Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

December 17th, 2025

Prairie County Court House Court Room
217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349

www.prairiecounty.org

Prairie County Board of Commissioners, Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of allegiance and call to order. Public Comment.

Shane Eaton with the latest snowstorm, the gravel roads turned very icy. I would like to say the county road department did a good job mowing down the grass next to the road. Dawson County didn't do a good job at all. Shane provided a breakdown of the commission districts and spoke about how citizens within those areas have supported the proposed zoning district.

Shane Eaton also updated the commissioners about the Dawson County Commissioner Meeting on 12/16/2025. He explained that he believed that some processes of zoning were not followed correctly. They voted on the County Wide Zoning but has been moved until January 2026 Commissioners Meeting.

Levi Lyles and L7 Ranch, it's bad timing to zone, and the L7 Ranch would like to be left out.

9:30 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry provided the commissioner with an update on the additional repairs of the Milwaukee bridge. The invoices will come out of account 2995. Supervisor Henry has spoken with Brandon Duffey with Great West Engineering about the Mildred bridge repair and the CB route bridge repair. It's currently Todd Henry and one other guy, then after the new year a new person will be starting. The crew member with a suspended license is no longer with the county.

10:04 a.m. Bernie Shaaf with the Museum Board joined the meeting to speak about the well at the Museum. He has received a bid for repair. The bid from Pirtz Drilling is $7200.

10:11 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the bid for $7219.50 from Pirtz Waterworkx, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed. The funding will come from Building Contract Services 1000.350.

10:19 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the commissioners minutes from November 26th, 2025, commissioners meeting.

10:25 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 26th, 2025, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:28 a.m. Judge Mary Bucher went over with the commissioners about records disposal petition to the state.

10:30 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign RM60 according to "MCA 7-6-1202, 7-5-212, 7-5-4124, 20-1-212" for the Justice of the Peace, seconded Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:45 a.m. County Treasurer Garrett Lapp provided the commissioners with the current Investment Authorization. There was an increase in tax revenue, mainly due to agricultural property taxes, new buildings, pivots etc. They discussed the changes on property value this year and upcoming tax years.

11:00 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign and accept the Treasurer Investment Report for December, seconded by Commissioner Teske, open to discussion, "all in favor" motion passed.

11:00 a.m. County Road Supervisor Todd Henry explained what changes he would like to make on the Property/Casualty Insurance Renewal.

While Supervisor Todd Henry was at the meeting, there was discussion of making agreements with outside contractors to help with roads in emergency situations. The discussion moved onto surrounding counties road department pay scales, compared to our county pay scale.

Commissioner Devlin read the response letter that the commissioners received from the BLM concerning concerns of Prairie Dogs within right of ways on county roads.

11:30 a.m. The commissioners and the Clerk & Recorders Office discussed the appointment of county board members.

12:00 p.m. Board of Health Meeting. Commissioner attended meeting, agenda provided by the Prairie County Board of Health, Working Lunch, minutes kept by the board.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve minutes from the September 17th, 2025, Board of Health meeting, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

Special Presentation by Tylene Eaton on Human-to-Human Rabies Transmission.

Health Officer Chip Mintz gave his report on flu, covid, etc within the county.

County Sanitarian Brant Gordon provided a report on his activities within Prairie County for the last 12 months. A discussion on permits and safety guidelines for installing septic systems.

A presentation by the Tobacco Prevention Specialist Jeana Stedman for the region.

The Public Health Nurse Tylene Eaton gave an update to the board.

Megan Murrell School Superintendent provided an update to the board.

The Next Board of Health Meeting Will be March 18th, 2026.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

1:00 p.m. Dan Kirkpatrick with Get-R-Done and Brant Gordon Saitarian to speak to commissioners about the current Junk Vehicle Program. A discussion on vehicles sitting at the fairgrounds, including two campers. Also discussed was the process for abandon vehicles, how to properly post and then remove the vehicles. Discussion about the junk vehicle program. The program is designed to help with the cost of having junk vehicles removed from private property.

2:00 p.m. Microsoft Teams meeting with Jeff Key's Federal Highways Administration, Terra Burman of Eastern Plains Economic Development Corp, and others to discuss progress and steps moving forward on the Milwaukee bridge project. This is scheduled for summer of 2026 for the project, got passed many of the environmental processes and the Fish & Wildlife Service gave some requirements for the project, but overall, we have a go. Hoping to open bids in March and be done with the project by September 2026. Will do follow up meetings in February, April and June 2026.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment

Ross Freehan: Explained many reasons why this district should not be passed.

David Kastin: Spoke in favor of the district and wants it passed.

Chele Cole-Harrington: Gave an update on a Farm Bauru meeting; and resolutions passed against wind turbines and solar fields. Pass Zoning.

Todd Tibbetts: Commented in favor of passing the district today.

Shane Eaton: commented about the legal letter from Glendive Wind LLC and explained why he is in favor of the district.

Scott Eaton: Commented on why he wants the district passed.

Rick Holden: Commented about industrial wind turbines, gave an example of what happens when you allow wind turbines on your property and they fail and leave forever chemicals. He also explained insurance companies are making exclusions of turbine materials. Pass the district.

Norma Peabody: Commented on passing this district.

Allen Clark Anderson: Commented on zoning, current wind turbine projects etc. He is against the district.

Chris Halson: Lawyer for NextEra; commented on his letter sent to the commission against the passing of the district. He is against passing the district.

3:34 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided commissioner with claims to review and sign.

Prairie County Voucher # 1070 $2,586.68

Prairie County Voucher # 1071 $6,516.46

Prairie County Voucher # 1068 $30,605.23

Prairie County Voucher # 1069 $9,928.09

Prairie County Voucher # 1067 $29,212.05

4:00 p.m. Commissioner Devlin explained the two resolutions, one for passing the Big Sheep Mountain Park Zoning District and one denying.

Commissioner Teske made a motion for the resolution to pass the Big Sheep Mountain Park Zoning District, no second motion fails.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to deny the Big Sheep Mountain Park Zoning District, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, open to discussion, Commissioner Devlin brought it back to the vote, commissioner Devlin voted Yes to deny, Commissioner Keltner voted Yes to deny, and Commissioner Teske voted No to deny.

Commissioner Teske has a discussion point. He read why government subsidies do not work, such as Obama Care, and green energy. Other counties want our county to give tax abatements to NextEra. I am a farmer, and I pay more now, and I am supposed to pay for tax abatements. He read some examples of early history in America and how it changed our country. I work for the folks that elected me, and I should do what you ask me. NextEra wants to give property taxes and wants abatements to pay less taxes. Commissioners vote no and vote for our citizens instead of corporations.

Commissioner Devlin brought it back to the vote, commissioner Devlin voted Yes to deny, Commissioner Keltner voted Yes to deny, and Commissioner Teske voted No to deny.

4:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Keltner seconded the motion.

Signed this 30th day of December 2025

Todd Devlin

Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: Shari Robertson

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

Prairie County Board of Health
Working Lunch Meeting Agenda

December 17th, 2025
12:00pm

Prairie County Courthouse

I. **Call to order**

II. **Approval of minutes from 9-17-2025**

III. **Special Presentation** –Report on Human-to-Human Rabies Transmission Via Solid Organ Transplantation

IV. **Health Officer Report – Chip Mintz**

- Flu Season Update
- Coronavirus (COVID) Update
- Other Communicable Disease Update
- Other

V. **Other Reports**

a) ***Sanitarian*** – Brant Gordon

b) ***Tobacco Prevention***—Regional Tobacco Prevention Specialist

c) ***Public Health*** – Tylene Eaton

- CDC Priorities Update
- Board of Health Resources through MT PHSIO
- Flu Update
- Other Updates

d) ***School*** –Megan Murrell (Supt.)

Other Business

a) Other Business

b) Next Meeting Date

VI. **Adjournment**

Prairie County Board of Health Tobacco Report
December 17th, 2025

- **Tobacco Coalition Meetings:**
  - The last meeting was held on December 3rd, at noon in the basement of the Dawson County Courthouse
  - Next Tobacco Coalition meeting will be held March 4th, at noon in the basement of the Dawson County Courthouse
- **Social Media:**
  - Posts every Wednesday to the Happenings of Prairie County Facebook page
- **Ads and Articles:**
  - Place an article in the Terry Tribune once a month and place an ad in the paper once a quarter
- **Quit line:**
  - One call in September of this year
- **Clean Indoor Air Act:**
  - There were no Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) violations this quarter
- **Press Release:**
  - Nicotine pouch exposure cases reported to U.S. Poison Centers rose 202% from 2022 to 2024, and as of August 31, 2025, they are already 91.7% higher than during the same period in 2024. Nicotine is especially harmful for youth, as adolescent use can interfere with brain development and lead to long-term addiction. Young children are also at risk—accidental exposure can result in life-threatening poisoning. Because nicotine levels in pouches vary widely, swallowing even part of one can be enough to cause serious toxic effects.

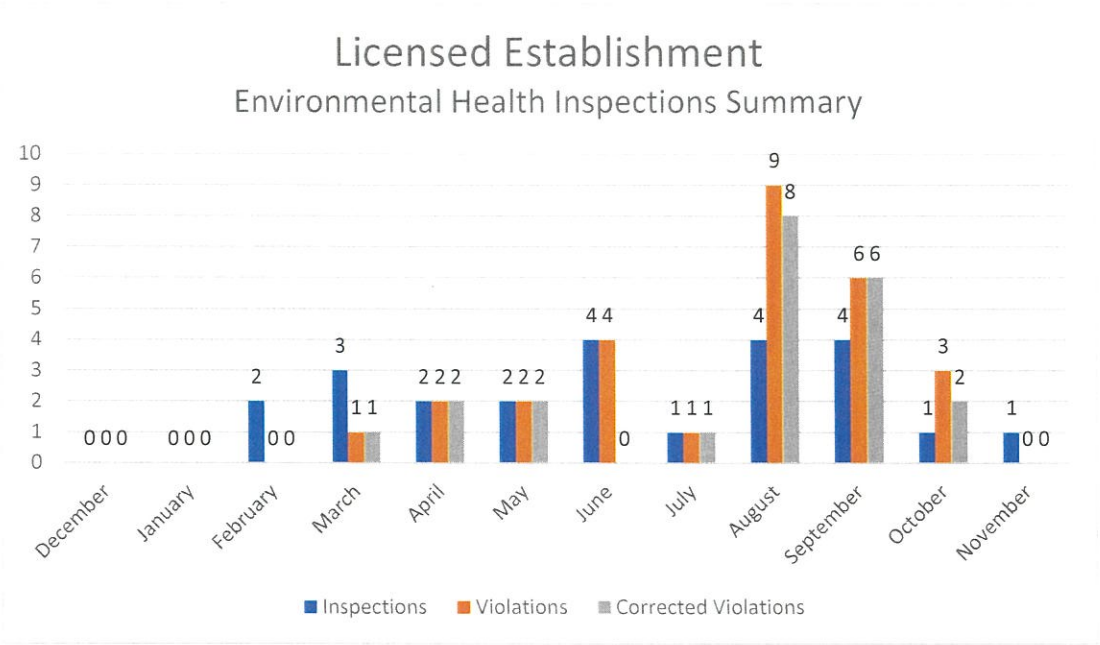
- **Past/Upcoming Events:**
  - Dawson BOH January 12th at 1:15
  - Wibaux BOH January 26th at 11:30
  - Hypertension class starts February 2nd at Senior Center in Glendive
  - Presidents Day February 16th
  - Through With Chew February 15th-21st
  - Prairie BOH March 18th?

Sanitarian's Report

Prairie County

Prevention of Environmental Health Risk Factors Associated with Communicable Disease

December 2024 - November 2025



Activity Summary for December, 2024 to November, 2025

- *22 active licenses (retail food, campground, public accommodation, recreational pool)*
- *24 inspections of licensed establishments with 28 violations observed and 22 violations corrected*
- *79% of violations corrected as of 11/30/25*
- *0 truck wreck investigations*
- *1 potable water test kits*
- *0 onsite waste water system permits*

Clerk and Recorder

From: Robert.Lee@rosebudcountymt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 2:16 PM
To: Clerk and Recorder
Subject: FW: Glendive windfarm project

Shari:

Please pass this email to Todd. The email we have is not working.

Thank you
Rosebud County Commissioners

From: Robert.Lee@rosebudcountymt.gov <Robert.Lee@rosebudcountymt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 1:37 PM
To: 'Todd Devlin - Prairie' <mtdevlin@gmail.com>; 'Dennis Teske' <dteske@midrivers.com>; keltner@midrivers.com
Cc: rcc@rosebudcountymt.gov
Subject: Glendive windfarm project

Dear Prairie County Commissioners:

We are aware that you are having a meeting tomorrow regarding the windfarm project with Nextera. We ask that you support the project. We are also aware that there will be considerable consequences regardless of your decision. We have been through this when we approved an tax abatement on the Clearwater windfarm project. Your decision does not just affect Prairie county, but also Dawson, McCone and Rosebud counties. The project will put a 91 mile power line from the Clearwater project to Colstrip. It is estimated at $350 million investment in Rosebud County. The taxable value is $10,500. We currently levy 164 mills for the county and road. This will generate $1,722,000.00 per year in additional taxes for Rosebud County. If this project goes through, Nextera will ask for a tax abatement from all counties. We approved one today and because of Senate bill 117,you will collect more taxes with an abatement then without an abatement. If the project goes through, Rosebud County will be happy to work with you on the numbers comparing a tax abatement verses no tax abatement.

Commissioners, you have a very difficult decision to make. Some people may not want to look at the wind turbines, but the entire county will benefit at possible lower taxes in the future. Those people who have turbines or power lines will see a large revenue source that might allow the farm or ranch to be passed on to the next generation. Again, you have a tough decision to make, but we all signed up to make those decision for the whole of the county.

Sincerely Rosebud County Commissioners

Outlook

wind meeting

From rolane@midrivers.com <rolane@midrivers.com>
Date Wed 12/17/2025 3:26 PM
To Aria Walters <a.walters@prairiecounty.org>

Chair Devlin, Commissioner Teske and Commissioner Keltner

Good afternoon

I'm not going to offer anymore pros and cons of wind farms as I think we've covered that extensively. I
Have other questions and comments. We were 4 years into our contracts when things started to be challenged.
What changed? Did people realize this was actually going to proceed and wanted out? Did some want more money?
Did others wish they would have said yes and did some find out that maybe they would not have very many towers
On their land?
When we signed the contracts we were all told to do our do diligence and contact our attorneys and make sure these
were good contracts. My family signed and in my world your signature and your handshake are your bond. If people wanted
out of their contracts, they should be working with NextEra, not expecting our county to help then get out of these contracts.
I believe our commissioners have done their homework and considered all questions, concerns and comments. I will respect
Their vote even though I may not agree and I ask that everyone else also respects their decision. The commissioners are
Elected to make the best decision for all of Prairie County not just those who do or do not want zoning for the windfarm.

Thank you.
Rolane Christofferson