



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

REORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE

March 6, 2020

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Committee Chair, Gayla Wortman.

Members Present: David Martin, Bob Peterman, and Gayla Wortman.

Other Present: Stephanie Adams, Kate Arpin, Laurie Zeller, Gene Evan, Steve Hedstrom, Toni Benson, Paul Rosenberg, Gene Evan,

Gene Evan pointed out that his last name was incorrect in the February meeting minutes.

There were no changes or additions to the agenda as published.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

1. **By-Laws Committee:**

- a. In Jim Simpson's absence, Gayla Wortman reported that a By-Laws Rewrite Committee had been named and that Jeff Tiberi will staff and chair that committee. No other information was available.

2. **Merger Survey:**

- a. Gayla Wortman reported that she believed all survey results that were going to be coming were in and that over-whelming of those received the choice was to move ahead with the merging of the two organizations. Dave Martin asked about the details of the survey, which CDs had responded, and which had not. Gayla noted that Chuck had been keeping those results and they were not in her possession. Stephanie said that she would access Chuck's email to see what could be extracted from that. Those results will be added to the few that Gayla has and a report provided back to the MACD Board at the upcoming conference call.
- b. Dave suggested that we either do the survey over or try to reach out to those Districts that did not respond.
- c. Paul Rossenberg expressed acute frustration over the whole process of the merger pointing out that the Districts never know what is going on. He specifically cited the dismissal of the Executive Director as an issue that is frustration and causing annoyance.

ACTION ITEM: Gayla Wortman will reach out to those recorded as having not responded to the survey giving them one last chance to respond.

3. **MACD/SWCDM Joint Meeting:**

- a. Gayla Wortman noted that the joint meeting of the MACD Board of Directors and the SWCDM Board of Directors in Lewistown is still being planned. Chuck previously put out

a doodle poll to help determine the best possible date. Gayla Wortman is working on a progress report to provide to the 2 boards at this meeting. {All committee members are asked to be present at the joint meeting to help explain the work the Study Committee has been involved in for the last 3 months.}

ACTION ITEM: Gayla Wortman is working on a detailed progress report to give at the joint meeting. The report will be in written and oral form allowing for questions.

4. Question/Response Table:

- a. The Questions/Response table which records questions asked of the various CDs and then answered either by Gayla Wortman or Stephanie Adams. To date, Gayla has received no further comments or questions to add to the table.

ACTION ITEM: Gayla Wortman will record comments and questions on the table as they come in distribute the table again via e-mail.

NEXT STEPS:

Gayla Wortman explained what she felt the “next steps” in the process will include from her perspective:

- a. Prepare a Progress Report for the Joint Meeting in Lewistown.
- b. Develop “prototypes” of how the conjoined organization might appear. For example, a financial structure and an organization chart will be developed to help stimulate ideas for the final product.
- c. A Fact Sheet will be produced so that members will be able to see immediately what the Study Committee has determined.
- d. Produce hand outs and a power point presentation as supplementary information for the joint meeting.
- e. Begin outlining Final Report to be presented at the Spring Board Meeting.
- f. David Martin will assist Gayla Wortman in preparing for the Lewistown meeting.

ADJOURN:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2020 7:30 a.m.

/s/ Gayla Wortman