



Broadwater County Trust Board Minutes January 6th, 2026

Board Members Present: Kim Kondelik (VC), Steve McCullough, Virgil Binkley, Doug Breker, Al Christopherson

Board Members Absent: None

Commissioners: Jesse Swenson

Guests: Jessica Erickson – Fair Manger; Allison Kosto – MSU County Extension; John Hahn – BCDC; Joe Kondelik – Lion’s; Don Hanson – Lion’s Club;

Admin. Assistant: Aubra J. Lewis

Steve called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

Public Comment: None

Topic 1: Financial Report

- Al moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motions passed unanimously.
- Current funds were reported as approximately \$3,563,628.40 in Premier; \$317,849.87 in county account.

Topic 2: Election of Trust Board Officers

- Steve opened the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.
 - Steve nominated Kim Kondelik as Vice Chair. Al seconded.
 - Kim nominated Al for Vice Chair. Doug seconded for Al.
 - Doug nominated Steve McCullough for Chair. Doug Seconded.
 - No discussion. Motion passed unanimously with Steve abstaining.
 - Discussion on Kim’s nomination from Al is Kim has done an excellent job and has the experience. Doug agreed.
 - Al declined his nomination for Chair. Kim withdrew her nomination and Doug withdrew his second after clarification.
 - No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with Kim abstaining.

Topic 3: Broadwater County Lions Club Corn Dog Wagon Project Update

- Joe Kondelik reported on the grant of \$11,550 used to upgrade the deep fry cooking system to comply with Montana Fire Code.
- Total equipment cost was \$16,600, with the Lions Club covering part of the expenses.
- Installation challenges included equipment size modifications.
- The new auto fry cooker is programmable, improves safety by reducing oil exposure, and has enhanced operational efficiency.
- Over 2,000 corn dogs cooked at community events such as the County Fair, Rodeo, and Fall Fest.
- Additional food items sold include nachos, chili, burgers, and hot chocolate.

Topic 4: Fairground Usage and Pavilion Updates

- Jessica Erickson and Allison Kosto provided updates on the pavilion usage during fairs and community events.
- The pavilion has hosted weddings, pig showmanship clinics, family reunions, and 4-H livestock workshops.
- Rental fees for pavilion use are \$50/day; plus \$25 electrical hookup/camper
- The pavilion offers shelter from weather conditions, lighting upgrades, and bleacher seating.
- Discussion on possible future improvements such as concrete flooring for accessibility and multi-purpose use.
- Total building and improvement cost approximated at \$300,000 with contributions from the Trust Board and county commissioners.

Topic 5: Inflation Rate Adjustment for Trust Corpus

- Participants agreed raising the corpus base would maintain purchasing power and provide financial stability.
- Motion made Virgil to increase the Trust corpus floor to \$3 million. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- This adjustment helps ensure continued support for county recreation without risking principal funds.

Topic 6: Trail Development and Maintenance Plans

- John Hahn and Al Christophersen reported on the completion of the Trails Vision Plan approved by the BCDC board.
- Plans include connectivity to existing trail systems like Copper City and projects such as the fairgrounds loop.
- Grant applications for trail stewardship and maintenance are underway, including a late January deadline.
- Community engagement and partnerships with nonprofits, city, and county are key to project success.
- Fundraising, signage upgrades, and engineering support are being pursued.
- Discussion covered challenges like pedestrian bridge funding, trail accessibility, and longevity.
- The plan addresses maintenance needs for asphalt trails and new trail creation for enhanced recreation opportunities.
- Coordinated efforts with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and potential community events like marathons were proposed to promote trails.

Topic 7: Silos and Boat Slip Maintenance

- Jesse Swenson reported ongoing lease extensions and purchase efforts for boat slips owned by the Trust Board.

- Maintenance responsibility lies with the current lessee, with some recent repairs funded by the board.
- Boat docks have been maintained despite challenges like wind damage, supported by insurance settlements and board contributions.

Topic 8: Public Access to Tennis Courts and Recreation Facilities

- Issues were raised regarding public accessibility to tennis courts secured by a combination lock.
- The Trust Board acts primarily as a funding source and plans to coordinate with Parks and Recreation and city officials to improve accessibility.
- Suggestions included issuing keys or combinations and clarifying management responsibilities to encourage public usage as intended.

Topic 9: Communication and Media Outreach

- Al Christophersen and Aubra Lewis will assist in producing and submitting regular newspaper articles to increase community awareness of the Trust Board's projects and grant programs.
- Emphasis will be on including photos and breaking up content for regular features to highlight ongoing community benefits.

Next Meeting will be February 10th at 11:30.

Chair *Heidi Campbell* Date 2-24-26
 Administrative Assistant *Aubra Lewis* Date 2-24-26