



Broadwater County Trust Board Minutes December 15th, 2025

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

Board Members Absent: None

Commissioners: Jesse Swenson

Guests: John Bleile – Townsend Youth Baseball, Denise Thompson – Broadwater Rodeo and Fair, Alex Potter – Big Sky Leadership

Admin. Assistant: Aubra J. Lewis

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

Public Comment: None

Call to Order and Financials

- The meeting was called to order; Kim moved to approve previous meeting minutes. Motion seconded and approved without opposition.
- Financial report presented:
 - Claims approved for Blue Host website hosting and domain privacy renewal totaling approximately \$576.
 - Premier and county accounts balances reviewed; noted \$10,000 youth baseball payment completed.
 - Discussion on possible corpus increase above current floor (~\$2.75 million) to adjust for inflation; to be reviewed in next meeting.
 - A settlement check of \$1005.10 from a company investment added to county account.

Topic 2: Broadwater Rodeo and Fair Association Report (Presenter: Denise Thompson)

- 2025 rodeo season was highly successful, earning Gold Rodeo of the Year in Montana through NRA amateur circuit recognition, supported by Broadwater County Trust Board funding (~\$47,689).
- Detailed financials supported with invoices; emphasis on accountability and volunteer contributions.
- Discussion of planning a VIP seating area for future rodeos to enhance revenue (~\$2-3K more in speaker costs anticipated).
- Concerns raised about long-term future and master plan for fairgrounds in light of possible airport expansion impacting some areas.
- Suggested coordination with county planners and future master plan review.

Topic 3: McCarthy Park Project Update (Presenter: Alex Potter, Big Sky Leadership Group)

- Comprehensive upgrade of basketball and tennis courts completed including painting, crack filling, new rims, nets, benches, bleachers, and picnic tables.
- Remaining \$18 funds retained for 1099 filing costs related to contractors.
- Signage issue discussed for public access to locked tennis courts:
- Project positively impacted community use and increased participation especially in pickleball and basketball.

Topic 4: Youth Baseball Update (Presenter: John Bleile)

- Electrical upgrade conducted to support two batting cages and scoreboard installations.
- New scoreboard poles to be installed; fundraising partially via concessions hosted by youth baseball.
- Dugout roof replacements completed; painting pending weather cooperation.
- Planned addition of shelving in dugouts by local contractor and high school construction class.
- Maintenance and vandalism monitoring increased with lighting and patrol coordination with Sheriff's office.
- Safety fencing improvements planned.
- Plans for small shelter for scoreboard operators discussed.

Topic 5: Letters of Interest and Reappointments

- Letters from Virgil and Kim submitted for reappointment to Trust Board.
- AI moved to endorse both reappointments. Motion seconded and carried unanimously apart from self-abstentions from Kim and Virgil.

Topic 6: Review of Community Projects and Facilities

- Discussion on usage reports and updates for the 4 building (community center/kitchens) and pavilion rentals; suggested to schedule agenda item to receive updated usage data.
- Museum expansion project on hold due to county economic conditions despite approved architectural plans.

Topic 7: Trails Committee and Silo Project Update (Presenter: AI)

- Final draft of broad trails plan completed after three years; includes ~60 trail segments.
- Emphasis on coordination with Parks and Recreation Board and BCDC for trail development and maintenance funding.
- Need for coordinated funding strategy and long-term maintenance funds discussed; examples from other counties shared regarding endowment funds to support trail upkeep.

Topic 8: Fairgrounds Traffic Safety Concerns

- Substantial summer traffic and horse trailer movement on highway near fairgrounds; safety improvements needed.
- Prior requests made for state to assess entrances and add turn lanes, no update available.
- Discussion on supporting Sheriff's department or auxiliary for traffic control at major events like rodeo.

Topic 9: Grant Application and Assistance to County Recreation Groups

- Coordination stressed among Trails Committee, BCDC, Park and Recreation, and Trust Board to prevent fragmented efforts.
- Funding source challenges for maintenance and operations acknowledged; subdivision fees not currently sufficient.
- Discussion of possibilities for maintenance funding approaches, including endowments, grant applications, and dedicated O&M funds.

Topic 10: Next Meeting and New Business

- Request for Lions Club to be added to next meeting agenda for presentation and funding discussion.
- Tentative next meeting date set for January 6, 2025

Broadwater County Trust Board Voting Members: Steve McCullough, Kim Kondelik, Doug Breker, Al Christophersen, Virgil Binkley.

Commissioner: Jesse Swenson

Broadwater County Trust Board Non-Voting Members: George Weldon

Chair Steve McCullough Date 2-24-26
Administrative Assistant Subraaj Lewis Date 2-24-26