

MISSOULA COUNTY OPEN LANDS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Via Computer or Microsoft Teams App

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 217 703 726 117 7

Passcode: q7ub7So6



Parks, Trails & Open Lands

Via Phone: 406-272-4824; Conference ID: 972 825 18#

MISSOULA COUNTY

This will be a hybrid meeting, held in-person in the G.W. Marks Exploration Center at 1075 South Ave W in the Balsamroot Conference Room, and via Microsoft Teams

- 1) Welcome and opening of meeting(s) - OLC Chair and OSAC Chair. Meeting facilitated by OLC Chair (5 min/4:30p)
 1. Roll call attendance - City
 2. Approve meeting minutes – City
- 2) Introductions – Name, Background & Reason for Joining OLC/OSAC – Led by OLC Chair (10 min/4:35p)
- 3) City 2026 Open Space Report & Recent Projects Summary – Zac Covington (10 min/4:45p)
- 4) County Recent OSB Projects & OLC Highlights – Jenny Zaso (10 min/4:55p)
- 5) 2018 Open Space Bond Eligible Uses Q & A – Jenny Zaso (10 min/5:05p)
- 6) 50-year Open Space Bond Celebration Discussion – Jenny Zaso and Zac Covington (10 min/5:15p)
- 7) OLC/OSAC Get to Know You & Rocky Mountain Garden Social Time – Led by OSAC Chair [30 mins/5:25p)
- 8) Close meeting (5 min/5:55p)
 - a. Each close meetings separately

Note: County OLC meeting starts at 6:15

Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.

If anyone attending this meeting needs special assistance, please provide advance notice by calling Missoula County Lands and Communities at (406) 258-4651. Missoula County will provide auxiliary aids and services.

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- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Land Acknowledgement

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- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 2026
- Public Comment and Announcements on items not on the agenda
- New Business (6:20 pm: 45min)
 - 1. Level II Open Space Bond Application Presentation – Lovell-Bonner Project; presented by Kit Fischer, Five Valleys Land Trust
- Subcommittee Reports/Communications/Questions
 - 1. Staff Communications (7:05pm: 20min)
 - i. Notification of Locke-Ninemile Level I Application & Approval for Level 2 Submission
 - ii. Training & Next Steps: OLC Role in Open Space Bond Application process
 - 2. Subcommittee Communications (7:25pm: 20min)
 - i. Communications
 - Good Neighbor Handbook Updates
 - Land Stewardship Award Next Steps
 - ii. Open Space Bond Committee
 - Summary of last meeting
 - iii. Board Chair/Vice-Chair Communications
 - 3. General Communications and Questions (7:45pm: 10 min)
 - i. Round Robin updates
- Future Agenda items (7:55pm: 5 min)

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- Adjourn

**Interested in OLC? Head to [this website](#) to find out more.
Est. 2006**

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Missoula County Open Lands Citizens Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and represent the citizens of Missoula County in the protection and preservation of open space and rural lifestyles for present and future generations.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Establish policy and adopt rules for its operations consistent with any and all plans and policies adopted by Missoula County and approved by the Commissioners.
2. Keep records and have responsibility for the custody of all records and documents of the OLC.
3. Advise and assist the Commissioners in:
 - Review and implementation of plans, policies, programs, and regulatory and non-regulatory tools that support or impact open space and rural lifestyles;
 - Implementation of the Open Space Bond Program by reviewing applications and recommending funding to conserve open space in accordance with the Program's Interlocal Agreement;
 - Outreach and two-way communication with rural communities relative to open space and rural lifestyles.
4. Collaborate with Lands, Culture and Recreation staff and other city and county advisory committees.

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OLC Administrative Subcommittee Agenda

Date: April 15, 2026 10:30a via Microsoft TEAMS

Attendees: Sharon Sweeney, Sarah Holden, Bonnie Buckingham, Jenny Zaso

A. Land Acknowledgment

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B. Follow-up from April OLC meeting

- OLC Member Committee Assignments – Admin Committee reviewed the subcommittee members and confirmed all OLC members were signed up for at least one, other than Helene, who was not at the last meeting. Jenny will reach out to Helene and confirm which subcommittee she would like to be on.
 - Good Neighbor Handbook – Sharon, Tim, Sarah, Ginny
 - Land Stewardship Award – Tim, Noel, Brad & Sarah (plus external partners – FWP, Ecology & Extension, MCD, Kylie Paul)
 - Open Space Bond Cmte – Caroline, Sharon, Noel
 - Administrative – Sarah, Sharon & Bonnie
 - 50th Open Space Bond Cmte – Caroline, Tim & Ginny
- 2026 Land Stewardship Award Next Steps – Jenny corrected the timeline for the award and will proceed with sending out the materials to partners directly and to the general public through County comms channels. She will also send finalized nomination materials to full OLC for them to use to send to people and spread the word.
- OLC Web page & Resource Folder – all looks good.
- 50th Open Space Bond Anniversary Planning – This will be a shift from the 20th anniversary planning and hoping to make it bigger and with more partners. It will be on the agenda at the next Joint OLC/OSAC meeting to brainstorm ideas for events for 2030.
- Joint OSAC/OLC May or June Meeting? Jenny will confirm this based on when land trust partners need to bring Level 2 application presentations to OLC for some urgent upcoming projects.
- Chair/VC Elections – congratulations on serving another officer term, Sharon and Sarah!
- Good Neighbor Handbook -Jenny hopes to have some graphic design mock-ups to share at next meeting. Jenny was also going to double check that info about “Right to Farm” ordinances/laws were included in the Handbook in the Working Lands Section.

C. Upcoming Agenda Items for May

- Will depend on land trust partners projects & Joint OLC/OSAC meeting scheduling. Jenny will be in touch to let everyone know if we will be doing the Joint OLC/OSAC meeting in May or June pending Level 2 application presentations.
- Admin committee also discussed adding to an upcoming agenda some refresher training around OLC participation and process when it comes to going through the Level 1 & 2 OSB application processes. Jenny will put something together for this at an upcoming meeting.

D. Other Future Agenda Items

- Ranching/conservation producer speaker: Food Policy Advisory Board would also be invited to listen to this speaker. (TBD timing)

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- Small Ag Land Conservation program update

E. Miscellaneous

- Sarah mentioned that she would look into having a table for 1-2 days at the Western MT Fair for Open Space Bond, OLC and other Open Lands information.

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