

September 23, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in a regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse, with Commissioner Adler and Commissioner Kulaski. Commissioner McLure was at the MACo Conference. Also attending were Commissioners' Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who participated in a portion of the agenda items in person. The session was live-streamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and provide public comment. The public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment. The session convened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance were members of the general public, including A. Tobin via Zoom. Michele and Craig Larson, and Justine Richmond.

Commissioner Adler requested that microphones and videos be enabled for Zoom attendees who wish to make public comments during the meeting.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the board minutes for September 16, 2025. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. No public comment was received, and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Electronic Mail was received from Elena Gagliano regarding the support letter for Maureen Connors and will be addressed at that agenda item.

MEMO from Justice Court: Judge Fratzke will be attending the MACo Fall Conference from September 22nd to 25th.

Mail was received from the Department of Transportation, warranting the installation of a reduced speed ahead warning sign on Marshall Creek Road at the approach to the new fishing access.

Electronic mail was received from Kevin Krausz with his candidacy for MACo 2nd Vice President and his background for consideration.

Electronic mail was received from Noah Gilder of FWP inquiring about the possibility of establishing a sampling station in Drummond this year on what they believe is county land.

Electronic mail was received from Gail Macklin with the 2nd Quarter LBIF payment report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Michele and Craig Larsen made a public comment on roads and continued growth on Black Pine Road. They requested speed limit signs in three locations (six as one sign on each side of the road) to be installed on Black Pine Road, indicating a speed limit of 35 mph (the existing speed limit), as people often think it's faster than that. People blow by people walking, there's horses and cattle up there as well. She spoke with the sheriff's office, and they agreed on three signs and one going up the hill, and then beyond, to control the speed. Enforcement would be great. This will be discussed when

Paul Alt arrives. Craig Larson clarified that two locations would be sufficient (4 new signs).

Justine Richmond said she heard people will stop running for office because of people like Elena Gagliano, and she disagrees with that statement. Thinks that people don't want to be transparent if that's the case. She also stated that she will be offering free rides to the commissioners' meetings every Tuesday.

Commissioner Adler stated that he had a complaint regarding the cattle guard work done on Bear Gulch Road. There was some debris left (a pipe and cement attached), but it's not the County's pipe with cement, and it's off to the side of the road against the bank (in the right-of-way but well off the roadway). However, it was reiterated that it's not the County's property and it is a property owner's duty to retrieve it. The Drummond Airport cattle guard will be installed soon.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt reported to the Commissioners that roads are being bladed and the MAC water truck has been rewired, though concerns remain about whether to keep investing in the older truck or replace it. Budget impacts of continuing repairs versus financing a new truck were discussed. Welding work done by John Alt was addressed, with the County Attorney confirming it is acceptable as long as he is on a rotation and has insurance; a call-down list will be used going forward. The Commissioners approved having McGregor Peak repair the snow plow. Bidding rules were reviewed, with projects exceeding \$80,000 requiring formal bids. Smaller projects can be awarded to multiple providers, and the CWPP will be issued under a request for proposal. Paul Alt submitted a \$2,500 bill for gravel that had to be brought out to East Fork Road, as it had to be repaired when Blackfoot was installing fiber, which had damaged the road. The issue of a pipe with cement left at Bear Gulch Road right-of-way, which does not belong to the County, was noted again.

Justine Richmond asked about agreeing on 2 or 3 signs on Black Pine Road. They said two signs that equal 4, 2 on each side. Commissioner Kulaski asked if they were blading Rock Creek. Paul Alt said they were out there now and would do the bus route and then the Middle Fork. Willow Creek was discussed, and it needs to be done at some point, as does Rumsey. Discussed having to start mowing soon as well.

BLACK PINE ROAD CONCERNS: Request for speed limit signs at the beginning, the top, and before the cattle guard, possibly. Several accidents were mentioned. New contractors and homeowners are coming in, so these signs are much needed. As requested, the Commission agreed to place speed limit signs (35 mph) at two locations on Black Pine Road, a County road. Therefore, four new signs will be ordered and installed. Paul Alt said he can order some signs today to install in the coming weeks. They discussed two locations, one at the beginning and the other at the top of the hill.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICTS WEEKLY UPDATES FROM PHILIPSBURG AND DRUMMOND LOCATIONS; Todd Bahsteter and John Kendall submitted their reports

for the commissioners. Todd had a few questions about licensing and workers' compensation permits hanging in the office.

PERSONNEL MATTER – CLOSED SESSION; Commissioners met in a closed session over an employee matter.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDERS REPORT; According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6427.86 feet, 19.68 inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to stay at 30 CFS. Commissioner Adler seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE; RFP PACKET AND NEWSPAPER NOTICE FOR RFP; The commissioners discussed the procurement process for the Community Wildlife Protection Plan Update, as the Plan has not been updated in Granite County for several years. Since the project exceeds \$50,000, it will be put out to public bid (request for proposals process). A \$66,000 grant has been secured from the MT DNRC (pass-through funds from the federal government). Jackie Bolster confirmed contractors are interested and capable. Commissioner Kulaski moved for the approval of the newspaper notice and RFP packet, and Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Clarification was provided that the public bidding threshold is \$50,000 for architects, engineers, and other consultants, and \$80,000 for construction and mechanical services, with an exception being purchases through government pricing available through entities such as Sourcewell and other government purchasing cooperatives.

GRANITE COUNTY VS RISING SUN'S PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ON ATTORNEY FEES/COSTS; Blaine Bradshaw updated that the offer was \$50,000, and Rising Sun LLC accepted it. Commissioner Adler asked if this case is over with this settlement, and the County Attorney agreed. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the settlement agreement with Rising Sun. Commissioner Adler seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

Justine Richmond asked what subdivision this is. Blaine Bradshaw said south of the lake, on Dude Ranch, and the fire suppression pond is right there.

COUNTY CLAIMS: The Commissioners reviewed the County claims for September. Commissioner Adler said they are working on a \$6,400 project on Lakeshore, and the mag was put on. The County sent a letter to the Georgetown Lake HOA and Forest Service stating that the County has matched the agreed-upon amount this year and more, which will carry forward to next year. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the claims for September 2025. Commissioner Adler seconded. Justine Richmond asked if that's what they typically do for claims or if they mention each one. Blaine Bradshaw said they are always available for viewing in the Clerk and Recorder's Office for anyone who wishes to examine them prior to the meetings.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS UPDATE; Commissioner Adler moved to lift all fire restrictions. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received and the motion passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MAUREEN CONNOR FOR THE UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN REMEDIATIONS AND RESTORATION ADVISORY COUNCIL;

Maureen Connor joined the Commissioners for this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Adler thanked Maureen Connor for all she has done for the County and stated that she was a suitable candidate for the Advisory Council, expressing his appreciation for Maureen Connor's work on County issues over the past years. An e-mail letter to the Commission this morning from Elena Gagliano was mentioned that the Commissioners believed to be adverse and against Maureen Connor's appointment as the letter stated that Maureen Connor's major achievement was the license on the Flint Creek Dam Project. Commissioner Adler moved to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Justine Richmond is of the opinion that Elena Gagliano's letter in correspondence is supportive of Maureen Connor, and she didn't understand why Commissioner Adler would think otherwise.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.