



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

May 11th, 2020

Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS

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

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Stephanie Adams, Jane Holtzer, Karl Christians, David Martin, Pat Riley, Liv Stavick, Kate Aprin, Laurie Zeller

Meeting was called to order by Jim Simpson at 7:33 AM

April 13th Board minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: N/A
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Financials:

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Seconded: Roddy
- Discussion: N/A
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Dues Letters

The Board agreed that letters should be reviewed as they are submitted as to provide a timely response to the District. The Board will plan to review all letters received thus far during the Spring Board Meeting

Spring Board Meeting

Jim: Due to COVID-19, The Capitol has canceled all room reservations until further notice. Melissa looked into the DoubleTree Hotel, which would charge us \$1,200 for their conference space for the two days.

The Board voted on whether we will still move forward with an in-person Spring Board meeting or if the meeting should be held remotely via web conferencing.

- 9 Board members in favor of holding the meeting in person (with 2 suggesting we consider postponing the meeting for a month or two), 2 preferred it be held via web conferencing. Majority in favor of moving forward with an in-person meeting as scheduled.

In an effort to practice social distancing, there will not be an evening social event and attendance will be

limited to: MACD Board members, SWCDM Board members, MACD Standing Committee Chairs, and, tentatively, 1 representative from each of our partners (NRCS, DNRC, MRCDC, YRCDC, etc.). Stephanie will look into options that may allow us to include remote attendees and possible cheaper locations.

Spring Board Draft Agenda:

It was requested that a Partners Report be added to the Spring Board agenda and that it was made clear when/where the SWCDM Board would be able to review and approve their new set of bylaws.

Annual Convention

A draft agenda was provided. Jim mentioned that planning was progressing, and a contract has been signed with the Hilton Garden Inn.

Formation of a Legislative Committee

Area Directors received one volunteer for the legislative committee. Jim asked the MACD Board for additional volunteers interested in being a part of the committee.

- Volunteers: Bob Peterman, Steve Schanaman, Pat Riley, Dean Roggee, Jim Simpson, and Greg Jergeson from Blaine CD

TMDL Advisory Committee Appointee

Previously, Stephanie reached out to Districts West of the Divide for those interested in being the Western MACD representative for DEQ's TMDL Advisory Committee. Donna Pridmore - Flathead CD was nominated. Stephanie asked the MACD Board to approve Donna as the MACD Appointee:

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Juddi Knapp
- Discussion: N/A
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Partner Reports (DNRC, NACD, NRCS, MRCDC, YRCDC, Dept. of Salinity, SWCDM)

- **DNRC, Karl Christians:** Laurie is working on CD Bureau budgets in preparations for next year. Working with Milk River Alliance on a potential Coordinator, though long-term funding is not secure. The Alliance of Wild Rockies threatened a lawsuit against the Bureau of Reclamation and originally wanted to shut off the diversion. Karl has recently been working on Admin Grants.
- **NACD, Dean Rogge:** There is a meeting in Bismarck, ND meeting in June that will likely be postponed.
- **MRCDC, Liv Stavick:** The River Randevou has been postponed until next year and CMR meetings are also postponed. Coordinating with the Corps on their pump survey this summer.
- **Salinity, Jane Holtzer:** Continuing field work in Wibaux, Fergus, and Hill County.
- **SWCDM, Mike Hansen:** SWCDM's board meeting is May 12th where we will be reviewing BPMC lease agreement and the SWCDM drafted Bylaws. Currently, there are 2 SGI positions that are vacant and the BPMC Administrator position is also vacant. Stephanie added that SWCDM is accepting rolling applications for Ranching for Rivers and is also taking applications for Pollinator-related projects and programs until May 27th. Successful applicants may receive up to \$5,000.

Standing Committee Reports

- **District Operations, Judi Knapp:** Working on developing procedure following convention on approved resolutions. A draft procedure should be completed by Spring Board to review.
- **Education, Bob Peterman:** The Committee held a call to discuss past resolutions but there was a lot of questions and confusion on what exactly the MACD Board was looking for in terms of

recommendations.

- Dean mentioned that the resolutions review, at this point, was a suggestion to the committees and that this activity could wait until after Spring Board.
- **Water Committee, Pat Reilly:** The Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) requested that MACD provide input regarding their study of the future of the Water Court (HJ14) and proposed changes. Their proposal mainly looked at moving process from the District Court or DNRC, and centralizing it within the Water Court. Pat Riley drafted a letter that outlined concerns for this centralization, namely the threat of legal costs that would burden smaller-scale/family farmers
 - Motion to approve the letter and submit to WPIC : Dean Rogge
 - Second: Gary Giem
 - Motion Carries

Contract with Jeff Tiberi for Lobbying *

Jim: Jeff Tiberi previously mentioned that he would be open to the idea of being a contracted lobbyist for MACD during the 2021 legislative session. Jim asks that he be able to work with Tiberi on a tentative agreement that will then be brought to the board for further review.

- Motion to give Jim the authority to draft an agreement with Tiberi: Mike Hansen
- Second Judi Knapp
- Discussion: Jim mentioned that even with an ED, he would like to discuss having a contracted lobbyist for 2021 to help the new ED, since it is a large role to fill for a new person.
- Motion Carries

MACD representative(s) for NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Jim: Steve Hedstrom has requested that MACD designate representatives to be a part of the NRCS STAC, which meets 3 times/yr. In various places in the state. Steve currently attends these meetings but as a representative of a different group. Jim asked if there were volunteers for attending these:

- Mike Hansen agreed to attend the Missoula meetings
- Dean will attend meetings in Great Falls
- Willy Bernard is able to attend the meetings in Billings

Report from Executive Director Search Committee

Jim: The committee has a Zoom interview scheduled for May 13th with an applicant. We received additional applications today that will also be reviewed.

Review Draft MACD By-laws

Jim: Everyone received a draft and it is requested that everyone review this closely in preparations for continued conversation during the Spring Board meeting. The Bylaws will need to be voted on by the membership at convention before they can be finalized. Due to the timing of these Bylaw revisions in conjunction with the merger study, which may result in another set of bylaws, it was suggested and agreed that MACD would not conduct a legal review of the bylaws until after the 2020 MACD Convention.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:58

Motion: Dean Rogge

Second: Roddy Rost

Discussion: N/A

VOTE: Motion Carried