MEETING MINUTES

These abbreviated summary minutes will become the official adopted minutes at the next Montana Invasive Species Council meeting when they will be approved. Until then, they are considered a draft.

Meeting Name: MISC Special Meeting-Woody Invasive Workgroup Coordination Funding

Date of Meeting:	Minutes Prepared By:	Time:	Location:
04/27/2026	Russ Hartzell	10:30am	Zoom

Attendees:

MISC: Steve Wanderaas, Sara Ricklefs, Tom Woolf, Andy Welch, Mike Bias, Jake Chadewell, Pam Schwend, Taylor Tidwell, Dylan Brown, Jasmine Chaffee, Karen Laitala, Jared Beaver.

MISC Staff: Liz Lodman, Russ Hartzell

Other: Molly Masters, Josh Wagoner

*MISC voting members are underlined

Agenda & Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic	Discussion
Welcome and Role Call	Confirmed quorum of voting members.
Woody Invasive Workgroup Funding Proposal	Sara Ricklefs and Molly Masters reviewed the Woody Invasive Working Group budget narrative and spreadsheet. The request was presented as a tiered funding approach: river tour first, then coordination, then outreach/travel if funds remain.
Budget Details for River Tour	Hard costs discussed included boat rental, facility rental at the Montana Audubon Center, and travel for presenters and staff. Several other costs were expected to be covered through in-kind support or other grants.
Council Discussion	Members discussed transparency, conflict of interest, lack of competitive process and how this type of request should be handled in the future. Mike and Andy both emphasized the need for a clearer process and more upfront disclosure.

Policy Follow-Up	The group agreed this type of request should be addressed in MISC operating policy going forward. Liz noted the request is a contract to Custer County Conservation District, not a grant.
Voting	Sarah stated she would abstain from voting. A motion was made to approve this funding request for $10,000 by Karen Laitala, Pam Schwend seconded the motion, a voice vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.