



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9th, 2018

Attendance:

MACD Board Members:

Mark Suta
 Jim Simpson
 Jeff Wivholm
 William Bernard
 Dean Rogge
 Tony Barone
 Roddy Rost
 Bob Peterman
 Bob Breipohl
 Steve Hedstrom
 Judi Knapp
 Shirley Parrot
 Don Youngbauer
 Pete Woll
 Gary Giem
 Mike Hansen
 Daryl Stutterheim

Others in attendance:

Steve Tyrell, Lower Musselshell CD and Committee Chair
 Elisha Dempsey, Teton CD and Committee Chair
 Ann McCauley, SWCDM/MACD
 Jerry Shows, NRCS
 Lori Ziehr, NRCS
 Jane Holzer, MSCA
 Laurie Zeller, DNRC
 Dave Martin, DNRC
 Tenlee Atchison, MACDEO

Conference Call

Monday, April 9th, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Suta at 7:34 a.m.

Public Comment. No public comment.

March 12 Minutes. Motion by Shirley Parrott to approve minutes; second by Don Youngbauer. All in favor; motion carried.

March 12 Financial Statements – Motion by Judi Knapp to approve; second by Don Youngbauer. All in favor; motion carried.

MACD 2018 Revised Budget. Motion by Jeff Wivholm to approve 2018 revised budget; second by Pete Woll. All in favor; motion carried.

Flathead CD request. Motion by Jim Simpson to accept Flathead Conservation District's request for full voting privileges for 2018 with partial payment of \$16,000; second by Dean Rogge. Discussion: Bob Peterman asked if the remainder of the payment is still due. Jeff Wivholm noted that Flathead Conservation District has had issues with growth within their district, and Jim Simpson also stated that Flathead Conservation District pays for travel for MACD activities. All in favor: motion carried. Pete Woll abstained from voting. A letter will be sent to Flathead Conservation District regarding the board's vote.

Job Announcement/Job Description for Executive Director position. Motion by Dean Rogge to approve job announcement; second by Judi Knapp. Discussion: Judi Knapp commented about Bridger Plant Materials Center being added to the overview section as part of Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana. Motion amended to include bullet item about this. All in favor; motion carried.

Discussion on Strategic Plan feedback. Bob Peterman distributed copies of the strategic plan to Wibaux Conservation Districts and supervisors particularly liked the section about better communication and relations with the districts. Dean Rogge received feedback about re-wording Mission Statement. Dean will be sending this to the MACD office for review and discussion. Laurie Zeller commented that feedback has been positive, but districts are now waiting to see how the plan will be implemented and getting committees set up. Jeff Wivholm asked about the upcoming work for the Committee on Committees guidance and roles and responsibilities. Dean Rogge noted that the Kansas association's (KACD's) strategic plan had roles and responsibilities well laid out and recommended adopting it for MACD. Elisha Dempsey volunteered to be on the Committee on Committees, and Mark will work with her on that moving forward.

Next steps for Strategic Plan. Steve Tyrell commented that defining what a committee is and the roles and responsibilities for the committee chair and members is needed prior to new committees being formed. Jeff Wivholm also commented on this being necessary prior to implementing the strategic plan through committee work. It is on the Spring Board Meeting agenda, to be held in Helena June 11-13th, for the board to work on prioritizing strategies and actions.

Partner Updates:

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA). Jane Holzer updated the board on recent MSCA activities. MSCA received the national NRCS 2018 award for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in Montana. The award is for \$1,310,000 to be spent over a five-year period. The award will be used for 1) MSCA ground water investigation, 2) funds for producers to implement saline reclamation recommendations using two EQIP practices, and 3) state NRCS technical assistance. MSCA and NRCS are working on the grant contracting process, and then an application and ranking criteria will be developed with projected use by October 2018.

NRCS Update: Lori Ziehr, Acting State Conservationist, gave an update on the State Conservationist position. The job announcement is now closed and the top five candidates have been approved. USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue will be reviewing and selecting every state conservationist. A selection should be made soon and the new State Conservationist should be on board within six weeks.

DNRC Update: Laurie Zeller talked about the numerous projects conservation districts are undertaking around the state. Laurie also discussed the 310 changes being proposed and that district feedback is requested. Laurie commented that area meeting host districts are seeking assistance on putting on this coming year's area meetings to make them worthwhile for supervisors to attend. In the past, some host districts have struggled with this.

Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council (YRCDC). Don Youngbauer provided an update on recent YRCDC activities. These included upcoming meetings over the next few months that will focus on irrigation water management and improvements and invasive weeds, specifically Russian olive. The council is also focusing on alternative financial opportunities for the council moving forward.

Area Updates:

Area 1: Dean Rogge and Willie Bernard attended the Valley County Conservation District in March. They both thought the meeting went well. The district is planning on sending a letter to the MACD office and Area 1 Directors.

Elisha Dempsey asked about communication and who to contact regarding invasive species. There are a lot of things going with AIS, for example. A number of options were provided, including Dan Rostad with the YRCDC, Montana Invasive Species Council,

and Tenlee Atchison commented that Area 4 administrators are working on issues and she will make sure to pass this info on.

Call to Adjourn. Motion by Dean Rogge to adjourn, second by Don Youngbauer.
Meeting adjourned.