



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*We're growing Montana's future.*

Dear Conservation Districts of Montana,

Your Area Representatives convened in person as the Board of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts June 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Helena for the Spring Board Meeting. This meeting is an important time to gather and conduct business outside of that which is discussed and budgeted for at the annual convention. In between these two face to face meetings, the board only meets via teleconference once a month for an hour. As you know, there is a lot of different business and issues that can come up over the course of the winter and spring.

One of the primary outcomes of the Spring Board Meeting was that the Association needs to develop ways to effectively conduct business outside of the board meetings alone. Discussion with Liz Moore, the Executive Director of the Montana Non-profit Association provided background as to the differences between non-profits and conservation districts. Board discussion resulted in appointing an ad-hoc committee to determine what committees, such as finance, governance, internal, etc. would best be able to support the needs of the association and the membership. We also had bylaw review by a lawyer specializing in non-profit law and he suggested a few changes to ensure both organizations are up to date with current practice and law. To move these changes forward in a way that includes board members and sets the stage to communicate and incorporate input from districts, an ad-hoc bylaws committee was also put together. These two committees will work over the next few months to identify the direction MACD will take in incorporating feedback from districts and better serving districts and the resource.

We are also excited to present annual reports and financials, including 990s, for both organizations. We will be sending these to each board chair via mail but have also put them up for everyone to access on our website: <http://macdnet.org/2017-spring-board-mtg/>

Conservation districts are doing important work across the state and we can stand strong and proud of the work we do best when we do so together as a democratically elected state association.

Thank you for taking the time to read the annual reports and what we have been doing to strengthen your work and conservation in Montana.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Wivholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jeff Wivholm  
President