



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

Board Meeting Minutes
Date: September 11, 2017

Attendance:

MACD Board Members:

Others in attendance:

Jeff Wivholm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elena Evans, MACD
Mark Suta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Martin, DNRC
William Bernard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Zeller, DNRC
Dean Rogge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Shows, NRCS
Tony Barone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justin Meissner, NRCS
Roddy Rost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Peterman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Breipohl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Steve Hedstrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Judi Knapp	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shirley Parrot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Don Youngbauer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jim Simpson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pete Woll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gary Giem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mike Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Daryl Stutterheim	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dwight Crawford	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Conference Call

Monday, September 11, 2017

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Call to order

Approve August minutes – *Bob Peterman motions to approve. Shirley Parrott seconds the motion. All in favor.*

Accept Financials –Mike Hansen motions to approve. Gary Giem seconds the motion. All in favor

Public Comment - None

Discussion

1) Committee Updates - Bylaws Committee – Once a few clarifications are made, the proposed MACD Bylaws will be ready for a member of the committee to present at each Area Meeting. **Committee on Committees** – The committee will meet tomorrow via conference call but has not made much progress since the initial meeting due to committee member time constrains. **Executive** – Vast majority of information has been covered on the full board calls. Elena is waiting on the Committee on Committees before pursuing too much work or setting expectations for the Dues Committee or the Standing Committees.

2) Partial Dues Payment Letters - Elena Evans went through the list of districts with partial or unpaid dues and whether or not communication with that district had indicated a letter would be arriving or not.

Green Mountain and Prairie Conservation District both indicated a letter would be forthcoming – Mike Hansen made a motion to provide an extension for partial dues letters from Green Mountain and Prairie Conservation Districts. Official letters will be forwarded to the board for approval when received. Gary Giem seconded the motion. All in favor.

There were six districts that did not pay any dues and although some of these districts sent letters, these districts did not request voting privileges. These districts are: Cascade, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Upper Mussellshell, Valley, and Yellowstone. Jim Simpson motioned that MACD should follow the bylaws and not accept partial dues payment from these districts resulting in no

voting rights. Willie Bernard seconded the motion. All in favor. If these districts pay full dues they would be in good standing. According to the Process Document, if these districts want to submit a letter prior to the convention for excusal for partial dues payment they may be able to vote if the letter is accepted by the MACD Board.

Flathead Partial Dues Letter – Following discussion about issues with mills and an increase from previous years in dues paid, Jim Simpson motioned to accept the letter and request for a variance and approve voting rights for Flathead CD. Mike Hansen seconded. All in favor (Pete Woll abstained).

Rosebud Partial Dues Letter – Discussion of generally accepted practices for depositing checks and Sage Grouse Initiative program background. The board also wanted Elena to compose a letter identifying some of the discussion points to be sent to Rosebud. Mike Hansen moved that we accept the Rosebud letter and approve voting rights for Rosebud CD. Steve Hedstrom seconded the motion. All in favor.

Madison Partial Dues Letter – Discussion covered steps MACD has made in previous years to increase transparency including monthly updates. Elena also outreached to staff to provide more information prior to their meeting but did not hear back. Mike Hansen motioned to deny voting rights for Madison as it currently stands. Gary Giem seconded the motion. All in favor.

Glacier Partial Dues Letter – Jim Simpson motioned to accept Glacier's letter requesting a variance. Willie Bernard seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) Support SRM Conference in Montana – *There was discussion of what this would entail and really this isn't even a close possibility yet at this point. Steve Hedstrom motioned to*

write a letter to support hosting the SRM conference in Montana. Gary Giem seconded. All in favor.

4) Waters of the United States Comments – *MACD commented on the original rule. Elena is continuing to track items we comment on. The Trump Administration is reviewing the rule again and will likely revert back to how it was previously administered. This comment was not driven by a resolution but rather by discussion at the Spring Board meeting in 2014 and subsequent conversation as a board. Elena will work on these comments and send them to the board. Those who wanted to discuss these could join us on the Executive meeting. The board agreed this was a good path forward.*

5) Comments on NRCS Reorganization – *An email from NACD expressed concern about the reorganization. Elena has not had time to discuss with either NACD or NRCS. As a result, this will be a topic on the next board call and Elena will track in the meantime.*

6) Area Updates and Area Meeting Questions – *The letters that were sent from people interested in being a director will be put on the ballot next to their name. Area 4 has one person nominated. Area 3 has three people nominated. All other areas have two people nominated. There will also be a line for write in candidates. We will also have a folder of all handouts for each district. The Dues Committee wanted to have a survey. This may also include thoughts on longevity pins as these are now about \$15/pin. The Committee on Committees may also want to use this survey to generate information for their work.*

7) Other

Call SWCDM Meeting to Order – 8:22AM

1)SWCDM Minutes – Roddy Rost moves to approve. Gary Giem seconds the motion. All in favor.

2)SWCDM Financials – Roddy Rost moves to approve. Shirley Parrott seconds the motion. All in favor.

3)Program Update (see August Update)

Partner Updates

1) NRCS update – Justin Meissner – NRCS has been working with FSA on EQUIP fire where 6 million dollars was requested. There would be an expedited signup. Secretary Perdue also put an announcement out about an effort to reorganize and streamline services. People who work with farmers and ranchers would be under one umbrella as a one stop shop for people all the way to DC. FSA and NRCS would do the same programs as before but would put them under one undersecretary. Lisa Coverdale has announced she will be retiring in October. In response to a question about hiring at the BPMC, Justin said he would pass on the request for information to Lisa and that hopefully the process is moving along.

2) DNRC update – Laurie Zeller – Vans will leave from the DNRC parking lot will leave at 2:30 on Sunday. DNRC has a series of cuts and the most recent cuts from the Governor's office is about \$240,000. The priority is to not hit against Administrative funds so these cuts will be across other programs/funding. DNRC has not made any FY2018 payments.