



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING DRAFT MINUTES DECEMBER 10, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT MARK SUTA AT: 7:34 am

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Mark Suta (PRES) | William Bernard (1) | Bob Petermann (2) | Steve Schanaman (4) | Mike Hansen (6) |
| Jim Simpson (VP) | Dean Rogge (1) | Steve Hertel (3) | Don Youngbauer (4) | Rick VanDyken (6) |
| Gary Giem (TREAS) | Tony Barone (2) | Steve Hedstrom (3) | Pete Woll (5) | |
| Jeff Wivholm (1) | Roddy Rost (2) | Judi Knapp (4) | Bill Naegeli (5) | |

PARTNER MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurie Zeller

NOVEMBER 16, 2018 MINUTES:

- Motion: Jim Simpson to approve with date amendment for next meeting.
- Seconded: Bill Naegeli
- Discussion: Change September to December per Steve Hertel
- VOTE: Motion carried

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- Motion: Mike Hansen moved to approve as presented
- Seconded: Bill Naegeli
- Discussion: None
- VOTE: Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

1. INSURANCE AD-HOC COMMITTEE: MACDEO PARTICIPANTS (Mike Bjarko, Tenlee Atchison, Lorrie Grossfield, Teresa Wilhelms). Dan will work with the group to have a proposal for the Spring Board Meeting. Tenlee and Dan met with the insurance representative to go over the plan details on Tuesday – 12/4/18. Mark asked if anyone was interested in serving? Mark asked Dan McGowan to serve on the committee. Mark Suta and Jim Simpson volunteered.
 - Motion: No motion necessary due to fact this is an ad-hoc committee for a short time.
 - Seconded:
 - Discussion: Bob Petermann asked if this was voluntary and Dan indicated yes.
 - VOTE

2. NACD SAN ANTONIO PARTICIPATION – Several board members have expressed an interest in going to the NACD meeting in February: Steve Hedstrom, Dean Rogge, Jeff Wivholm, Mark Suta, and Jim Simpson. Rachel Frost has also asked to be considered as a first time attendee. A scholarship covering the registration and a banquet ticket is offered by NACD for first time attendees; Jim Simpson would be a first time attendee. The Association has two representatives for these meetings: Steve Hedstrom and Dean Rogge. We should at least try to cover the representatives, but be careful setting a precedent paying for other attendees from the Association dues. A budget workup has been done for year-end discussion purposes. The deadline date to NACD nominee is 12/14/18. Average airfare is about \$500; motel is about \$1,250; registration is around \$525.00. Steve Hedstrom and Mark Suta indicated that the cost was ridiculous. Mark indicated that Steve Hedstrom needs to be there and Jim needs to get the experience. Jeff Wivholm indicated we should pay for Steve’s trip totally and pay for ½ of the others. Dan indicated that the group may want to commit an amount not to exceed a certain amount as each individual is paying certain parts of the trip. Dean indicated it is also the cost of paying someone to do chores while gone.
 - Motion: Mike Hansen motioned to set aside \$7,000 to help buffer the expenses for Steve Hedstrom, Dean Rogge, and Jim Simpson.
 - Seconded: Don Youngbauer
 - Discussion: Jim Simpson will cover his own airfare and we would only have to cover his room. Jim Simpson thanked Dan for the budget estimate. Steve Hedstrom has to be down there a couple of extra days; all will not have to be there the 5 nights like Steve; he will pick up about ½ of his cost. Jeff Wivholm will be going on his own. Steve Schanaman is also going on his own. Dean thanked the group.
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

3. 2019 UPDATED MEETING CALENDAR – The yearly calendar has been updated since the convention to accommodate for a December meeting that was not listed and the meeting date changes (from 2nd Tuesday of the month to the usual Monday time slot). Dan will work with the areas to set the schedule for the Area Meetings and the calendar will be updated as those times and route are confirmed.
 - Motion: Steve Hedstrom motioned to accept
 - Seconded: Bill Naegeli
 - Discussion:
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

4. UPDATED BIG HORN RESOLUTION – The Big Horn resolution presented at the Education Standing Committee meeting addressed a word version of the document instead of the amended PDF version. The version for consideration does not change the intent of the resolution and only offers the verbiage suggested by Don MacIntyre as a clarification with respect to our actual role.
 - Motion: Mike Hansen moved to accept amended version
 - Seconded: Bob Petermann

- Discussion:
 - VOTE: Motion Carries
5. DUES QUESTION – PROPOSAL TO CAP AT \$17,000 (Flathead LTR) – Dan questions whether or not a response was ever finalized for the Flathead 8/28/2017 Letter. The \$17,000 cap would only affect Flathead as their 2017 Dues assessment was \$24,757.34. Jim Simpson says the letter was acknowledged, but not addressed. Missoula would be next. This is an interim fix to the whole dues formula; it is recognizing that we have one CD. Jeff Wivholm indicated the assessment is also in a disagreement.
 - Motion: Jim Simpson motioned to modify the dues formula to add a cap of \$17,000 recognizing the whole concept may be changed at a later date.
 - Seconded: Steve Hedstrom
 - Discussion: Jim Simpson commented that Flathead also observes that they totally cover Pete Woll's cost of attending all MACD meetings; this issue has been on the plate for several years and a restructuring may happen after we decide on organizational makeup. Bob Petermann indicated the same old story applies that we need to work with them and not against them.
 - VOTE: Motion Carries
 6. STAGGERED TERMS – Researched and the only document making any reference to the subject is dated May 17, 2017; noted that members would draw numbers later in the day. Nothing was ever approved or documented. Probably something that still needs to be worked on, but not decided at this juncture. Jeff Wivholm said he thinks he has the document and will send it to Dan. Mark Suta indicated that it might be on a Spring Board meeting; perhaps 2017. Dan will do further research.
 - Motion: Jim Simpson motioned that, after research not remedying this issue, the areas take the responsibility to decide which of the two directors per area is left with a one year and two-year term. Those voted in this year would be on a three-year term.
 - Seconded: Don Youngbauer
 - Discussion:
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FINANCES AND TRANSPARENCY/FINANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL – Some question regarding the current process still arises. It is not recommended that we continue to think about changing financial processes in view of a couple who question. Currently, the 990 is the only financial document that is required and the current approved version is shared on the MACD web-site. The statements are shared with the supervisors on the MACD Board each month. The districts have been instructed to direct any questions to the Board members from their respective Area; if an answer is not attainable, then they can call the ED. In an effort to improve transparency and add credibility to the work of the Association, it is recommended that a Finance Committee is formed; there is provision for this committee in the by-laws at the discretion of the Association President and defaults to the Executive Committee. Per Gary Giem's recommendation at the convention, the Finance Committee should review all credit card

charges. The ED recommends that the Treasurer be the chair of this committee and their other duties include a quarterly review of the financials and working with the ED to develop the annual budget. Jeff Wivholm indicated the other reason is to track investments. Dan is willing to work with Gary to get the issue organized. Bob Petermann did not want to deal with by-law changes. Mark brought up we are only obligated to show the districts the 990 and P/L; is there a better package. Dan can research the package route with the Montana Non-Profit Association.

- Motion: Non required at this time.
 - Seconded:
 - Discussion:
 - VOTE
2. GROUP INSURANCE PROPOSAL – The insurance carrier for the SWCDM initiative sent out a notice that Blue/Cross Blue Shield had adjusted their program to allow a one or two-person inclusion on a group insurance plan. Dan sent this information to each of the district Administrators. Dan also checked into the possibility of obtaining the insurance for himself through the Association because his insurance rates have increased \$130 per month starting January 2019. The Association and insured benefit from the plan because all payments are pre-tax. The Association would make the payment directly to the insurance company instead of a stipend through wages saving on taxes. The employee amount would be directly drawn from the paycheck. The group insurance including dental and vision is available and the submission would need to be approved by the Board. The deadline date is 12/15/18.
- Motion: Jim Simpson motioned to execute if Dan sees it is in the best interest of MACD and himself.
 - Seconded: Mike Hansen
 - Discussion:
 - VOTE: Motion Carries
3. COMPENSATE SWCDM FOR SOME OF CONVENTION STAFF TIME IF BUDGET ALLOWS – Will need to do an analysis of time committed and what can be legally charged to program funding. Dan recommended that we pay SWCDM the \$5,605.47 to compensate staff for their time.
- Motion: Mike Hansen motioned that we pay the amount as it is a non-budgeted item.
 - Second: Jim Simpson
 - Discussion: Jim asked about the \$9,000 in the budget; Dan clarified that the amount was under an agreement and did not carry over to convention.
 - VOTE: Motion Carries
- LEGISLATIVE DECISION PROCESS – Consider how the process will work with the Executive Committee. Will the Standing Committees be involved with developing a recommendation? Does the Executive Committee need approval from the Full Board to move forward. MACo relies strictly on the Executive Committee and resolutions to make decisions with regard to legislative representation. Of course, there are those time sensitive issues where the ED just needs to make the decision. Dan recommended that MACD follow the MACo process.
 - Motion: Mike Hansen moved we follow the MACo process

- Second: Bob Petermann
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion Carries

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:

1. LEGISLATIVE PREPARATION
2. FOCUS GROUP MEETING
3. MEET AND GREET – 1/24/19, 6th Floor Montana Club
4. MEETING OF THE MINDS – 12/17/18, 1 – 4, DNRC 2nd Floor, Charlie Russell Room

PARTNER COMMENTS: Laurie Zeller commented the first Board of Adjustments meeting will be on 12/18/18; 10-12 at the Library in Malta. Dan thanked Laurie for all of her time on the legislative piece.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Fergus CD and MRCD will discuss the APR and negative easements regarding Bison; Jordan – 2pm VFW Hall on 12/19/18. Bob Petermann brought up the fact that there are fossil remains in the badlands part of Eastern Montana. Bob has found some fossil remains over the years; Jordan country found some valuable remains and some greedy people decided they wanted part of it and there were 3 judges in the 9th circuit decided the fossil remains were part of the mineral rights; 16-35506 is the case number. Mark asked Bob to text the name and number to Dan and we need to talk to the legislators about the subject; ? how it affects private property rights.

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 14, 2018 – 7:30AM CONFERENCE CALL

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Dean Rogge motioned to adjourn

SECONDED: Roddy Rost

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:04 am