

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026

Billings, MT

Roll call of board members:

Hal Fuglevand - Absent

Catherine Laughner - Present

Scott Rosenthal - Present

Sandra Jones - Present

Tim Schaff - Present

Jon Wells - Present

Montana Department of Commerce staff present:

Becky Anseth, Infrastructure Manager

Mariah Meyers, Administrative Officer

Patrick Quinn, Legal

Anita Proul, Executive Assistant

Public present:

Jim Atchison, SEMDC

Cory Cheguis, Custer County Fire Warden

Anika Risener, Director Big Horn County Library

Representative Gary Parry, HD 35

Kevin St. John, Superintendent Melstone Public Schools

Matt McCleary, Trustee Melstone Public Schools Board of Trustees

Robert Lee, Rosebud County Commissioner

Tobin Novasio, Superintendent Hardin Public Schools

Kenny Shane, Dean of Students Crow Agency Public Schools

Angela Keltner, Assist. Superintendent Hardin Public Schools

Jason Strouf, Chair Custer County Board of Commissioners

Ed Joyner, Rosebud County Commissioner

Michael Hurff, Public Works Director Hardin

Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk Hardin
Alexandria Edwards, Project Manager Hardin
Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering
Mike Goffena, Musselshell County Commissioner
Mike Turley, Musselshell County Commissioner

Call meeting to order:

00:00:12 Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
00:01:06 Ms. Meyers called the roll for Board members

Commerce updates:

00:01:28 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

Opportunity for public comment:

00:02:33 Chair Wells asked for any public comments on items not on the agenda, but within the Board's jurisdiction: listed above in public present

Budget update:**Cash activity detail: page 3 of binder**

00:05:41 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

Project updates:**Open and closed project status: page 5 of binder**

00:10:35 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#0993 – Savage School District – Thank You Email for Building Repairs – page 6 of binder

00:11:51 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1010 – Town of Winnett – Thank You Card for Dump Truck – page 7 of binder

00:12:07 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

New applications:

#1030 – Melstone School District – Boiler Replacement Project – page 9 of binder

00:15:04 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1031 – Rosebud County – Purchase Fleet Vehicles – page 192 of binder

00:28:52 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1032 – Rosebud County – Purchase Roll Off Truck for Landfill – page 216 of binder

00:35:10 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1033 – Hardin Public Schools – Bus Loop Improvements for Crow Agency School – page 239 of binder

00:42:21 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1034 – Custer County – Equipment Purchase for Fire Department – page 404 of binder

00:55:03 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1035 – City of Hardin – Purchase Dump Truck – page 477 of binder

01:09:11 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

#1036 – City of Hardin – Big Horn Visitor Information Center Phase 2 – page 560 of binder

01:19:56 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

Board Action Items:**Approval of Minutes****Dec. 11, 2025, MT Coal Board Meeting Minutes – page 689 of binder**

01:32:01 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve minutes
Second: Ms. Laughner
Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all yes. Motion Passed.

Board Action on Grant Updates**#1008 – Big Horn County – Extension Request – page 692 of binder**

01:33:14 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve extension request through March 31, 2027
Second: Ms. Laughner
Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all yes except Chair Wells. Motion Passed.

Board Action on Grant Applications**#1030 – Melstone School District – Boiler Replacement Project – page 9 of binder**

01:39:34 Motion: Ms. Jones – award \$400,000
Second: Ms. Laughner
Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all yes except Mr. Rosenthal and Chair Wells. Motion Passed.

#1031 – Rosebud County – Purchase Fleet Vehicles – page 192 of binder

01:44:20 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve to get action on floor
Second: Vice Chair Schaff
Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all no except Chair Wells. Motion Failed.

#1032 – Rosebud County – Purchase Roll Off Truck for Landfill – page 216 of binder

01:46:03 Motion: Ms. Jones – award \$200,000
Second: Mr. Rosenthal

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

#1033 – Hardin Public Schools – Bus Loop Improvements for Crow Agency School – page 239 of binder

01:47:15 Motion: Ms. Jones – approve to get action on floor

Second: Chair Wells

Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all no except Vice Chair Schaff and Chair Wells. Motion Failed.

#1034 – Custer County – Equipment Purchase for Fire Department – page 404 of binder

01:49:15 Motion: Mr. Rosenthal – award full amount, \$140,000

Second: Ms. Jones

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

#1035 – City of Hardin – Purchase Dump Truck – page 477 of binder

01:50:37 Motion: Ms. Laughner – award full amount, \$200,000

Second: Ms. Jones

Ms. Meyers called for a vote: all yes except Mr. Rosenthal. Motion Passed.

#1036 – City of Hardin – Big Horn Visitor Information Center Phase 2 – page 560 of binder

01:51:48 Motion: Ms. Jones – deny application

Second: Vice Chair Schaff

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

Opportunity for public comment:

01:53:08 Chair Wells opened the meeting for any public comment: listed above in public present

Board matters:

Confirmation of next meeting dates and location

01:55:23 Presenter: Ms. Meyers

Adjournment:

01:59:27 Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.