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STATE OF MONTANA MADISON COUNTY
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**Madison County
Commissioners' Work Session Meeting**

February 23, 2026, 10:00 am Mountain Time until concluded
103 W Wallace St, Virginia City, MT 59755, United States
First Floor Public Meeting Room
Administrative Office Building, Virginia City, Montana

Present:

Duke W. Gilman, Commissioner, District 1
Ron E. Nye, Commissioner, District 2, Chairman
William A. Todd, Commissioner, District 3

In attendance:

Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection
Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant, was present to take minutes

Attendee List:

Duncan Hedges, Sheriff
Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering
Ray Rowberry, Road Supervisor
Cody Marxer, Planning Director
Cece Weldon, Ruby Valley Search and Rescue
Pat Jacobs, Architecture Trio
Corey Lewellen, Forest Service
Josh Connors, Forest Service
Melissa Wanamaker, Headwaters RC&D

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

2. Public Comment (Please Limit to 5 Minutes Per Person)

None

3. Report of Committees

3.1. Madison County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Addition

Pat Jacobs of Architecture Trio provided an update to the Commissioners regarding the progress of the courthouse. Pat has been in communication with the Madison County Attorney concerning the notice to bid. An HPAC review meeting is scheduled for Thursday. Additionally, the Commissioner and Pat Jacobs discussed items that require packing and relocation to storage.

Comment: Jacobs. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Nye, and Commissioner Gilman.

3.2. Nursing Home Update

Christine Preece, the Madison County Nursing Home Administrator, participated in the meeting via WebEx and presented information regarding the current resident populations in the nursing facilities. They have received referrals for both establishments and are presently reviewing one at TRMCC. Last week, two new employees were appointed at MVM, one to dietary services and the other to housekeeping. Today, an interview is scheduled for the Activities Assistant position at TRMCC.

Comment: Preece (WebEx). Discussion: None.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

5.1. MCEP's Planning Grant Discussion]

Jeremiah Theys of Great West Engineering, participating via Webex, noted that the county did not receive the MCEP Planning Grant intended for reassessment of the bridge capital improvement plan. Great West is presently awaiting a debrief with the Department of Commerce. This marks the first time those applications have been ranked, whereas previously funding was allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Jeremiah also addressed funding and the bridges in Madison County that need repair.

Comment: Hedges, Theys, and Lutgen (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Nye, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.2. USDA Lease Extension Review for Lease 57-0325-06-005

Cece Weldon of Ruby Valley Search and Rescue discussed the current lease and proposed modifications prior to the renewal of the new lease.

Comment: Weldon. Discussion: Commissioner Nye, Commissioner Todd, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.3. Forest Service Update

Corey Lewellen and Josh Connors from the Forest Service provided a personal update. They recently hired individuals for the upcoming fire season and will hire approximately 15 seasonal workers to support activities in the recreation areas. The Forest Service reevaluated its roadless rule and expects to release a draft EIS later this spring. They discussed the Travel management motor vehicle map plan. Active Forest Management is a top priority and includes oil and gas, mineral-related activities, timber sales, timber thinning, and fuel reduction, as well as a range program that works with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to support our cattle and grazing communities. Provided information on location for possible prescribed burns. Rams Horn Bridge was replaced last year, and there is a contract to replace all three Mill Creek Bridges.



Comment: Lewellen and Connors. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Nye, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.4. Expanding Brownfields Inventory

Melissa Wanamaker from Headwaters RC&D discussed funding options via the Brownfield Inventory. The DEQ Brownfield program recently received a \$2 million grant for assessment and planning. They also applied for an additional \$1.5 million to support these activities, with 30% of the funds allocated specifically for planning. Melissa also provided an update on the Virginia City Schoolhouse.

Comment: Wanamaker. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Nye, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.5. Treacy Foundation Grant - Letter of Intent

Jim Jarvis participated via WebEx and indicated that the Treacy Foundation Grant has expressed interest in the Virginia City Schoolhouse project; however, they are only willing to allocate funds to the building owner.

Comment: Jarvis and Lutgen (WebEx). Discussion: Commissioner Todd and Commissioner Nye.

5.6. Emergency Buildings Safety Updates

Duncan Hedges, Madison County Sheriff, and the Commissioner discussed which county line item to charge for these repairs.

Comment: Hedges. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Nye, and Commissioner Gilman.

5.7. SW MT Drug Task Force MOU Fiscal Year 2027

Duncan Hedges, the Sheriff of Madison County, stated that this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) remains unchanged from the previous year; the sole modification pertains to the date.

Comment: Hedges. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Nye.

5.8. Assigning Vehicles Received from the Sheriff's Department

The Commissioners deliberated on vehicles requiring repairs. This matter will be addressed in the upcoming Tuesday meeting.



Comment: Hedges. Discussion: Commissioner Todd, Commissioner Gilman, and Commissioner Nye.

Adjournment

RESOLVED: Commissioner Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gilman seconded the motion.

For: Duke Gilman, Ron Nye, and William Todd. Motion passed.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

The upcoming Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Signed: *Ronald E Nye*

Date: *3/3/2026*

Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner, Chairman

Date Approved: March 2, 2026

Signed: *Sarah Carlson*

Date: *3/3/2026*

Minutes prepared by:

Sarah Carlson, Commissioners' / Airport Assistant

Attest: *Paula McKenzie*

Date: *3/3/26*

Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County



