

**Montana Coal Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 12, 2024**  
Billings, MT

**Roll Call of Board Members:**

Hal Fuglevand - Absent	Catherine Laughner - Present
Pat Lorello - Present	Sandra Jones - Present
Tim Schaff - Present	Sandy Tutvedt - Present
Jon Wells - Present	

**Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present:**

Becky Anseth, Infrastructure Manager  
Rachel Young, Administrative Officer  
Anita Proul, Executive Assistant

**Public Present:**

John Williams, Mayor of Colstrip	Jim Atchison, SEMDC
Ed Joiner, Rosebud Co Commissioner	Julie Emmons Stoddard, SEMDC
Representative Gary Parry, HD 35	Theresa Doumitt, Project Manager
Mike Goffena, Musselshell Co Commissioner	Tobin Novasio, Superintendent Hardin Pub Schools
Sig Pugrud, Petroleum Co Commissioner	Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering
Kathy Thompson, Stahly Engineering	AJ Espinoza, Road Superintendent Big Horn Co
George Real Bird III, Big Horn Co Commissioner	Ruth Baker, Treasure Co Commissioner
Ruth Baue, Treasure Co Commissioner	Robert Lee, Rosebud Co Commissioner
Nicole Hanson, Superintendent Lavina Pub School	Duane Ankney, Colstrip

**Call Meeting to Order**

0:19 Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.  
0:53 Ms. Young called the roll for Board members

**Commerce Updates**

01:24 Presenter: Ms. Young

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

03:09 Chair Wells asked for any public comments on items not on the agenda, but within the Board's jurisdiction: None provided.

**Budget Update**

**Cash Activity Detail – page 4 of binder**

03:24 Presenter: Ms. Young

**Project Updates**

**Open and Closed project status – page 6 of binder**

04:54 Presenter: Ms. Young

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**New Applications**

**#1002 – Rosebud County – Test and Training Site Feasibility Study – page 9 of binder**

0:08:18 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1003 – Musselshell County – Wier Building Revitalization Project – page 38 of binder**

0:21:15 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1004 – Hardin Public Schools – Boiler Replacement Project – page 771 of binder**

0:40:08 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1005 – City of Colstrip – Construction of Business Innovation Center – page 843 of binder**

0:48:07 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1006 – Petroleum County – HVAC System County Courthouse Renovation – page 877 of binder**

1:06:44 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1007 – Big Horn County – Sarpy Road Resurfacing Project – page 1186 of binder**

1:22:34 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1008 – Big Horn County – Growth Policy Update – page 1438 of binder**

1:34:40 Presenter: Ms. Young

**#1009 – Treasure County – Firehall Remodel and Roof Replacement Project – page 1472 of binder**

1:37:48 Presenter: Ms. Young

**Board Action Items:**

**Approval of Minutes**

**September 12, 2024, MT Coal Board Meeting Minutes – page 1513 of binder**

1:51:55 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve minutes

Second: Vice-Chair Schaff

Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

**Grant Updates**

**#0946 – City of Colstrip – Extension Request North End Water Loop Project – page 1517 of binder**

1:52:51 Motion: Vice-Chair Schaff – approve extension request to December 2025

Second: Ms. Laughner

Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

**#0947 – Rosebud County – Extension Request for Ambulance/Extraction Equipment Purchase – page 1518 of binder**

1:54:05 Motion: Vice-Chair Schaff – approve extension to March 31, 2025

Second: Ms. Jones

Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

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**#0957 – Big Horn County – Extension Request for Equipment Purchase for Big Horn Co. Rural Fire Department – page 1519 of binder**

1:56:08 Motion: Vice-Chair Schaff – approve extension to September 30, 2025  
Second: Ms. Laughner  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

**#0963 – Lavina Public Schools – Extension Request for Replacement of Lavina School Boiler – page 1520 of binder**

1:58:48 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve extension to March 31, 2025  
Second: Vice-Chair Schaff  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

**Board Action on Grant Applications**

**#1002 – Rosebud County – Test and Training Site Feasibility Study – page 9 of binder**

2:00:50 Motion: Mr. Lorello – fund full amount, \$35,000  
Second: Ms. Jones  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Ms. Laughner. Motion Passed.

**#1003 – Musselshell County – Wier Building Revitalization Project – page 38 of binder**

2:02:07 Motion: Vice-Chair Schaff – fund \$182,000  
Second: Ms. Laughner  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Chair Wells and Ms. Jones abstained. Motion Passed.

**#1004 – Hardin Public Schools – Boiler Replacement Project – page 771 of binder**

2:03:51 Motion: Ms. Laughner – fund full amount, \$750,000  
Second: Mr. Lorello  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Ms. Jones and Ms. Tutvedt, Chair Wells abstained.  
Motion Passed.

**#1005 – City of Colstrip – Construction of Business Innovation Center – page 843 of binder**

2:05:10 Motion: Chair Wells – deny application  
Second: Ms. Laughner  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Ms. Jones and Vice-Chair Schaff. Motion Passed.

**#1006 – Petroleum County – HVAC System County Courthouse Renovation – page 877 of binder**

2:10:07 Motion: Ms. Jones – fund \$50,000  
Second: Mr. Lorello  
Ms. Young called for a vote: Yes – Ms. Laughner, Mr. Lorello, Ms. Jones; No – Vice-Chair Schaff, Ms. Tutvedt, Chair Wells. Tie Vote, motion died.

**#1007 – Big Horn County – Sarpy Road Resurfacing Project – page 1186 of binder**

2:11:36 Motion: Mr. Lorello – deny application  
Second: Vice-Chair Schaff  
Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

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**#1008 – Big Horn County – Growth Policy Update – page 1438 of binder**

2:12:48 Motion: Vice-Chair Schaff – fund full amount, \$37,500

Second: Mr. Lorello

Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes except Ms. Laughner and Ms. Jones. Motion Passed.

**#1009 – Treasure County – Firehall Remodel and Roof Replacement Project – page 1472 of binder**

2:14:00 Motion: Ms. Jones – award \$100,000

Second: Vice-Chair Schaff

Ms. Young called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

2:15:40 Chair Wells opened the meeting for any public comment:

John Williams, Mayor Colstrip

Ruth Baue, Treasure County Commissioner

Sig Pugrud, Petroleum County Commissioner

George Real Bird III, Big Horn County Commissioner

Mike Turley, Musselshell County Commissioner

Robert Pankratz, Musselshell County Commissioner

Tobin Novasio, Superintendent Hardin Pub Schools

Jim Atchison, SEMDC

**Board Matters**

**Confirmation of next meeting dates and location**

2:24:10 Presenter: Ms. Young

**Adjournment**

2:26:46 Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.