

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

It is the policy of the Board of County Commissioners to render a decision at a later date after they have had ample time to consider all oral and written public testimony. The BoCC may render a final decision on the same date if substantial new information is not received. Public comment must be limited to matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Consent Action Items
  - a. Resolution 2025-22 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Jen Garber)
- 3. Grant Application to Senator Sheehy's Office for a Congressionally Directed Spending Request. (Jenny Chambers and Ann McCauley)

The Commissioners will consider an application to U.S. Senator Tim Sheehy's Office for a federal fiscal year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to complete an alternative analysis, transportation evaluation, and engineering design for Country Club Avenue and Williams Street. The CDS request is \$575,000 with the County matching \$191,550 (25%) for a total project cost of \$766,550.

4. <u>Comment Letter for a Court Ordered Division, for the Watson Family Trust. (Christal Ness)</u>

The Commissioners will consider sending a comment letter to the Honorable Judge Mike Menahan regarding the division of land requested by the Complaint for Partition for the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Trust.

- 5. Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.
- 6. **Adjourn**

#### ADA NOTICE

Lewis and Clark County is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The County will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them County's services, programs, or activities. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the County's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact Keni Grose, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following:

- (406)-447-8316
- kgrose@lccountymt.gov

- TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711
- 316 N Park, Room 303



## ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Resolution 2025-22

Туре

Resolution

#### **RESOLUTION 2025 - 22**

#### A RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY PROPERTY SURPLUS PROPERTY

**WHEREAS**, Section 7-8-2211, MCA, authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to sell, trade, or exchange any real or personal property, however acquired, belonging to the County that is not necessary to the conduct of county business or the preservation of its property; and

**WHEREAS**, the County property described on the attached list "Exhibit A" has been determined by the Board of County Commissioners to be unnecessary to the conduct of county business or the preservation of its property and by such determination has been declared surplus property; and

**WHEREAS**, the property on "Exhibit A" individually have a value less than \$2,500; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, that said county property is declared surplus property and be taken off the inventory.

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	LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
	Candace Payne, Chair
ATTEST:	
Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board	

DATED this

day of

## **EXHIBIT "A"**

	Description (Qty)	Asset#	Serial # / VIN	Mileage	Reason	Department
1.	Various Staplers (8)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle
2.	Brown Leather Exec Chair	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle
3.	Calculator (1) Canon MP21DX	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle
4.	Caluclator (1) Sharp EL 1750V	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle
5.	Various Computer Mice (3)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle
6.	Chair Mat (2)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Disposal	Motor Vehicle



Grant Application to Senator Sheehy's Office for a Congressionally Directed Spending Request. (Jenny Chambers and Ann McCauley)

Presented By:

#### Summary:

The Commissioners will consider an application to U.S. Senator Tim Sheehy's Office for a federal fiscal year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to complete an alternative analysis, transportation evaluation, and engineering design for Country Club Avenue and Williams Street. The CDS request is \$575,000 with the County matching \$191,550 (25%) for a total project cost of \$766,550.

Legal Review Required:

#### ATTACHMENTS:

	Description	Type
D	Staff Report	Staff Report
D	CDS Request Form	Attachment
D	Estimated Budget	Attachment



## Grants and Purchasing Department Lewis and Clark County

406 Fuller Ave., Ste. 361 Helena, MT 59601 Phone: 406-447-8383; e-mail: grants@lccountymt.gov

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Date:** March 31, 2025

**To:** Board of County Commissioners

From: Ann McCauley, Director, Grants and Purchasing; Jenny Chambers, Director, Public Works

RE: Grant Application to Senator Sheehy's Office for a Congressionally Directed Spending Request

**County Commission Hearing:** 

April 3, 2025 --- 9:00 a.m.

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Commission will consider a grant application to Senator Tim Sheehy's Office for a federal fiscal year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request to complete an alternative analysis, transportation evaluation, and engineering design for Country Club Avenue and Williams Street. These roadways serve as a main transportation corridor for the Montana Army National Guard and Fort Harrison Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Spring Meadow Lake State Park, and many County citizens residing in the West Helena Valley and Birdseye areas. Additionally, it serves as a main throughway and evacuation route for the West Valley Fire Department and the area it serves. The traffic count on Country Club Avenue is approximately 5,000 vehicles/day.

In late 2022, this corridor received Defense Access Route (DAR) designation given its critical importance to the Montana Army National Guard. In March 2023, Lewis and Clark County submitted a Congressional Directed Spending Request through Senator Daines's Office, which resulted in a March 2024 request from Senator Daines to the Pentagon for funding given the DAR designation. We have yet to hear on the status of this funding request.

The County's efforts to resurface Country Club Avenue with asphalt overlay in the summer of 2024 have temporarily improved the driving condition of the road, but the road subsurface is rapidly deteriorating, and vehicle load weight remains restricted. In addition, there are other safety improvement features needed to address the narrow road width, intersection traffic flows, and non-motorized transportation options. The first step will be to complete an alternative analysis, transportation evaluation, and engineering design for Country Club Avenue and Williams Street that will provide the needed information and total cost of the project that will aid in securing additional funding to fully reconstruct and rebuild this critical roadway.

The total estimated project cost for this planning project is \$766,550. The CDS request through Senator Sheehy's Office is for \$575,000 with the County contributing \$191,550 in local match (25%).

#### **II. REQUEST:**

To approve Lewis and Clark County's Congressionally Directed Spending request to Senator Sheehy's Office to be considered for FFY26 funding.

#### **III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve.

#### **IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

- Senator Sheehy's FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending Request form
- Estimated Country Club Road Engineering Design Budget



# TIM SHEEHY

#### FY26 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUEST FORM

Submission Deadline to Senator Sheehy's Office: Friday, April 4th, 2025 7:00 p.m. ET

Please be on the lookout for emails from <u>meredith\_moore@sheehy.senate.gov</u> regarding guidelines, information, and submission dates as it is made available.

#### Overview:

Due to an internal cap on submissions, the office of Senator Tim Sheehy will only consider Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) proposals that are:

- 1. Submitted by organizations based in Montana; and
- 2. Support the constituents, industries, and resources of Montana

Congressionally Directed Spending Requests MUST meet all guidelines established by the Committee to be accepted:

- Requestor MUST be able to demonstrate broad community support for the project with at least five (5) letters of support.
- Requestor MUST submit examples of community support to the office of Senator Sheehy for the request to be considered.
- The project or requesting entity must have **NO financial ties** to the Senator or his family.
- Funding must be for FY26 ONLY.
- If the project would normally require a funding match or cost share by a non-federal entity, then the requesting entity will need to demonstrate that it can provide this match if it makes a CDS request.
- The recipient of the CDS must be a governmental entity or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Requests made by for-profit entities are NOT permitted.

#### Requesting Organization/Entity

Name of Requesting Organization/Entity		
Name of Requesting Organization/Entity		
Organization Street Address		
Organization Street Address 2		
City	State	Zip
Are you a non-profit or government entity? (Y	ou must be a non-profit or government ent	ity to be eligible for CDS funds)
☐ Yes		
□ No		

(XX-XXXXXXX	()		
Project Poin Please note that	t of Contact for Request (This our staff may need to contact this person	cannot be a registered lobb outside of normal business hours.	yist)
Prefix	First Name	MI	Last Name
Title			
Organization			
Street Addres	s		
Street Address	s 2		
City		State	Zip
Email		Phone	<u> </u>
Prefix	First Name	MI	Last Name
Organization			
Organization	ss 1		
Organization Street Addres			
Organization Street Addres Street Address		State	Zip
Organization Street Addres Street Address City		State	
Organization Street Address Street Address City Email		State	
Organization Street Address Street Address City Email	s 2	State	
Title Organization Street Address Street Address City Email Phone Project Info Project Name Please Spec	ormation ::	State	

(If applicable)
Purpose of Project (Max 200 words)
(200 words / Approx. 1000 Char. limit)
Please list other organizations or partners you are working with on this project:
(If applicable)
Requested FY26 Funding Amount:
Please Specify
Was your project included in an FY25 Appropriations bill?
Yes
□No
Have you submitted a request from this organization before?
Yes
□No
Have you submitted a request for this project before?
☐ Yes
□ No
Project Location
Is the project statewide?
☐ Yes
□ No
Postal Address of Project (If no address available, please provide detailed description of location of project):
Please Specify
Congressionally Directed Spending Request
Based off the FY25 Senate Appropriations Committee guidance, we anticipate the Committee will accept CDS Requests for the following Accounts ( <u>FY25 guidance linked for reference</u> ):
Select the appropriations bill that you are requesting funds from:
Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration & Rural Development
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Energy and Water Development

Financial Services and General Government
☐ Homeland Security
☐ Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
☐ Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
☐ Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
GUDDODTING INFORMATION
SUPPORTING INFORMATION:
<b>NOTE:</b> The Build America, Buy America Act requires that all infrastructure projects funded with federal assistance use only iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials produced in the United States. This requirement applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. If you are submitting a CDS request for funding for an infrastructure project, please take this requirement into account.
Total funding request:
Please Specify
Total project cost:  Please Specify
Trease epeciny
Will the project, if funded, become self-sustaining after a defined period of time?  Yes  No
How would this project benefit the public and why is it a responsible use of taxpayer dollars?
Please Specify
Why should this request be considered a priority for the people of Montana?
Please Specify
List any stakeholders that support this request. Letters of support can be submitted at the end of this application.
Please Specify
Is this a new or ongoing project?
Please Choose an Option
Is this project on cligible purpose under the relevant are seen?
Is this project an eligible purpose under the relevant program?
Please Choose an Option
Estimated Start Date for the Project (if applicable)  mm/dd/yyyy

Estimated Completion Date for the Project (if applicable)
mm/dd/yyyy
FY26 Project Costs
Please provide a description here of how this funding would be utilized:
Please Specify
Construction/Renovation Costs (please state dollar amounts numerically and how the funds will be spent)
Please Specify
Supplies and Equipment Costs (please state dollar amounts numerically and how the funds will be spent)
Please Specify
Travel Costs (please state dollar amounts numerically and how the funds will be spent)
Please Specify
Other Costs- including salaries and benefits (please state dollar amounts numerically and how the funds will be spent)
Please Specify
Please indicate how current these budget estimates are mm/dd/yyyy
Can the project proceed if the Appropriations Committee cannot fully fund the request?  Yes  No
Will this project require additional federal dollars in later fiscal years?
Please Choose an Option
Has this project been submitted to a congressional office in prior fiscal years?
Please Choose an Option
Has this project received Congressional Directed Spending funds in the past?

Please Choose an Option
Is your project included in a state plan?
Please Choose an Option
Is this project currently authorized in law? If so, where? If not applicable, please write "N/A".
Please Specify
If this project has received any funding in the past, from either a public or private source, please detail that here:
(If applicable)
If this project is awaiting federal or state grant funding from another program or source, please detail that here:  Please Specify
Tacase Specially
Please list any additional sources of funding the program has already received and the status of the funding (e.g. application submitted, funding awarded, funding received)
Please Specify
Can you meet a 50% cost-share (or match) of the total project cost?
☐ Yes
□ No
Can you meet a 25% cost-share (or match) of the total project cost?
☐ Yes
□ No
Other Information
Does any derogatory information or potentially mitigating information exist that would render the entity potentially unsuitable for receiving community project funding? Please explain if applicable:
(If applicable)
If submitting multiple requests, please rank this request in terms of priority:
$\square$ 2

1/20, 11.10 AW	General GDG Nequests
<u> </u>	
<u> </u>	
<u> </u>	
The Office of Senator Sheehy requ	uires five letters of community support.
Letters of Support Contact Information:	: :
Please Specify	
Please list all the attachments you are so	ubmitting with your request:
Please Specify	
<u>Upload Supporting Documentation</u>	<u>n</u>
TOTAL Maximum File Size for Al	LL files (combined) = (in bytes, ex. $15000000 = 15MB$ )
Five Letters of Community Support (PD	NEs anly accounted)
Upload File No file chosen	ors only accepted)
Opioad File Two file chosen	
Relevant Documents (PDFs only accept	red)
Upload File No file chosen	
	Submit

## ALL ACCOUNT ELIGIBILITY, DEADLINES, AND REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please schedule a call with Meredith Moore before submitting your application.



## OPINION OF PROBABLE COST - Country Club Road Engineering Design

Country C	Club Road	N/A			3/27/2025	
Phase I Engineering						
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION		UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	Phase I Project Scoping		Lump Sum	1	\$7,900	\$7,900
102	Speed Zone Review		Lump Sum	1	\$9,500	\$9,500
103	Project Management		Lump Sum	1	\$12,600	\$12,600
104	Public Outreach		Lump Sum	1	\$21,000	\$21,000
105	Topographic Survey		Lump Sum	1	\$21,000	\$21,000

PROJECT NO.

Lump Sum \$8,500 \$8,500 106 Site Mapping 1 107 Wetlands Delineation Lump Sum 1 \$10,500 \$10,500 108 Right-of-Way Review Lump Sum 1 \$12,600 \$12,600 109 Geotechnical Evaluation Lump Sum 1 \$28,300 \$28,300 Lump Sum \$5,300 \$5,300 110 **Utility Coordination** 1 1 \$15,500 \$15,500 111 Alternatives Analysis Lump Sum

 Lump Sum
 1
 \$15,500
 \$15,500

 Phase I Engineering Subtotal: \$168,200

DATE

#### Phase II Engineering

Preliminary Alignment Plans

112

PROJECT

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
201	Phase II Project Scoping	Lump Sum	1	\$7,900	\$7,900
203	Project Management	Lump Sum	1	\$13,500	\$13,500
204	Public Outreach	Lump Sum	1	\$5,300	\$5,300
205	Topographic Survey	Lump Sum	1	\$6,300	\$4,300
206	Site Mapping	Lump Sum	1	\$2,100	\$6,300
208	Right-of-Way Review	Lump Sum	1	\$3,200	\$3,200
210	Utility Coordination	Lump Sum	1	\$3,200	\$3,200
212	35% Plans	Lump Sum	1	\$21,000	\$21,000
			Phase II Engin	eering Subtotal:	\$64,700

#### Phase III Engineering

**ESTIMATE BY:** 

Daniel Karlin, PE

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	
301	Final Project Scoping	Lump Sum	1	\$7,900	\$7,900	
302	Reimbursable Expenses	Lump Sum	1	\$3,100	\$3,100	
303	Additional topographical Survey	Lump Sum	1	\$5,400	\$5,400	
304	Right-of-Way Coordination and Exhibits	Lump Sum	1	\$19,000	\$19,000	
305	Utility Coordination	Lump Sum	1	\$2,100	\$2,100	
306	Public Outreach	Lump Sum	1	\$21,000	\$21,000	
307	95% Road Plans	Lump Sum	1	\$131,000	\$131,000	
308	95% Bridge Widening Plans	Lump Sum	1	\$33,500	\$33,500	
309	Final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates	Lump Sum	1	\$63,000	\$63,000	
310	Funding Analysis and Grant Assistance	Lump Sum	1	\$5,300	\$5,300	
		Phase III Engineering Subtotal:				
County In-Kind Items						
1a	Assistant Director Labor	Hours	80			
2a	County Engineer Labor	Hours	240			
3a	Road and Bridge Operations Manager Labor	Hours	60			
4a	Bridge Manager Labor	Hours	40			
5a	Road Manager Labor	Hours	40			

REVISED: Daniel Karlin, PE **TOTAL** \$766,550

CONTINGENCY

COMBINED SUBTOTAL

INFLATION (3 YEARS)

This Opinion of Probable Cost is the opinion of the engineer of the probable construction cost, and is supplied as a guide only. Since the engineer has no control over the costs of labor and materials or over competitive bidding and market conditions, the engineer does not guarantee the accuracy of such opinion as compared to contractor's bids or actual costs to the owner. Estimate is calculated in 2025 dollars.

\$524,200

\$157,260

\$85,090

30%

4%



Comment Letter for a Court Ordered Division, for the Watson Family Trust. (Christal Ness)

Presented By:

## Summary:

The Commissioners will consider sending a comment letter to the Honorable Judge Mike Menahan regarding the division of land requested by the Complaint for Partition for the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Trust.

## Legal Review Required:

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
Staff Report	Staff Report
Proposed survey	Attachment
Complaint for Partition	Attachment
Stipulation for Partition in Kind	Attachment
Order on Stipulation for Partition in Kind	Attachment
	Staff Report Proposed survey Complaint for Partition Stipulation for Partition in Kind



## Community Development and Planning Lewis and Clark County

316 N. Park Ave. Room 230 Helena, MT 59623 Phone: 406-447-8374 Fax: 406-447-8398 e-mail: planning@lccountymt.gov



#### STAFF REPORT

**Date:** March 31, 2025

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor

RE: Comments regarding a Complaint for Partition for the Fourth

**Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust** 

#### **OWNER / APPLICANT:**

Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust Brenda Hartman, Successor Trustee

#### **REPRESENTATIVE:**

G. Andrew Adamek, Attorney Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, P.C. P.O. Box 1697 Helena, MT 59624

County Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 3, 9:00 a.m.

#### I. SUMMARY OF THE DIVISION:

The parcels involved in this action are two, 20-acre parcels, created by 20-acre exemptions in June of 1990, Certificate of Survey No. 458256, attached to the Complaint for Partition. June 17, 2013, William and Marilyn Watson deed the 2 parcels to The Watson Family Revocable Living Trust dated April 10, 2009 (hereinafter Trust). The Trust was amended, and the current Trust is The Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust. This partition action complies with the provisions of the updated Trust.

Marilyn Watson died on December 3, 2020, and William Watson died on October 29, 2022. The heirs, by and through counsel, G. Andrew Adamek, filed a Complaint for Partition, in the First Judicial District Court, on October 10, 2024, and a Stipulation for Partition in Kind on March 21, 2025, with an accompanying Order for the Court. Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 76-3-201(2) the Court has notified the County of the pending division, and the Board of County Commissioners, as the Governing Body, has this opportunity to comment on the Court Ordered Division.

#### II. COURT ORDERED DIVISION STATUTES:

Montana Code Annotated 76-3-201(1)(a) provides that any Court may divide property pursuant to order, as an exemption from the Subdivision and Platting Act. Montana Code Annotated 76-4-125(1)(a) provides divisions made under MCA 76-3-201 exemptions are also exempt from the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act. The effect of these 2 statutes means that any court, with appropriate jurisdiction over the property, may divide property without adhering to either subdivision regulations or Department of Environmental Quality approval for new subdivisions, and specifically water, wastewater, and storm water drainage. In short, court ordered divisions allows for the division of property without addressing the impacts considered in the formal review of a subdivision.

#### III. REQUEST:

The Complaint for Partition has requested the Court to divide the 2 existing parcels into three tracts, one for each of the 3 beneficiaries of the Trust. Attached hereto is the draft survey attached to the Stipulation for Partition in Kind. Also attached are the pleadings filed with the District Court, forwarded to Lewis and Clark County.

#### IV. LOCATION:

The subject properties are two 20-acres parcels, located on eastern side of Holter Lake, east of Beartooth Road, approximately 2 miles south of the Holter Lake Dam. The parcels can be accessed from Mountain Lion Gulch on the north, or Old Doc Road on the south.

#### V. EXISTING DEVELOPMENT AND USES:

The existing parcels are vacant land.

Adjacent Land Uses:

North: Undeveloped 40-acre parcel. East: Sterling Ranch, 640 acres. South: Single family 20-acre lot. West: Single family 20-acre lot.

#### VI. PROJECT ISSUES:

#### Wastewater:

If the Court Ordered division is approved, the lots will not be subject to review and or approval from the Department of Environmental Quality under the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act (Title 76, Chapter 4, Part 1 MCA) thereby possibly not mitigating impacts to adjacent properties. Nonetheless, each individual septic system will need approval and permitting pursuant to the Lewis and Clark County On-site Wastewater Treatment Regulations. Original Tract 18 has been approved for a septic system, and a permit will be issued upon payment of the permit fee.

#### Access:

The property is located east of Beartooth Road, at the end of Mountain Lion Gulch, and the east end of Old Doc Road. Approach permits will not be required.

#### Water:

The provision of water for future development will not be subject to review and approval by the Department of Environmental Quality under the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act (MCA 76-4-125 et. seq.), and the provision of water may have negative impacts on the neighboring properties for future development. Water wells will be required to meet the separation requirements of the Lewis and Clark County On-site Wastewater Treatment Regulations.

#### **Public Health and Safety:**

The proposed division has the potential to have adverse impacts on Public Health and Safety as follows:

- The property is at the end of Mountain Lion Gulch, and Old Doc Road, both to the east of Beartooth Road, and neither road has been constructed to a subdivision standard.
- 2. No fire protection is located on-site.

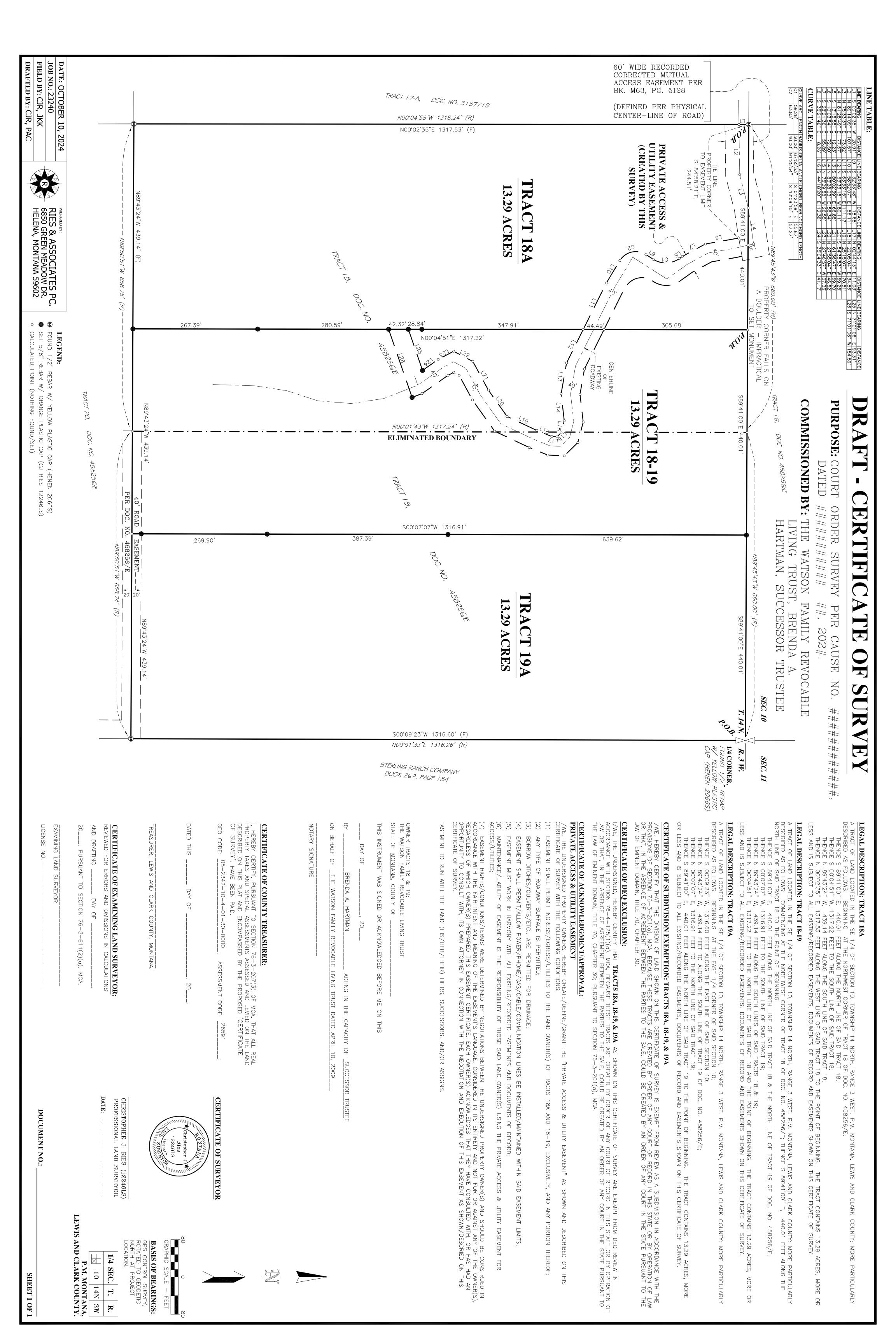
#### V. CONCLUSION:

Pursuant to MCA 76-3-201(2), the Governing Body may provide comment to a proposed Court Ordered Division. This particular division is requested upon the Complaint for Partition and the Stipulation for Partition in Kind in the matter of the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Should the Court decide to grant the Order on Stipulation for Partition in Kind and divide the property, staff recommends as follows:

- 1. The Court's Order should instruct the plaintiff, and Successor Trustee that a Certificate of Survey is required to be prepared pursuant to Montana Code Annotated and the Administrative Rules of Montana,
- 2. The Court's Order should instruct the plaintiff, and Successor Trustee, the property is subject to the requirement of the Lewis and Clark County On-site Wastewater Treatment Regulations; and
- 3. The Court's Order should instruct the plaintiff, and Successor Trustee that the properties should be addressed.



FILED

10/10/2024

Angle Sparks

Lewis & Clark County District Court
STATE OF MONTANA

By: <u>Denaye Cooper</u> DV-25-2024-0000655-PA Menahan, Mike 1.00

G. Andrew Adamek BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C. 800 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 101 P.O. Box 1697 Helena, MT 59624 Telephone: (406) 443-6820

Fax: (406) 443-6883

5 andy@bkbh.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

BRENDA HARTMANN, as successor trustee of the fourth amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust

Plaintiff,

v.

PATRICIA HALVORSON and GERARD WATSON

Defendants.

Case No. A DV-25-2024-0000655-PA

#### **COMPLAINT FOR PARTITION**

Presiding Judge: Hon. Mike Menahan

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Pursuant to Mont. R. Civ. P. 4(b)(1)(C), this Court has jurisdiction over the parties described herein, who all reside in Montana and have interest in the real property in question, which is located within Lewis and Clark County, Montana.
- 2. Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §§70-29-101 and 104(2) and §25-2-123(1) (c), venue is proper in Lewis and Clark County because this is an action for partition of real property located entirely within Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

#### **PARTIES**

3. Brenda Hartmann is the Successor Trustee of Plaintiff, The Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust, dated January 14, 2020 ("Trust").

2627

10. William died on October 29, 2022 and Marilyn died on December 3, 2020. According to the Trust at Art. Six, Brenda Hartmann as sole Successor Trustee is authorized to distribute part of the residue of the Trust assets, including the Property as follows:

6.1.4 The Trustee shall distribute to Gerard R. Watson [Jerry], Patricia A. Halvorson [Patricia], and Brenda A. Hartmann, in equal shares, the lots at Holter Lake, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. Any and all tools, machinery, and equipment at the Holter Lake lots shall be considered the property of Gerard R. Watson, Patricia A. Halvorson, and Brenda A. Hartmann for use in the development or improvement to the said lots.

See Exhibit 2 (portions of Trust) attached.

- 11. Jerry, Patricia, and Brenda are to receive an equal one-third share of the Property but cannot agree among them how Tracts 18 and 19 comprising the Property referenced in Article VI. Section 6.1.4 are to be conveyed or physically divided among them.
- 12. Plaintiff is not aware of any lien holders of record or creditors of the Property or any other persons claiming any interest in the Property, other than the named beneficiaries Gerard, Patricia, and Brenda.
- 13. Access easements and established roads exist providing ingress and egress to Tracts 18 and 19 comprising the Property, as depicted on the Certificate of Survey for Lower Gates of the Mountain Summer Homes, recorded at Document No. 458256-E, Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County.

See Exhibit 3 (COS for Lower Gates of the Mountain Summer Homes) attached.

- 14. Said access easements also currently provide ingress and egress to the Property, across and burdening Tract 20, already owned by Defendant Gerard Watson.
- 15. The Protective Covenants applicable to the Property do not preclude physical, inkind partition of the Property into three separate parcels.
- 16. Since the death of Marilyn, the relationship between Brenda and her brother Jerry has broken down, and discord among the beneficiaries Patricia, Jerry, and Brenda over the disposition of the Property as intended by the Trust has ensued.

- 17. Only physical, in-kind partition of the Property into three separate parcels to be owned individually by Brenda, Jerry and Patricia will equitably serve the interests of these Trust beneficiaries.
- 18. The subject Property is "Heirs Property" pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-402(5).
- 19. Because the subject Property is Heirs Property, the subject Property must be partitioned under Title 70, Chapter 29, Part 4. *See* Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-403.
- 20. Because the Property is Heirs Property, if the parties cannot agree upon the fair market value, the Court may determine the value by ordering an appraisal and may conduct an evidentiary hearing to determine the fair market value, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-410.
- 21. Once the fair market value is determined the Court may consider at evidentiary hearing the factors warranting physical, in-kind partition pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-413, if the parties are unable to agree as to the terms of an in-kind partition.
  - 22. The factors set forth in Section 413 support physical, in-kind partition:
    - a. The Property can practicably be divided into three tracts as it is sufficiently large to do so;
    - b. In-kind partition of the Property would at least maintain the fair market value of the parcels or increase them in the aggregate;
    - c. The parties herein have all held a one-third, equal interest in the Property for the same duration, through the Trust. The Property has been held by the Watson family for two generations;
    - d. No party presently lives on the Property, but Defendant Gerard Watson has an ownership interest in Tract 20 directly adjacent and south of the subject Property, and he could benefit from future consolidation of Lot 20 with a newly created parcel resulting from in-kind partition;
    - e. No party currently earns any income from farming or ranching on the Property;

- f. No structures or dwellings exist on the Property;
- g. Recorded easements exist for access to the Property. Some internal roads exist on the Property. An additional access and utility easement serving the new middle tract will be established in this action. The present access easement burdening Tract 20 can be re-established and improved to provide necessary access and utility service to new Tract 19A and new Tract 18-19; and
- h. The totality of all relevant factors weighs in favor of physical partition in-kind,consistent with the draft Certificate of Survey attached to this Complaint as Exhibit4.
- 23. Plaintiff Trust will incur attorney's fees and costs, and is entitled to recovery of its fees and costs related to this litigation, incurred for the common benefit of the parties, in proportion to its interest in the Property, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-218, as supplemented by Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-403. Plaintiff Trust reserves the right to seek this recovery or may waive it, depending upon the cooperation of the Defendants in this cause.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- a. That the Court grant a physical, in-kind partition of the Property in accordance with the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, Mont. Code Ann. § 70-29-401, *et seq*;
- b. That the in-kind partition order designates ownership of the to-be-created new Tract
   18A to be conveyed to Gerard Watson, new Tract 18-19 to be conveyed to Patricia
   Halvorson, and new Tract 19A to be conveyed to Brenda Hartmann.
- c. Award Plaintiff the payment of the professional fees and costs incurred to bring this partition action, including the cost of appraisals, surveys, referees, title company

fees, closing costs, court costs, and attorney's fees and costs, if Plaintiff seeks this relief at the end of this action; and

d. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just.

DATED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.

By <u>/s/ G. Andrew Adamek</u> G. Andrew Adamek

Attorneys for Plaintiff

First Montana Land Title Company P.O. Box 251 Helena, MT 59624

Return to:

William D. Whotsow 1470 Country Home Lane Grat Falls, MT. 59405

L&U W24801 First Montana Title P.O. Box 251 Helena MT 59824

3243658 B: M47 P: 2214 DEED 06/17/2013 03:59 PM Pages: 1 of 1 Fees: 7.00 Paulette DeHart Clerk & Recorder, Lewis & Clark MT 

#### QUIT CLAIM DEED

For Value Received:

William O. Watson and Marilyn Watson

does hereby convey, release, remise and forever quit claim unto

Marilyn T. Watson and William O. Watson, Jr., Trustees of The Watson Family Revocable Living Trust dated April 10, 2009

The grantees, the following described premises, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, to-wit:

Tract 18 being the W1/2NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, P.M.M., Lewis and Clark County, Montana, as shown on Certificate of Survey filed under Document Number 458256-E.

Together with their appurtances.

Dated: 6/17/13

William O. Watson Marilyn Watson

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK

On this / ? \_ day of June Before me a notary public in and for said State Personally appeared

William O. Watson and Marilyn Watson

known to me to be the person(s) whose name(s) are/is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same.

Notary Public Residing at

Commission Expires

JOHATHAN HIES NOTALY PUBLIC for the State of Montana Residing at East Helena, Montana My Commission Expires

First Montana Land Title Company P.O. Box 251 Helena, MT 59624

Return to:

William O. Watson 1470 Country Home Lane Onat Falls, MT. 59405

> 10846W 201 Return to First Montana Title P.O. Box 251 Helena, MT 59624

3243657 B: M47 P: 2213 DEED 06/17/2013 03:59 PM Pages: 1 of 1 Fees: 7.00 Paulette DeHart Clerk & Recorder, Lewis & Clark MT 

#### QUIT CLAIM DEED

For Value Received:

William O. Watson and Marilyn Watson

does hereby convey, release, remise and forever quit claim unto

Marilyn T. Watson and William O. Watson, Jr., Trustees of The Watson Family Revocable Living Trust dated April 10, 2009

The grantees, the following described premises, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, to-wit:

Tract 19 being the E1/2NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, P.M.M., Lewis and Clark County, Montana, as shown on Certificate of Survey filed under Document Number 458256-E.

Together with their appurtances.

Dated: 6/17/13

William O. Watson

Marilyn Watson

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK

On this 12 day of June Before me a notary public in and for said State Personally appeared

William O. Watson and Marilyn Watson

known to me to be the person(s) whose name(s) are/is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same.

Notary Public Residing at

Commission Expires

JONATHAN RIES NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana Residing at East Helena, Montana
Machine Sciences
February 21 2014 2024-02-13 13:56 MST Brenda Hartmann



+14067881143

## THE FOURTH AMENDED WATSON FAMILY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST DATED JANUARY 14, 2020

This Fourth Amended Trust Agreement for the Watson Family Revocable Living Trust is made and effective this 14th day of January, 2020, between William O. Watson, Jr. and Marilyn T. Watson, husband and wife, of Great Falls, Montana, hereinafter referred to as the "Trustors", and William O. Watson, Jr. and Marilyn T. Watson, hereinafter referred to as the "Trustees".

#### ARTICLE ONE Trust Estate

The Trustors, desiring to amend a trust originally executed on April 10, 2009, and they have prior to this date granted, bargained, conveyed and assigned to the Trustees the property described in the attached Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B", incorporated herein by this reference, which property, together with any other property which may hereafter become subject to this Trust Agreement, is herein referred to sometimes as the "Trust Estate".

This Fourth Amended Trust Agreement supercedes and replaces that Trust Agreement dated April 10, 2009, as further amended on June 4, 2015, and further amended on February 21, 2017, which prior Trust Agreements are hereby revoked by the execution of this Fourth Amended Trust Agreement.

By acceptance of this instrument, the Trustees agree to continue to hold the Trust Estate as a trust fund, invest and reinvest the same, collect the income thereof and, after deducting all expenses incident to the management of the Trust Estate, make payments and distributions as hereinafter provided.

All reference herein to Trustee shall, where appropriate, be construed to include the singular as well as the plural.

The trust created by this Fourth Amended Trust Agreement shall be known as the "Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust Dated January 14, 2020".

The Trustors have four children, Brenda A. Hartmann, Katherine A. Watson, Gerard W. Watson and Patricia A. Halvorson, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

#### ARTICLE TWO Distributions While Both Trustors Are Living

During the joint lifetime of the Trustors, the Trustees shall hold, administer and distribute the Trust Estate in the following manner:

2024-02-13 13:56 MST Brenda Hartmann

+14067881143

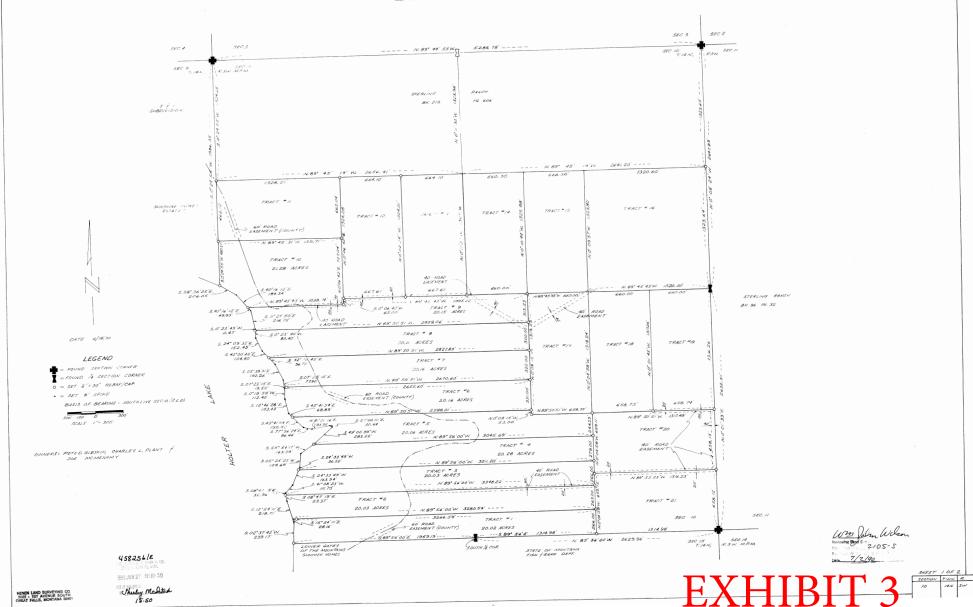
Trustors on the purchase. If this home is still held by the Trust at the death of the last Trustor to die, then the Trustee shall distribute to **Patricia A. Halvorson** the said home (land, lot and improvements) as part of her share of the trust property. Any debt then due and owing by **Patricia A. Halvorson**, or her husband, at the death of both Trustors shall be forgiven, released and discharged as an obligation owing to the Trust Estate. Any other distributions of trust property to which **Patricia A. Halvorson** is otherwise provided in this Agreement shall be reduced by the total sum of \$200,000.00, as provided in Section 6.1.5, but in no event shall Patricia's share of the remainder of the Trust Estate be reduced any further that said sum.

- 6.1.3 The Trustee shall distribute to Brenda A. Hartman, Gerard R. Watson and Patricia A. Halvorson, in equal shares, any and all mineral rights, minerals and any royalty interests in the State of Texas held by Trustors at the time of the last of them to die, together with any and all land and real property held or owned by Trustors at the time of the last of them to die.
- 6.1.4 The Trustee shall distribute to Gerard R. Watson, Patricia A. Halvorson and Brenda A. Hartmann, in equal shares, the lots at Holter Lake, Lewis & Clark County, Montana. Any and all tools, machinery and equipment at the Holter Lake lots shall be considered the property of Gerard R. Watson, Patricia A. Halvorson and Brenda A. Hartmann for use in the development or improvements to the said lots.
- 6.1.5 The Trustee shall distribute to Brenda A. Hartmann, Patricia A. Halvorson and Gerard R. Watson, in equal shares, any and all other assets remaining in the Trust Estate after the above referenced distributions are made as provided above. It is Trustors' intent that each of said persons shall receive an equal distribution of the remaining trust estate. For purposes of this provision, the value of the house to be distributed Patricia A. Halvorson in the amount of \$200,000.00 shall be deducted from her share of the residue of the trust property.
- 6.1.6 In the event that Brenda A. Hartmann, Gerard W. Watson or Patricia A. Halvorson shall predecease both Trustors with surviving issue, then the surviving issue of such predeceased child shall take the deceased parent's share, by right of representation, of their respective distribution as set forth in this Article.

# ARTICLE SEVEN Trustees Succession

If either William O. Watson, Jr. or Marilyn T. Watson shall resign, refuse or be unable to act as Co-Trustees, then the other shall become and remain sole Successor Trustee. If both William O. Watson, Jr. and Marilyn T. Watson shall die, resign, refuse, be unable to act as Co-Trustees, then Brenda A. Hartmann shall become the sole Successor Trustee.

# CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY TRACTS IN SECTION 10, T.14N., R.3W. M.PM. LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA.



#### CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY. TRACTS IN SECTION IO, T. 14 N., R.3W.M.P.M. LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA.

The purpose of this survey is to subdivide a portion of Section 10, 7.1h N, N.3 V. N.P.M., Lexis and Clark County, Montans, into aliquet 20 serve tracts, and also to determine were and description of other tracts in Section 10 that exceed 20.0 serves; therefore, this survey is example from the Subdivision and Flatting Act, and the Sanitation in Subdivision Law, said tracts are as shown on the accommanying map and described as follows:

A tract of land in the 5% of Section 10, 7.1k N.,W.3 V. M.F.N. Lexis and Clark County, Montans, described as follows: Deginning at the Serial 2 corner of said Section: INTENDING THEMES 5.59%968; 131k,98 feet along the south line of said 5ee, 10; themes N.0004/5FW. 26%.0 feet; thence N.89956W. 250.2 feet to the seat above line of said 5ee, 10, the last two courses being on said shore line; themes 5.59%11FW. 250.367%1FWW. 250.25%11FW. 250.25%11F

A tract of land in the 54 of Section 10, 7.11 k m, 2, W. M.P.M. Levis and Clark County, Mentage, Secribed as follows: Generating at the South 2 corner of said Section 10; takens 8.499941; 131(1.6 feet; takens 8.49041974, 250.0 feet; takens 8.490419

A tract of land in the 5<sup>1</sup> of Section 10, 7.1h W., R., W. M.P.M. Lawis and "lark County, Mentans, described as follows: Commencing at the South <sup>2</sup> corner of said Section 10; thesee 5.899561, 311,09 feet; themee M.OOMLSTW. 795.0 feet to the true point of beginning: LTTRENDO REPORT 10,000 1500, 795.0 feet to the said barrel line of Rollow Lakey themes 5.9595541779, 151,9 feet; themes 5.9595790, 151,09 feet; themes 5.2995790, 151,09 feet; themes 5.2995790, 151,09 feet; themes 5.099590, 2011,9 feet to the point of Reginning and containing sames of 2020 screen.

a tract of land in the 5% of Sewtien 10, 7.11 N., R., W. N. P.W. Levis and Clark Genety, Mentane, described as follows: Consencing at the Sewth & corner of said Section 10; themse 5,09604; 1.312,05 feet; themse 5,000,0504, 1074,0 feet to the true point of beginning LITERION TREAT at 10.00 feet to the contract of the

A tract of land in the 8% of Section 10, 7.1k N.P.N. N.P.N. Lexis and Clark Scutty, Montana, described as follows: Commencing at the Seath & corner of said Section 10; there \$.5000561, 1314.05 feet; thence \$.00001.500, 1316.25 feet; thence \$.50001.500, 50001.500, 1316.25 feet) thence \$.50001.500, 500.75 feet to the point of beginnings: EXTENDING INSTERS \$.50001.500, 1316.25 feet) thence \$.50001.500, 2670.7 feet to the Section 10.0001.500, 1316.25 feet; thence \$.50001.500, 1316.

A tract of lend in the 05 of Section 10, 7.1h %, 8.3 V. M.P.M. Lowis and Clark County, Montana, described as follows: Commencing at the South \$\frac{1}{2}\$ of said Section 10; thence 5.09505 f2 1312, 92 feet; thence 8.0001579 v. 55.75 feet; thence M.0001579 v. 55.75 feet; thence M.0001579 v. 55.15 feet) the trace point of beginning: EXTENDING TEXTES X.0001579 via, 127.05 feet thence 8.10001579 v. 307.16 feet to trace 5.0001579 v. 307.16 feet to the point of beginning the SECTION SECTION (T.) feet, the last three courses being of said east notes tile; thence 8.701579 (T.) f2.05 feet to the point of beginning the centralizing an eras of 20.16 serve.

A tract of land in the 05 of Section 10, 7.15 K.P.S. W. N.F.M. Lawis and Clark County, Montana, described as follows: Commencing at the Seuth 2 corner of said Section 10; there s.5005547, 1316.75 feet; themee M.5005547, 563.75 feet; there S.5005547, 563.75 feet; there S.7005547, 1306.75 feet; the Country S.7005547, 1306.75 feet; the S.7005547, 1306.75 feet; the Country S.7005547, 1306.75 feet; the S.700

#### TRACT No. 9

A tract of land in the S§ of Section 10, 7.1h, N., N., W. N.F.M. Lawis and Clark County, Montano, described as follows: Commencing at the Secth †
Corner of said Section 10, theses \$4,075001, 1301.05 feet; themes \$4,07001, 1301.07 feet) the point of County 1301.07 feet) the second second

#### TRACT No. 30

A tract of lond in the Wy of Section 10, T.1L N., P.3 V. M.F.N. Lewis and Clark County, Montans, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 10; themes 8,00241557W, 1965,55 feet to the true point of beginning: EXEMPLING TRAKES 9,0024557W, 180,37 feet along the west lines of said Section 10 to the east shore line of follows: 6,0050 feet yo., 00,05 feet; themes 8,0005127W, 183,M, feet, the last two courses being on said east shore line; themes 8,0959127W, 197, 100,70 feet; themos M.897M513WW, 1331.72 feet to the point of beginning and containing an area of 21,250 acres.



W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less. Nesvanwa of Section 10, T.1

WiSEINW; of Section 10, T.14 W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.

ESSENNO of Section 10, T.1k N., R. 3 W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.

WiswikEr of Section 10, T.lb N.,R.? W. M.P.M. Lowis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.

TRACT No. 15

ENGNAME? of Section 10, T.11 N.,R.3 W. M.F.M. lewis and Clark County, Montans, containing an area of 20.0 acres, mere or less.

SERNET of Section 10, 7.14 N., P.3 W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montane, containing an area of 40.0 acres, more or less.

TRACT NO. 17
EpinNetSt of Scotion 10 mill N.R.3 W. H.P.M. Levis and Clark County, Montana, containing an ar-a of 20.0 acres, mere or less.

WMMENSEY of Section 10, 7.1b N., R.3 W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more of less.

ENVERSE of Section 10, T.lk N.,R.3 W. M.P.M. Lewis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.

TRACT No. 20

NASTANT OF Section 10, 7.14 N., R.3 W. M.P.M. Lowis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.

SARRAGE of Section 10. T.lh N. R.3.W. N.P.M. Levis and Clark County, Montana, containing an area of 20.0 acres, more or less.



#### CERTIFICATE OF STRUCTOR.

I, Donald Menen, Registered Land Surveyor, Montana License No. 2066 S., do hereby certify that I made the survey as shown on the accompanying map, and that said survey conforms to present Montana Codes.

CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY TREASURER.

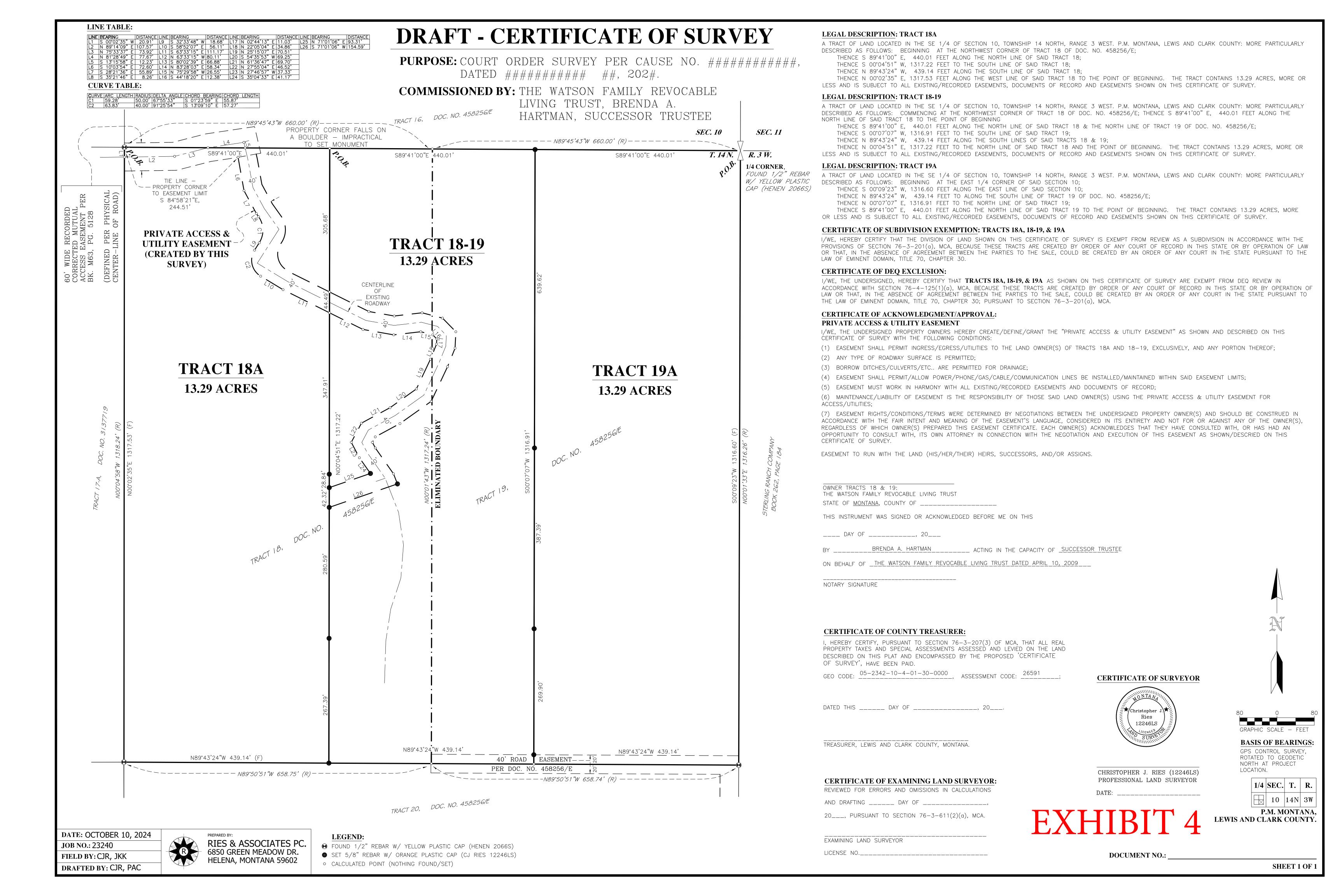
1. Maching A. Mource. County Treasurer of Levis and Clark County, Mantana, do heavy certify that I have assailed the records covering the area landed in the accompanying map, and I that that no real property taxes sesses on refer no match had to be subdivided are deliberated and of the county of

County Treasurer, Levie and Clark County, Su

HENER 20668

2105-5 7/2/90

HENEN LAND SURVEYING CO. 2822 - 18T AVENUE SOUTH GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 55401



## FILED

03/21/2025 *Lisa Kallio* CLERK

Lewis & Clark County District Court
STATE OF MONTANA

By: Connie Anderson Herb DV-25-2024-0000655-PA Menahan, Mike

12.00

G. Andrew Adamek BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C. 800 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 101

P.O. Box 1697
Helena, MT 596

Helena, MT 59624 Telephone: (406) 443-6820

4 Fax: (406) 443-6883 andy@bkbh.com

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Attorney for Plaintiff

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## MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

BRENDA HARTMANN, as Successor Trustee of the Fourth Amended Watson Family

Revocable Living Trust,

Plaintiff, v.

13 ||

PATRICIA HALVORSON and GERARD WATSON.

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Defendant.

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Case No. DV-25-2024-0000655-PA

# STIPULATION FOR PARTITION IN KIND

The parties in the above-captioned action, along with their respective counsel, hereby agree and stipulate, and jointly move for the court to approve and issue an order for partition in kind of the Property at issue in this cause.

#### **Background on Property and Trust Distribution**

1. This partition concerns the Property described as:

Tract 18 being the W1/2NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, P.M.M., Lewis and Clark County, Montana, as shown on Certificate of Survey filed under Document Number 458256-E.

Together with their appurtenances.

And

Tract 19 being the E1/2NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, P.M.M., Lewis and Clark County, Montana, as shown on Certificate of Survey filed under Document Number 458256-E.

Together with their appurtenances.

(Deed references, Book M47, Page 2214; Book M47, Page 2213, respectively) All hereinafter "Property".

- 2. The Property is a Trust Asset held by the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust (the "Trust") dated January 14, 2020.
- 3. The Trust was initially created by William O. Watson, Jr. (William) and Marilyn T. Watson (Marilyn), as original Trustors and Trustees, and husband and wife, known then as the Watson Family Revocable Living Trust, originally executed on April 10, 2009.
- 4. William died on October 29, 2022 and Marilyn died on December 3, 2020. Per the Trust at Art. Six, Brenda Hartmann, as sole Successor Trustee and Plaintiff herein, is authorized to distribute part of the residue of the Trust assets, including the Property as follows:
  - 6.1.4 The Trustee shall distribute to Gerard R. Watson, Patricia A. Halvorson, and Brenda A. Hartmann, in equal shares, the lots at Holter Lake, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. Any and all tools, machinery, and equipment at the Holter Lake lots shall be considered the property of Gerard R. Watson, Patricia A. Halvorson, and Brenda A. Hartmann for use in the development or improvement to the said lots.
- 5. Thus, Brenda Hartmann, Patricia Halvorson and Gerard Watson are to receive an equal share distribution of the real Property under the Trust.
- 6. The parties agree that the correct spelling for Defendant Gerard Watson's full legal name is Gerard William Watson, not Gerard R. Watson as is misstated in the Trust Agreement at Article 6.1.4.

#### In Kind Partition Factors Considerations

- 7. The Property is Heir's Property pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-402(5). See Doc. No. 11.
- 8. No party has requested partition by cotenant purchase or fair market sale in this cause, and all desire physical, in kind partition.
- 9. The parties have agreed upon and the Court has already determined the Fair Market Value of the Property. See Doc. No. 11.

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- 10 11 12 13 14 15 20 21 22
- 10. An equal, one-third share of the Property can be conveyed and physically divided among Brenda Hartmann, Patricia Halvorson and Gerard Watson by in kind partition, consistent with the Trust Agreement.
- 11. There are no practical impediments preventing in kind partition of the Property:
  - The Property is free of lien holders of record or creditors and no other persons are known to claim any interest in the Property.
  - b. Access easements and established roads exist providing ingress and egress to Tracts 18 and 19 comprising the Property, as depicted on the Certificate of Survey for Lower Gates of the Mountain Summer Homes, recorded at Document No. 458256-E, Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County.
  - c. Said access easements also currently provide ingress and egress to the Property, across and burdening Tract 20, already owned by Defendant Gerard Watson and Britta Watson.
  - d. Gerard Watson and Britta Watson have granted a widening for the Tract 20 Easement as depicted in Document No. 3428422, filed with the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. This widened easement provides additional access to the Property.
  - The Protective Covenants applicable to the Property filed at Document No. 459473, filed with the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County, Montana ("Protective Covenants") do not preclude in-kind partition of the Property into three separate parcels.
  - The parties have agreed for a new Private Access & Utility Easement to be created by filing of the Certificate of Survey providing for such easements as depicted across new Tract 18 A and Tract 18-19.
- 12. The factors set forth in Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-413, support physical, partition in kind to the parties without resulting in great prejudice to the parties, as follows:

- a. The Property can practicably be divided into three equal sized 13.29 approx. acre tracts, as it is sufficiently large in combined acreage to do so.
- b. In kind partition of the Property would at least maintain the fair market value of the parcels or increase them in the aggregate, when taking into account the conditions under which a court ordered sale of the Property would occur.
- c. The parties are to be distributed a one-third, equal interest in the Property and have held this cotenant interest for the same duration, through the Trust. The Property has been held by the Watson family for two generations, and will remain in Watson family member successor ownership upon partition.
- d. No party presently lives on the Property, and all have a unique and meaningful sentimental attachment to the Property, which will be preserved by their sole ownership of their new tract.
- e. No permanent structures or dwellings exist on the Property and all current activity on the Property is of a lawful manner. Future use of the new tracts will be residential in nature as dictated by the Protective Covenants.
- f. The Property has been maintained by the Trust, including primarily the payment of property taxes. No party has contributed a greater pro-rata share of expenses associated with maintenance or upkeep of the Property.
- g. Other relevant supporting factors include: the existence of legal, recorded easements for access to the Property; the existence of some internal roads on the Property; additional access and utility easements serving the new tracts will be established as depicted in the Certificate of Survey for the new tracts with new internal road installation for the benefit of: 1) new Tract 18A for access from a new

road cut across it, and an approximate 40-foot wide access and utility easement extending over Tract 18-19 along the new roadbed to the survey point 2049 then westerly to a point approximately 50 feet south of survey point 3035, allowing Gerard Watson as the owner of new Tract 18A to extend a spur road from the easement path across the lower portion of Tract 18A to connect to Tract 20, along with any utilities he may wish to install within this new easement, all at his cost, and 2) new Tract 18-19 for an access road and utility easement across Tract 18A to Tract 18 -19, all at Patricia Halvorson's cost; and the access easement burdening Tract 20 can be re-established and improved to provide necessary access and utility service to new Tract 19A and new Tract 18-19.

13. The totality of all relevant statutory factors for Heirs Property supports physical partition in kind, consistent with the Certificate of Survey attached to this Stipulation as Exhibit 1 (same as Exhibit 4 attached to the Complaint).

# Fees and Costs of Litigation and Partition

- 14. The Trust in its role as Plaintiff has incurred legal fees and litigation costs and may seek recovery of its legal fees and costs related to this litigation, incurred for the common benefit of the parties, in proportion to Plaintiff's respective interest in the Property, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-218, as supplemented by Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-403. Defendants may do the same. However, the parties agree Plaintiff Trust will waive recovery of these fees and costs from each party, provided that they do the same, and do not later contest the terms of this Stipulation.
- 15. Defendants will pay for their own attorney's fees and costs incurred in this partition action.
- 16. The Trust has incurred survey costs to generate the Certificate of Survey and to facilitate this in kind partition effort. The parties agree Plaintiff Trust will pay for such costs without

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seeking reimbursement from the parties, provided that they do not later contest the terms of this Stipulation.

- 17. Plaintiff Trust will pay for the drafting and recording of subsequent deeds and realty transfer certificates, all closing fees and title insurance, if necessary, to convey the respective interests in the newly created tracts as depicted in Exhibit 1, to Brenda Hartmann, Patricia Halvorson and Gerard Watson.
- 18. The Trust will pay any property taxes due and owing on the Property to facilitate final conveyance of the respective interests in the newly created tracts as depicted in Exhibit 1. to Brenda Hartmann, Patricia Halvorson and Gerard Watson.
- 19. The Parties further agree and Stipulate for the Court to grant physical, partition in kind of the Property as depicted in Exhibit 1, with designated ownership of new Tract 18A to be conveyed to Gerard Watson, new Tract 18-19 to be conveyed to Patricia Halvorson, and new Tract 19A to be conveyed to Brenda Hartmann, consistent with the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order on Partition In Kind submitted in conjunction with this Stipulation.
- 20. This Stipulation may be signed in counterparts and is effective when combined as a whole and adopted by order of the court.

Wherefore, this Stipulation for Partition In Kind to be filed in Case No. DV-25-2024-0000655-PA, Montana First Judicial District, Lewis and Clark County, is agreed to by:

Brenda Hartmann, Individually and as Successor Trustee

Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust, Plaintiff

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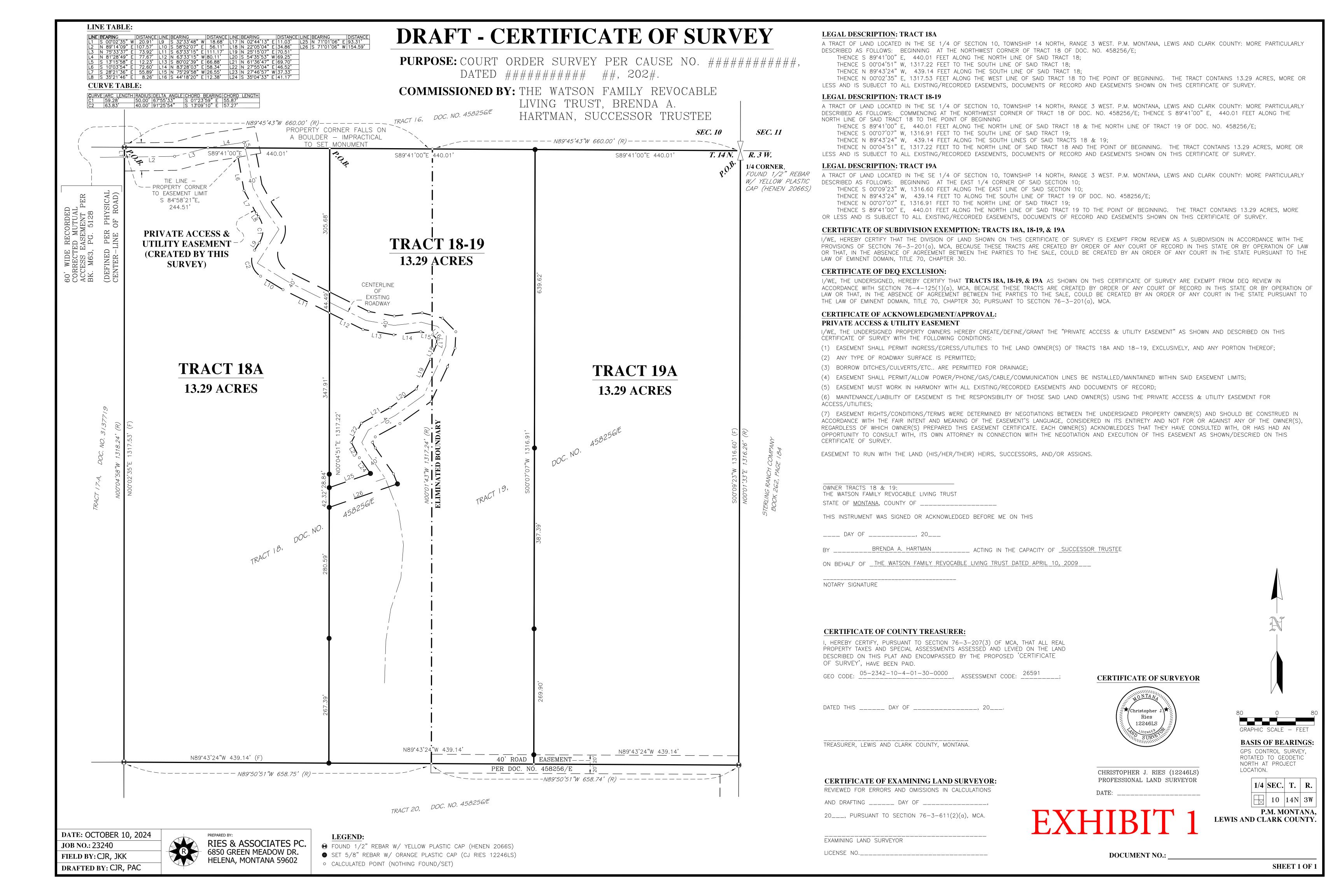
G. Andrew Adamek

Attorney for Plaintiff

March 21, 2005

1		
2	Patricia Halverson 3/12/2025	
3	Patricia Halvorson, Defendant DATED	
4		
5	Gerard Watson, Defendant DATED	
6	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
7		
8	I hereby certify that on the day of March, 2025 a true copy of the foregoing was mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:	
9		
10	Patricia Halvorson 1480 Country Home Lane	
11	Great Falls, MT 59405	
12	Gerard Watson 728 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	
13	Great Falls, MT 59404	
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16	BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.	
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3	Patricia Halvorson, Defendant DATED
4	Denaul Watson 3-19-2025
5	Gerard Watson, Defendant DATED
6	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
7 8	I hereby certify that on the 19 day of March, 2025 a true copy of the foregoing was mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:
9	
10	Patricia Halvorson 1480 Country Home Lane
11	Great Falls, MT 59405
12	Gerard Watson 728 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
13	Great Falls, MT 59404
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16	BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.
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3	Patricia Halvorson, Defendant DATED	
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5	Gerard Watson, Defendant DATED	
6	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
7	2.114	
8	I hereby certify that on the Aldday of March, 2025 a true copy of the foregoing was mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:	
9		
10	Patricia Halvorson 1480 Country Home Lane Great Falls, MT 59405	
11		
12	Gerard Watson 728 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	
13	Great Falls, MT 59404	
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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, G. Andy Adamek, hereby certify that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing Notice - Stipulation to the following on 03-21-2025:

Patricia Halvorson (Defendant) Service Method: First Class Mail

Gerard Watson (Defendant) Service Method: First Class Mail

Electronically Signed By: G. Andy Adamek

Dated: 03-21-2025

The Court finds and agrees:

- 1. The Property is located in Lewis and Clark County, Montana.
- 2. The Property is presently configured as Tracts 18 and 19, as a Trust Asset of the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Living Trust (the "Trust") dated January 14, 2020,

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with each related party intended to receive an equal one-third share from Plaintiff Trust, now known as the Fourth Amended Watson Family Revocable Trust dated January 14, 2020.

- 3. The Property is Heirs Property as defined under Montana statute.
- 4. The parties have agreed upon, and the Court has already determined the Fair Market Value of the Property.
- 5. The factors set forth in Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-413, as addressed in the Stipulation at Paragraph 12 support physical, partition in kind to the parties, and no party has requested partition by sale to a cotenant or fair market sale.
- 6. There are no practical impediments preventing in kind partition.
- 7. A Certificate of Survey has been prepared by the parties to depict the agreed in kind partition, showing the new Tract 18A, Tract 18 19 and Tract 19 A, along with existing and new access and utility easements, set forth and attached to the Stipulation at Exhibit 1.
- 8. The parties have agreed for a new Private Access & Utility Agreement to be created by filing of the Certificate of Survey, providing for such easements as depicted across new Tract 18A and Tract 18-19.
- 9. The Stipulation at Paragraphs 14 18 equitably addresses the manner of payment of legal fees and litigation costs and partition related costs among the parties.
- 10. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, the parties have agreed that ownership of new Tract 18A is to be conveyed by the Trust to Gerard Watson, new Tract 18-19 is to be conveyed to Patricia Halvorson, and new Tract 19A is to be conveyed to Brenda Hartmann.

### **Conclusions of Law**

11. Plaintiff's Complaint for Partition properly invokes the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act at Mont. Code Ann. §§70-29-401, *et seq.*, and this Court has authority to partition the Property and divide it into new Tract 18A, Tract 18-19 and Tract 19A.

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- 12. As an agreement in a record by all parties as cotenants of equal one-third interest, the Stipulation shall determine the terms of partitioning of the Property. *See* Mont. Code Ann. §70-29-403(2).
- 13. The Trust as a party is bound by the Stipulation it has entered into and to take such actions to convey ownership of the Property.

### **Order Granting Partition In Kind**

Based on the foregoing IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as follows:

- a. The Stipulation is hereby adopted by the Court and incorporated into the Findings of Fact of this Order.
- b. The Motion of the Parties contained in the Stipulation for partition in kind of the Property is granted, with designated ownership of new Tract 18A to be conveyed to Gerard Watson, new Tract 18-19 to be conveyed to Patricia Halvorson, and new Tract 19A to be conveyed to Brenda Hartmann, in fee simple ownership.
- c. Plaintiff is directed to provide a certified copy of the Stipulation and this Order with a final Certificate of Survey consistent with Exhibit 1 to the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County for recording.
- d. Plaintiff is directed to execute deeds for conveyance of new Tract 18A, Tract 18-19 and new Tract 19A to the new owners along with appropriate realty transfer certificates, transferring the said tracts free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, and to record same with the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County.
- e. All contested issues and claims asserted by each party in this Heirs Property action are resolved on the merits.
- f. This Heirs Property partition action is dismissed with prejudice, with each party to pay attorney fees and costs and costs of partition, as provided for in the Stipulation.

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1	Dated this day of	, 2025.
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3		Honorable Mike Menahan District Court Judge
4		District Court unge
5	D. C. T. I	
6	cc: Patricia Halvorson Gerard Watson	
7	Andy Adamek	
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