



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Board Conference Call

Monday, July 9th, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 am

APPROVED 8/13/18

Attendance:

MACD Board Members:

Others in attendance:

Mark Suta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ann McCauley, MACD/SWCDM
Jeff Wivholm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gene Evans, Dawson CD
William Bernard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jane Holzer, MSCA
Dean Rogge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kris Berg, NRCS
Tony Barone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Zeller, DNRC
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 type="checkbox"/>	
Mike Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Daryl Stutterheim	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Naegeli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

AGENDA

Mark Suta called meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Public Comment - No public comment.

Approve June 13th Minutes – Bill Naegli motions to approve minutes. Shirley Parrot seconds. Motion carries.

Accept June 2018 Financial Statements – Jim Simpson motions to accept financial statement as presented. Pete seconds. Discussion of special projects and board travel expenses. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NACD meeting travel, Steve Hedstrom – Steve Hedstrom discussed the upcoming NACD Summer Conservation Forum event in Williamsburg, VA and whether he was going to attend. In reviewing the board travel expenses to date and determining expected meeting outcomes for cost of attendance, Steve decided to not attend the summer forum this year.

Incoming Executive Director update, Ann McCauley – Ann provided an update to the board about the incoming Executive Director’s start date (Monday, July 30) and invites and requests already received by partners to meet with him, including a request by DNRC for Dan to serve on the hiring committee for DNRC’s open Deputy Directory position. The board was supportive of this and Ann has already been in touch with Dan and DNRC about it.

Regarding a laptop reimbursement plan for Dan’s use of his personal laptop, Ann proposed reimbursement of \$25/month (\$12.50/pp) for 3 years, which is approximately the expected life of a mid-grade laptop. Motion by Mike Hansen to do a reimbursement of \$25/month for 3 years. Seconded by Bill Naegli. Motion carries.

Ann also made a request to the board about feedback for dates to set up meetings with officers/board members. Mark Suta noted that we can work this out based on everyone’s availability once Dan starts.

Strategic Planning Year 1 Draft for board review – Staff presented a draft of the strategic plan/action plan that was further developed by the board at the spring board meeting in June 2018. The Board felt that the draft represented the planning items discussed in June well. Jim Simpson commented on the following: 1) recurring mention of communication throughout the plan – this speaks to the importance of the need to communicated; and 2) in the Executive Summary, Jim suggested the following change: “MACD membership is open to the conservation districts in Montana” rather than “composed”. Ann will make this change in the draft document. Mark Suta asked about when this should be sent out to the districts. Ann recommended that Dan be given an opportunity to review the draft plan prior to sending out to districts so he has a chance to weigh in as a key implementer of the plan. The board agreed to waiting to send the plan out to districts until Dan has had a chance to review and that this will be a first item for him to work on. Mark will include a note about this delay in sending out the strategic plan and why in his next *View from the Semi Seat* letter.

Second Dues Notice Letter Draft for board review – Staff drafted a series of three letters and a list of MACD and SWCDM services being provided to send to districts based on their current dues payments. These letters were based on the draft and discussion at spring board meeting.

Motion by Steve Hedstrom to accept the drafted letters and send out to districts. Seconded by Mike Hansen. Motion carries. Ann will work on getting these letters sent out to districts this week.

Area Meetings – Discussion of upcoming Area Meetings and the resolution process. Dates and locations are at: <https://macdnet.org/programsevents/area-meetings/>.

Ann McCauley reported that she coordinated a phone call among area meeting host districts in late June and that agendas and registration forms for each meeting are moving forward. Ann also reported on the directors that are up for re-election this year. Shirley Parrott informed the board that she will be resigning from the MACD board and not be seeking re-election. There was a discussion of how to go about recruiting candidates for her director position. Jim Simpson commented that this recruitment should come from the other area directors in Area 4, rather than MACD office.

Review and discussion of resolution process for upcoming area meetings. Ann McCauley reiterated the current policy to have resolutions from districts be sent to the MACD office by September 1. Jeff Wivholm noted the districts need to record in their minutes that the resolution was approved by the district and passed on the area meeting. The resolution process after area meetings and whether amendments will be allowed at convention was discussed. Ann suggested that the standing committees can be sent resolutions assigned to their respective committee prior to convention for review and clarification.

Standing committees

Discussion about next steps for committees. Mark Suta commented that with everyone busy right now, getting committee meetings together could be hard in coming months. Resolutions Library update is being worked on currently by Kate Arpin and includes a lot more search functions. Ann encouraged board members to check out the online resolutions library, if they haven't already.

Soil Health Forever stamp request for letter of support from NACD/Indiana Dept of Agriculture.

NACD sent out an email to all the state associations from the Indiana Department of Agriculture requesting support for a Soil Health Forever stamp. Other than providing a letter of support, there would be no additional requirements on MACD's end. Motion by Steve Hedstrom to support this letter. Seconded by Shirley Parrot . Motion carries. Ann McCauley will draft and send this letter of support this week.

Director's Report - Ann McCauley

- 1) **Policy update on MACD's support of Farm Bill amendment for NRCS TA and FA on public lands.** Ann provided the board with an update on a recent request for MACD to

support an amendment to the Senate's Farm Bill version to support and fund NRCS technical and financial assistance on public lands and ask Senator Steve Daines to co-sponsor this amendment. This was a project driven by the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. Ann worked with the Executive Committee on providing a letter of support and asking Senator Daines to co-sponsor. Senator Daines did sign on as a co-sponsor and MACD signed on to a partnership letter, but the amendment did not end up getting picked up by Senator Roberts. Ann asked if MACD would like to continue to follow this and support it. There was general agreement by the Board to keep this going. Jim Simpson commented that this was a good example of the role of MACD and a designated committee to vet this types of policy requests in the future. Jim Simpson motioned to direct staff to continue supporting this amendment in the spirit it was initially intended and if the amendment comes up again in the same spirit that MACD continue to support it. Seconded by Steve Hedstrom. Motion carries.

2) **District insurance policy premiums for 2018/19.** Ann reported on the recent premium increases that many districts are realizing with their MACo insurance policy. There was an across the board increase of \$300/year for most districts that have minimal liabilities. Ann is working with Payne West and MACo to get some better communication and clarification on why this increase and past year increases are happening. Districts are

3) Recently coordinated workshops/events – Digital Atlas training and Riparian Grazing workshops.

4) Upcoming events/dates

- July 10 at 10 a.m. – Convention Planning Call – Area 1 directors invited
- July 11 –MRCDC quarterly meeting in Great Falls – Ann planning on attending
- July 12 - Ann on annual leave
- July 23 – Executive Committee Call
- July 23-24 – Soil Health 2020 planning session in Billings – Ann attending
- July 25-26 – Ann on annual leave
- July 30 – Dan McGowan's first day
- August 9 – MT Ag Leader's Conference in Bozeman – Ann, Dan, Mark attending
- August 29-30 – Supervisor Summit in Helena, MACD leadership invited to speak
- September 17-20- Area Meetings
- September 25-26 – Area Meetings

Other: Jeff Wivholm asked about any upcoming SWCDM meetings and the board of directors for SWCDM. The MACD board as the voting membership will appoint SWCDM board of directors on the next MACD board meeting slated for August 13th.

Area Updates – No area reports.

Partner Updates

- NRCS – Kris Berg Acting State Conservationist. Kris reported that Montana’s new State Conservationist, Tom Watson, will be starting July 23. Tom is coming to Montana from Oregon NRCS. NRCS has been approved to start hiring again and the state office expects 30-40 open positions to be advertised before the end of the fiscal year.

- DNRC – Laurie Zeller reported that DNRC got the go ahead to fill Scott Kaiser’s position in Miles City. This position will work with Duane Claypool and districts in the greater area. Laurie also reported that the 310 Database is going live this week. Administrative funds for 2019 are going out later in the month as well.

Next meeting: Monday, August 13, 2018

Adjourn Meeting – Mike Hansen moves to adjourn; Shirley Parrott seconds. Motion carries.