



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Approved 8/27/18

Date: July 23, 2018

Attendance:

MACD Board Members:

Others in attendance:

Mark Suta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ann McCauley, MACD/SWCDM
Jim Simpson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan McGowan, Incoming MACD ED
Gary Giem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jeff Wivholm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Steve Hedstrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pete Woll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Roddy Rost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tony Barone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
William Bernard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Breipohl	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dwight Crawford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mike Hansen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Judi Knapp	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shirley Parrot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Peterman	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dean Rogge	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daryl Stutterheim	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Don Youngbauer	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Meeting called to order by President Mark Suta at 7:34 a.m.

Public Comment – None

Approve June 11 Executive Committee Minutes – Jeff Wivholm motioned to approve the minutes; Gary Giem seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion

- 1) MACD 2018 Budget and anticipated revisions to approved budget: Ann discussed the Office Management Services and Board Travel line items that have or are expected to exceed what was budgeted. The Office Management Services agreement and budget line item for 2018 was budgeted for \$6,000. This agreement was not intended for interim duties. Gary Giem commented that interim

duties should be recorded from the personnel costs side of MACD. Ann, Dan, and staff will look into the appropriate options for MACD to pay SWCDM for interim ED duties for defined interim period.

The board travel budget is also over-budget for the year so far based on unanticipated expenses, including board participation at NACD national convention, strategic planning, hiring committee, and NACD Northern Plains meeting.

Jim Simpson motioned to recommend to the full MACD Board that the board approve the current YTD profit and loss and budget, and monitor total expenditures to not exceed what was initially budgeted. Gary Giem seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2) Selection of SWCDM Board of Directors: The following MACD directors and at-large supervisors have expressed interest in being on the SWCDM Board: Jim Simpson (current MACD Vice-President), Jeff Wivholm (MACD Director), Mike Hansen (MACD Director), Roddy Rost (MACD Director), Gene Evans (Dawson CD supervisor), John Anderson (Ruby Valley CD supervisor), and Roger Hybner (Carbon County CD supervisor). Steve Hedstrom motions to recommend the identified seven nominees to the full MACD Board for nomination to the SWCDM Board of Directors on the August 13 board call. Jim Simpson seconded. Jeff Wivholm abstained because he is a nominee. All in favor, motion carried.

3) Area meetings discussion, director openings, and resolution process. Discussion about upcoming area meetings and open director positions. Ann McCauley also asked about the need to clarify the resolution process as there appears to be confusion regarding this among districts and DNRC staff based on conversation with Laurie following last board call. Jeff Wivholm will reach out to committee chairs about resolution process and how those will work at Convention.

4) Convention L&E Fundraising Options: Discussion of how board would like to do the L&E fundraising activities at this year's convention, such as raffle and auction. General agreement that members liked how last year went with the raffle and fewer live auction items. Jim Simpson motioned to recommend to full board to use 2017's fundraising activities (silent auction and raffle with small live auction) at this year's convention. Seconded by Pete Woll. All in favor, motion carried.

5) Director's Report – Ann McCauley

- Helena office issues – Ann discussed the Helena office's old sewer line issues that came to light with the City's recent stormwater project and a need to start building a long-term maintenance fund for the Helena office building.
- Policy Issues – Ann sent out a number of emails about current policy issues to the board and gave a brief update on the following policy issues:

- AIS funding: AIS funding options for the 2020/21 biennium is currently being discussed by the Environmental Quality Council. The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council is tracking this and public comment is being received through the September and the next EQC meeting.
- There are a number of proposed ESA revisions that were recently posted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Public comment regarding proposed changes will be opening this week and be open until September 24th.
- Farm Bill: NACD is tracking Farm Bill committees at the national level and is providing updates to the state associations as things move along. If Montana has specific concerns or issues with Farm Bill, we should be in touch with NACD.

- Spring Board follow up – Ann reported that there were a lot of actions that came out of the spring board meeting and staff has largely wrapped up those actions. This includes the Resolutions Library update on the MACD webpage (kudos to Kate), strategic plan/action plan draft, etc.

- ED Transition and Key Partners/Meetings to set up – Ann discussed tentative plan for Dan’s first couple weeks in the office and setting up key partner, board, and staff connections. Ann has set up a meeting with Tom Watson, NRCS State Conservationist, for August 23rd in Bozeman. Mark Suta discussed having the executive committee come to Helena to meet with Dan and do a ‘download,’ but that there are also a number of opportunities coming up to meet and network with districts and partners. Ann also discussed pivoting her priorities back to programs on the SWCDM side and gave a brief summary of upcoming programmatic items going on this fall.

6) Other:

Mark Suta reported that he and incoming ED, Dan McGowan, met informally in Helena a couple weeks ago and discussed a number of things, including committees and convention timing.

Mark Suta discussed Senator JP Pomnichowski’s recent email request to the MACD office about district mill levies and operating budgets (annual income and expenses). Ann initially replied to her that we can provide her with the information we receive from the Department of Revenue regarding each districts mill funds, but that we do request or have districts operating budgets in our office. Ann will follow up with an email to the Senator and cc MACD leadership on it with the Department of Revenue spreadsheet and some additional notes about how to interpret that information. Per Jim Simpson’s suggestion, Ann will also request her intent in requesting this information. Jeff Wivholm noted that MACD met with Senator Pomnichowski a couple years back and she was amenable to working with districts. Mark Suta suggested setting up a meeting with her in Bozeman, if possible.

Jeff Wivholm motioned to adjourn meeting; Pete Woll seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.