discussed putting the balance in depreciation account. There are 60K miles on the vehicle now. Lori suggested putting in $9K.

DNRC proposed ARMs for CDB grants – Molly discussed the DNRC proposed ARMs for CDB grants and the letter from MRCDC to be sent. Karl discussed his concerns and that RCAC should be brought back to give direction to the DNRC. Tenlee discussed conversations with legislators. Rayelynn discussed their MACD executive committee meeting. Frustrations were expressed. They do have DNRC presenting at Spring Board. Rayelynn stated that MACD is preparing their comments also for an agenda item.

WIWG River Tour invitation – Molly discussed the event and the registration deadline, etc.

BLM Revision of Regulations for Grazing comment letter – Molly discussed BLM's proposed changes of regulations for grazing. Zoom meeting tonight. Molly will send the link for the meeting. Lori discussed the 400-page long document. They are trying tighten regulations so land is used for livestock. Approval has been tabled. Due in July.

Coordinator annual review – Will be at the end of the meeting, closed session.

Partner Reports

MACD – Rayelynn reported that MACD Spring Board is June 22-25 in Helena. Zoom option. Lewis & Clark CD is hosting a fun tour night. Wrapping up 310 civil penalties – working group has done a lot of work, but need stakeholder feedback. Need to do some training with supervisors since changes are significant. Molly is registered and planning to attend spring board.

DNRC – No report.

NRCS – No report.

MCC – Molly read their emailed report.

CEMIST – Brent reported on their focus on EHs on the Rocky Mountain front. Met with Forest Service to discuss education and outreach. Stated that over 25,000 boats have been inspected this year with zero mussel detections in Montana, though the Golden Mussel is becoming a significant issue in California. Discussed the iNaturalist app.

MISC – Liz discussed the MT Natural Heritage program and showed their website on screen. iNaturalist submissions are shown on the website of invasive species. Discussed rapid risk assessments and the process and time of research. Been working with BLM to host another intern for the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign. Emerald Ash borer is in ND and trying to keep out of MT. Intern will visit campgrounds in ND to educate campers to not transport firewood to MT that might have Emerald Ash borer. The MT Weed Control Association is looking at how weed laws work; working with EQC. Updating some legislation to make laws better. The MISC Summit November 4-5 in Helena.

MWCC – No report.

Committee Reports

Fort Peck Test Flows – Molly reported that Fort Peck is at 7000 cfs right now and not raising them for the year. Dana attending a meeting in SD in September; agreed to speak and be on a panel.

Executive Committee – Everyone looked over.

CMR Community Working Group – No report. Karl inquired on how the project worked out with Japanese brome getting sprayed with Rejuvra (BLM/CMR project). Lori discussed their project with NRCS; test plots with Rejuvra, works great on cheat grass. Dallas used on Canadian thistle. Molly stated that they might have data on the BLM project by next year.

Woody Invasive Species Working Group – Covered prior.

Living on the Bank – John stated Jake started working on updating the website. Pushing updates to winter.

River Rendezvous – Molly reported that the River Rendezvous will be September 1-2 in the Sidney area. Quarterly meeting will be the morning of September 1 and a tour in the afternoon. Tour on the next day also. Committee meeting next week. Julie Goss has background research,

and will be a demonstration on the Foxhill Creek Aquifer with the Bureau of Mines, and another with fish from the FWP. Maybe some education on Bit Coin mining, not the same as data centers. Dick reported that 17 units have already been permitted in Richland and Roosevelt Counties; approx. 42K horsepower in energy consumption.

Foxhill Hell Creek Aquifer Efforts – Have presented to WPIC but no processes moved forward. Dick stated that DNRC did approve two wells for fracking water in Richland County.

MRWA – No update.

Individual CD Reports (voluntary/as needed): Karl stated they will have an erosion project this fall around Houser Lake. John stated that Naked River Banks are in the MRCDC work plan and haven't been touched in 5 years. Hoping in the next year we can start working on that, repairing vegetation. Will start doing promotion on that. Dona reported on the Realtor Workshop she attended; promoted Living on the Bank. Tenlee discussed fisheries funding; Smith project with nitrite issues. Will be a restoration project in 3 phases. Have had land owner disputes in the Sun River area. Hired new resource technician that will be focused on water. Salinity workshop will be November 5-6.

Coordinator Update – No update?

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

June

15: WIWG Core Committee meeting
15: MACD Board meeting
16: Molly out
17: CEMIST meeting
17: River Rendezvous Planning meeting
22-24: NACD Northern Plains and MACD Spring Board meetings, Helena
24: PCCD Board meeting

July

3: Office Closed (4th July Observed)
14-15: EQC
16: WIWG River Tour
20: MACD Board meeting
21-22: WPIC
22: CEMIST meeting
28: MRCDC Exec. Committee
29: PCCD Board meeting

August

3-5: MCDEO SET, Miles City
6: Molly out
19: CEMIST meeting
25: MRCDC Exec. Committee
26: PCCD Board meeting
TBD: MISC Quarterly

September

1: MRCDC Quarterly meeting, Sidney
1-2: River Rendezvous, Sidney

Announcements

With no further business, Dallas adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.

Approved by unanimous vote on:
Submitted by:

Trish Smith, Secretary

Dana Berwick, Chairman