

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and in Person at the Barn

Meeting Called to Order: By Tom Browder at 6:02

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Tom Browder, Quinn Carver, Sally Johnson, Gage Seeley, Garry Swain, Sharon Teague, Richard Westin.

Announcements:

- The Council thanked Sally Johnson for her years of service and presented her with flowers on her retirement.
- Tom Browder explained the new appointment system for new council members. He also shared that the SLCC is the oldest council in Missoula County and has been in existence for 38 years.

Minutes:

- Motion to accept the minutes was made by Quinn Carver and seconded by Garry Swain. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR May 12, 2026

Funding Balance as of April 4, 2026

General	\$17.58
Air Quality.....	\$1,948.94
Subtotal - Account 10671.....	\$1,966.52
Trails Checking Account 48987.....	\$ 699.57
Trails Checking Acct.#27542250.....	\$7,563.00
Subtotal – Trails Fund.....	\$8,262.57
TOTAL.....	\$10,229.09

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Sharon Teague and seconded by Quinn Carver. The motion passed unanimously.

Introductions: None

Guests and Speakers:

- **Dave Rau**, Mountain Family Freedom Festival, shared with the group the details about the festival. The event is scheduled for August 22nd and will have family fun for all ages.
- **Trish Schreiber**, Candidate for HD 76 shared her platform with the audience.
- **Gayla Nicholson**, Protect the Clearwater, gave an update on the proceedings related to the proposed open pit gravel mine near Elbow lake.
 - On April 22nd, Judge Halligan ruled in favor of the group with regards to the DEQ permitting. Judge Halligan reserved the right for injunction and vacature of the permit. Both parties are required to submit more briefs. PTC will continue to work with their attorneys on the issue.
 - Q from audience: Who is responsible for reclaiming the damage already done to the site? A: Not sure. There is an existing bond to cover the reclamation, but the company may sue to get their money back.
- **Charmin Bernstrauch**, Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch, gave a lengthy update.
 - The group is looking into having Spay Montana come to Seeley for a spay and neuter clinic. They would be able to do 140 procedures over 2 days. The clinic would require 14 volunteers and the cost would be approximately \$7860. BCNW would have to find funding.
 - BCNW has started a hotline for folks seeking drug rehab. The goal is to get people into treatment if they are ready.
 - Crisis bags list is completed and supplies will be purchased to fill the bags.
 - There will be a Public Safety fair at the community center on August 1st.
 - BCNW participated in the community cleanup day. The group paid \$250 for one of the dumpsters. There were 5 trash pickups in the community and one property cleanup agreement was signed.
 - The next meeting is May 14th at 6:30pm at the barn. The guest speaker will be Jamie Lavender and the topic will be “Laws on Sexual and Violent Offenders.”
 - The group held a prior meeting on safety, exploitation, and child trafficking with 8-15 people in attendance. Bernstrauch expressed concern that this meeting was not better attended as Seeley Lake is on a known route from Missoula to Kalispell.

- **Charmin Bernstrauch**, Seeley Area Chamber of Commerce update:
 - The Firearms for Fireworks drawing raised \$9180 for the annual July 4th display. Doug Tucker won the rifle and Rod Stevens won the pistol
 - May 5th the chamber held a Cinco de Mayo event for the public with nachos and margaritas. There was a good turnout and the group received positive feedback.
 - The chamber is hoping to create an attractions menu for the Seeley Lake area and plans on doing live podcasts from local businesses.
 - Meetings to plan the July 4th celebration are happening every two weeks to finalize the parade and other details.
 - New this year will be outhouse races on July 5th. Information for the races can be found on the chamber website.
 - Regular chamber meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 4pm at the barn.

- **Don Peavey**, gave a quick Skatepark update. They have been taking interested people to other area parks for the day to gain interest in having a park in Seeley. So far they have gone to Clinton and Lincoln, with more trips planned.

- **Don Peavy**, Clearwater Resource Council, shared the purpose of the group and updated the audience on recent happenings.
 - He noted the upgrades to the pollinator garden near Lindey's Steakhouse.
 - Q from audience: Has CRC considered starting a community vegetable garden? A: They would love to, but a project like that might be outside the group's scope. It was suggested that the greenhouse at the high school is currently empty and would be a great place for a community garden.
 - He also shared that the CRC is helping with a program to get funding for people who live within the special water district that need help with funding for getting their septic pumped.

- **Kevin Doherty**, Seeley Lake Ranger District update:
 - Missoula County has awarded funds for the bike trails near the Nordic site and work is starting. Volunteers have been helping on the lower trails and trained builders will work on the upper, more technical trails.
 - Paving at the boat ramp at Seeley Campground is scheduled.
 - All campgrounds are ready to open on time.
 - The dock at Big Larch that was damaged has been replaced.

- The Forest Service is trying to get a big picture for recreation in the Seeley in order to develop a master recreation plan for the area. They plan to go to the community members for ideas and needs.
- There will be a public meeting at the community hall when the draft of the Lolo Forest Plan comes out.
- The FS may install some gates to keep people out of grizzly bear habitat and to keep squatters out.
- The FS is organizing a tree planting activity with the SLE students. The saplings were donated by a local resident.
- Logging will be starting again in the Nordic area.
- There are 5 timber sales on the district and 4 of the 5 have sold. The sales will generate salvage funds for the district.

Public Comment On Non-Agenda Items: None

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- Proposed rails fund money disposition:
 - BCNW \$2000
 - BABSCO ... \$2000
 - ROCKS\$2000
 - Skatepark\$1000
 - Balance to go to Change Your Pace

Motion to disperse the funds as outlined above by Rich Westin, second by Gage Seeley.

Motion amended by Rich Westin to disperse the funds as outlined above through the CYP process for the organizations participating in CYP so that they can benefit from matching funds, and disperse directly to the organizations not in CYP this year.

Amendment seconded by Gage Seeley. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Seeley Lake Elementary School asked for support on a grant application. Motion to do so by Quinn Carver, second by Sally Johnson. Motion passed.
- Seeley Lake Working group hoped to bring a digital sign to Seeley Lake to share local information and increase community involvement. The newly passed ordinance preventing any new billboards in Missoula County has sidelined this project. On behalf of the SLCC Quinn Carver wrote a letter to the commissioners asking for a variance process. Motion to send the letter made by Quinn Carver

and seconded by Bruce Freide. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Sharon Teague and seconded by Quinn Carver. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned 8:07 pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday June 9th, at the barn at 6:00