



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*We're growing Montana's future.*

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2017

### Attendance:

MACD Board Members:

Others in attendance:

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

### Meeting Called to order at 7:35 am

Quorum not met initially. Moved into Public Comment and first item of discussion on agenda.

### Public Comment – none

### Discussion

## **1) Committee Updates - Bylaws Committee, Committee on Committees, and Executive**

Committee on Committees: Mark Suta provided a summary of the upcoming *Committee on Committees* meeting planned for July 12 in Malta. Committee members are Mark, Pete, Willie, Dean, and Pat Anderson.

Bylaw Committee: Steve Hedstrom provided a summary of recent *Bylaw Committee* activities. Committee board members are Steve, Jim, and Dwight. A charter for the committee has been drafted. Members are awaiting a draft of current bylaws with nonprofit attorney's incorporated edits to meet MCA standards. Steve, Jim, and Dwight will be meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Helena. A follow up meeting with the nonprofit attorney in Missoula is tentatively planned for week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Steve asked that if anyone has suggestions for bylaws changes to send them on now as this is the time to do it.

Additional board members called in at 7:40. Quorum met.

**Spring Board Meeting Minutes** - Mike Hansen motions to approve June 12 and June 14 Spring Board Meeting Minutes, Shirley Parrott seconds motion. Motion passes.

**Financial Statement**- Jim Simpson moves to approve the June 2017 financial statements, Steve Hedstrom seconds motion. Motion passes.

## **2) Area and Convention Update**

Area Meetings: Area directors were reminded to follow up with area meeting host districts and share the process document that was approved at the Spring Board Meeting with districts in their areas.

Convention: An alternative option for the auction was brought up, such as a raffle. No further discussion or decision was made on this.

Ann spoke of showing the NRCS film on Hugh Hammond Bennett, and inviting leadership from national NRCS office. She also put forth a potential theme: *Back to Our Roots: Soil and Water Conservation in Montana*.

Steve suggested three NACD leadership people to invite to Convention (President Brent Van Dyke, First Vice President Tim Palmer, and Jeff, Western Issues Specialist). We can work through Laura Demmel to do this.

## **3) Area Outreach**

**Area 1:** Jeff and Dean provided information on a couple field tours that recently occurred in Area 1 that were well attended. Dean also reached out to district supervisors in his area. Jeff also spoke with Mary Hendrix in Gallatin about convention and Tenlee Atchison in Great Falls about the upcoming Summit event.

**Area 6:** Gary and/or Mike plan to attend an upcoming meeting with Lewis and Clark CD this month or next.

**Area 2:** Bob Peterman reported that on June 22, Wibaux CD teamed up with a district in North Dakota and had Greg Judy do a soil and range health tour and had 109 people sign up. It was a very successful event. Bob also suggested that Ryan Zinke be invited to speak at Convention.

**4) Western Landowner's Alliance Productive & Healthy West Federal Policy sign-on opportunity (informational flyer attached) - Action Item**

The board discussed this request to sign-on to WLA's federal policy practices. Although there was general support for what they are appearing to do for private working lands, there were concerns about what this organization is about, who they represent, the large landscape they are attempting to represent, and the example of sustainable economies they had on their website (bison photo). Discussion tabled.

**5) 2018 Northern Plains Regional Meeting in Montana update - Steve Hedstrom, NACD representative.** Steve provided a brief background of upcoming meeting and locations being considered. No decisions have been made for yet for location, but staff and Laura Demmel have reached out to a number of different venues for availability and pricing.

**6) Update on recent River Rendezvous event to St. Mary's Diversion - Mark Suta, other board members in attendance.** Mark provided summary of the June 27 River Rendezvous tour of the St. Mary's diversion in Montana and Canada, and where things are at currently with the U.S. and Canada portions. Dean would like to see MACD stay involved as it is a very big issue for Montana and the Highline.

**Partner Reports**

- SWCDM - Ann McCauley provided an update on recent SWCDM activities: SWCDM is currently hiring for a new SGI range conservationist in Ekalaka; 5 applications were received and we hope to have someone on by late July/early August. Laurie Zeller was able to obligate additional NRCS funds to the Montana Rangelands Partnership to support salary and travel through Sept. 30. This agreement is being currently being routed through Judith Basin CD and DNRC. Ann also noted that the Helena office is getting quite hot in the afternoon (high 80s) and that we are doing our best to keep it cool, but staff may seek alternative work spaces on some 100+ afternoons later this week. We will forward the phone line if we do this.
- NRCS – Jerry Shows provided an update from NRCS. Pollinator workshop in Bozeman July 10-11. STAC meeting in Great Falls on July 19. Almost all EQIP contracts have been obligated for 2017. Still working with national office on upcoming budgets and hiring issues.
- DNRC – Laurie Zeller provided an update from DNRC. Laurie is working with McCone CD to help provided financial assistance to districts for soil health projects. Laurie also met with the Coal Bed Methane committee last week on upcoming plans for CBM. DNRC is also working with YRCDC on their plans for next year or two.
- MSCA – Jane Holzer provided an update from Montana Salinity Control Association. Jane has been invited to speak at the Williston Research Tour on Thursday on a field trial that MSCA has assisted

with. Jane gave a summary of the two day soil health tour in Browning in June. Dr. Dave Ward from Ward Labs was in attendance. Good attendance by NRCS and a handful of producers. A packet of information was provided to participants and this rounds out the 5 year soil health project with DNRC.

- Coal Bed Methane Committee: Bob Peterman provided an update on the CBM committee: 2017 legislature funded CBM program at ~1/3 of previous budget; program funded for next 2 years. As such, there will no longer be funds to provide district assistance any longer, but will still be doing a few claims in Powder River. The committee also has some educational trunks available for water quality demonstrations if people are interested. Contact Bob for more information.
- YRCDC: Don Youngbauer provided an update on Yellowstone River Conservation District Council activities. YRCDC is re-organizing work groups following the wrap up of the cumulative effects study. YRCDC will be developing works groups on the following issues: irrigation efficiency, invasive species, and bank stabilization.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.**