



# Broadwater County Trust Board Minutes March 17th, 2026

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Commissioners:** Jesse Swenson

**Guests:** Carrol Hatfield, George and Lee Weldon

**Admin. Assistant:** Daylene Hansen, Aubra Lewis – absent  
Steve called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

**Public Comment:** None

## Topic 1: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Financial Report

- Doug Breker made a motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Financial report reviewed; cash account balance discussed, approximately \$370,000 after transfers.
- Some confusion over transfer timing and committed funds; need for future clarification noted.

## Topic 2: Trail Grant Application Presentation by BCDC

- Al excused himself from the board to help present the grant as he sits on the BCDC Board.
- Carol Hatfield presented grant request to fund pre-application engineering and preparation work for multiple trail projects.
- The grant would provide upfront funding to help secure outside grant money through necessary pre-engineering design, surveys, and grant writing.
- Total grant request includes \$31,500 preapplication engineering survey design and prep costs, \$1,843 for a potential asphalt trail grant on Front Street, and \$160,000 as match commitments for four identified grants over the coming months.
- The grant preparation is necessary to make Broadwater County's trail grant applications competitive.
- Engineering and grant writing fees can range from \$3,500 - 8,500 depending on project complexity.

- The potential community benefit includes over \$1.3 million in grant funding if successful.
- The grant cycle timeline extends through December 2026 to January 2027.
- The board must understand that commitment letters for grant matching funds will be required before grant applications; this means if grants are awarded, the Trust must provide matching funds.
- The risk acknowledged: funds spent on grant preparation may not result in awarded grants, but the committee views the chance as promising based on local plans and backing.
- BCDC is forming fundraising, public relations, and volunteer committees to support trail work.
- Montana Trails Coalition may use Broadwater County Trails as a pilot program, enhancing statewide visibility and funding potential.

### **Topic 3: Board Discussion and Decision on Grant Funding Commitment**

- Board support expressed for the \$190,000 funding request encompassing the \$31,500 for pre-application work and future commitments for matching funds as grant awards come through.
- Members acknowledged the commitment is contingent on receiving grant awards and stressed balancing the Trust's financial capabilities.
- Emphasis placed on maintaining matching funds in cash, not investment accounts, to ensure availability.
- The approach is viewed as efficient, reducing repetitive requests for funds and speeding up the grant preparation process.
- Kim made a motion to grant them the \$190,000, which would include the \$31,500 as they need it for the other grants they see fit in the future.
  - Question asked if BCDC needed the \$190,000 now. Clarification that that is the way the Board should look at it even though the commitment may not be needed until later. Contingent on whether they get the grant and need the matching funds.
  - Motion was seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 4: Updating and Editing Trust Board Grant Application – AI – No update**

**Topic 5: Newspaper Article Update:** Rodeo Article was printed. Secretary is working on the next article

**Topic 6: Withdrawal of Funds from Premier Trust Account:** Not at this time.

### **Other Business:**

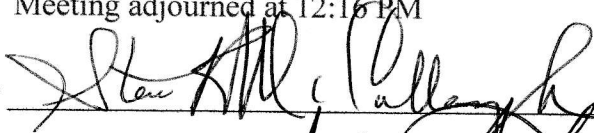
- County attorney advised that funding the sheriff's office for recreation would be a funding reach and may not pass audit, so such grants would be denied.

- Early discussion mentioned a potential new grant related to upgrading gym audio equipment, qualifying as recreational.
- July 18, 2026 event planned to dedicate the Missouri River Paddlers Trail section with a float and celebration, coinciding with other community events

#### VI. Next Meeting Arrangement

- **Preliminary Agenda:** Review of grant application progress, discussion on potential new gym audio equipment grant, financial updates
- **Scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> 2026**, at 11:30 tentatively.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM

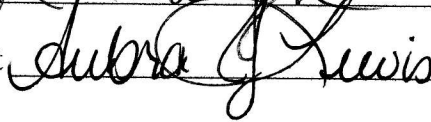
Chair



Date

5/12/2026

Administrative Assistant



Date

5/12/2026