

Lolo Community Council | Minutes

March 10, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

12345 US Highway 93 S., Lolo, MT 59847



Council Members: Danica Nelson (Chair), Angela Previte (Vice Chair/Secretary), Marilyn Hatch (Treasurer), Steven Mazur, Marta Brown (by phone), Patrick Moore, Tyler Pike

This meeting was held in person Recording and transcript available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uqb2NNPY4M>

I. Meeting Called to Order Meeting called to order 7pm

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call
- c. Welcome and Overview of Meeting Process and Public Comment

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve minutes as presented.

Motion to approve minutes made by Pat 2nd by Tyler motion passes

III. Approval of Expenditures

- a. Agenda printing

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- a. Rep Mark Thane discussed that a large number of rentals still have not applied for Homestead Exemption please pass along the extension deadline.

V. Communications & Reports

- a. Communications Received
 - i. The county commissioners approved new boundary lines for the existing [Rural Special Improvement District 8901](#) at their public hearing meeting on Feb. 12. This process ensures that only properties that are receiving sewer and water services are being assessed. Affected property owners received notice of this change and the protest process last fall. The next step is a resolution to create a new RSID 490 that will mirror the boundaries of RSID 8901 but is legally necessary to pay for upgrades for the system. The County is aiming to begin the public process sometime this spring. Affected property owners will receive a postcard with information about the new district and the process for protesting. The commissioners will consider approving this new RSID at a future public hearing meeting. Residents will have the opportunity to attend this meeting in person or remotely.
 - ii. The Montana Department of Revenue has extended the application deadline for the homestead property tax exemption to Friday, March 20. Qualifying properties receive a reduced property tax rate according to a tiered structure. If you have received a property tax rebate this past year, you are already registered for the homestead property tax exemption. You can check your status on the [Department of Revenue's website](#).
 - iii. Missoula County invites residents to participate in the 2026 Housing and Community Development Survey. The survey helps to identify needs and gaps in services related to public infrastructure and facilities, economic development and housing. Public input will inform Missoula County's federal grant acquisition efforts through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. Community participation is an essential part of the planning process and helps ensure funding decisions reflect local priorities. The survey is open and residents are encouraged to submit their answers by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential and anonymous. View the survey on the [Missoula County Voice website](#).

- iv. Although the Impact Grant applications have closed, the Micro Grant is still open on a rolling monthly basis. It is intended to be used for smaller community projects that can be completed within 90 days, and the grants awarded range from \$100 to \$500.
- v. The next All Community Council Town Hall is March 25th at 6:30pm. This meeting includes representatives from the seven community councils as well as a commissioner.
- vi. Missoula Public Health would like community members to know they offer a free home visit from a nurse for every new parent living in Missoula County. A nurse will come to your home in the first two weeks to answer questions. For more information, call 406-258-4298.
- vii. Farmers and ranchers are invited to participate in AgTalks, a series of free educational events covering topics relevant to livestock and land stewardship. Hosted by the Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension, each event includes presentations from top professionals in their field on topics ranging from pasture management to avian influenza. The 2026 series includes an Avian Influenza Update on March 25th, Columbian Ground Squirrel Control on April 28th, and a Hay Farm Tour on May 20th. Attendees are encouraged to register online at missoulaeduplace.org.
- viii. Missoula County will host public open house meetings this month to share information and gather questions about the ongoing floodplain mapping update for the Clark Fork River, Bitterroot River and Rock Creek. Lolo's open house will be Thursday, March 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Lolo School. There will be no formal presentation; residents may stop by anytime during the hours listed. You can learn more about it at the [Missoula County Voice website](https://missoulacountyvoice.org).
- ix. Missoula County Planning, Development & Sustainability is proposing amendments to the Missoula County Subdivision Regulations. The Missoula County Subdivision Regulations include Appendix A, which distinguishes between urban and rural areas. The Urban Area in Lolo is proposed to reflect updated locations within the Lolo Water and Sewer District (RSID 901). Comments are welcomed before March 13th.
- x. We received communication from a community member requesting volunteers for an Adopt a Highway cleanup event along Hwy 93 on April 18.
- xi. March 17th Watershed Group will be meeting at the Lolo Peak Brewery 6-7:30pm
- b. Treasurer Report | Marilyn Hatch – Bank stmt \$160.60 balance
- c. Mail Received | Marilyn Hatch – No Mail

VI. Committee and Special Reports

- a. RSID Status | Missoula County Public Works
- b. Lolo School | Superintendent Dale Olinger
- c. Missoula Rural Fire Dept. | Deputy Chief Cory Horsens
 - i. Burn permits opened March 1st be sure your permit is activated and to be aware of weather conditions
- d. Woodman School | Principal Jon Martin
 - i. Day at the Pass – snowshoes, chili and family fun
 - ii. Polar plunge – 6 students and 1 staff member raised over \$6k for Special Olympics
 - iii. Day in Helena – 3rd & 4th graders participated and were able to meet with the Governor and visit the new Historical Muesum
 - iv. PTC coming up first of April
 - v. Another family engagement activity is planned for this week
 - vi. 53 students enrolled; open enrollment has begun and includes ½ day 3yr old pre-school option
 - vii. No levy will be run this year or election of trustees in May
 - viii. Facility updates and remodel continues including new lighting and remote classroom options
 - ix. Pat asked about the situation regarding autos passing the busses. Jon indicated it does seem to be better with the participation of hwy patrol and sheriff. Cameras on the bus are not an option after having gone all the way to the attorney general.
- e. General Development/Transportation | Danica Nelson

VII. Adjustments to Order of Agenda (if any)

VIII. Unfinished Business

a. Missoula Growth Policy/Lolo Regional Plan Update Standing Agenda Item

- i. The owners of Buckhouse Shoptown, LLC are proposing to amend the Missoula County Land Use Map and rezone two properties totaling 83 acres. The subject properties are located off HWY 93 S just south of the Buckhouse Bridge. The proposal seeks to amend the growth policy to the following: Agriculture (52.3 acres), Commercial Center (8.6 acres), Working Lands (9.4 acres), and Open Resource and Recreation (11.4 acres). The 8.6 acre Commercial Center designation is proposed by the owner to be a storage unit and shop complex. The proposed amendments are scheduled for a public hearing at the Missoula Consolidated Land Use Board on April 1st, 2026 and at the Board of County Commissioners on April 23rd.

IX. New Business

a. Transfer remaining balance at Community Council bank account (Action)

Recommendation: Approve transfer back to County for Council's budget.

Council is now treated as other boards of the County. Finances prior to this were separate - own bank account. Now that will flow through the county - will invoice County for any expenses. What to do with remaining bank balance? Options County said we have are: write a check to the county - goes into our balance of funds, or donate it to a local non-profit

- How would the rental contract for the community center work and PO Box? Go directly through the county now?
- Pat motion to write check back to county to be put in our coffers for the remaining funds 2nd Tyler motion passes 1 abstain from Marta 1 oppose from Marilyn

b. Closure of Community Council bank account (Action)

Recommendation: Approve closing bank account.

Motion to close the account and send all funds to county for LCC account 2nd Pat Motion passes Marilyn Opposes (1) Marta abstained

c. Summer BBQ proposal (Discussion)

Discussed if this would be a viable option for gaining some interest and community engagement. Low risk moderate reward idea.

Car show?

Outdoor Movie –

Roxy or Farmers BBQ – Farmers sponsor?

Other Community ambassadors?

What month?

X. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

XI. Informational Items

- a. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting April 14, 2026

XII. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn 7:34pm by Tyler 2nd by Pat motion carried**