



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

April 1, 2020

Greetings, All....

Since we will not be having a Reorganization Study Committee conference call on the 6th, I thought I would circle back around and provide you all with an update on where we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there.

Our top priority right now, is to achieve 100% response from all the conservation districts regarding their vote on whether or not to pursue the merge of MACD and SWCDM. Those Districts who have NOT responded will be contacted by their Area Director in the near future if they have not been already. Also, Districts are encouraged to contact me directly via e-mail, text, or phone call with their vote. I know this is frustrating, but when we lost our Executive Director, some of the responses were lost as well, so if your District name appears on the attached tally sheet as having not responded and you did, I apologize. Just respond to this e-mail with your vote and I'll correct the tally sheet.

The second priority, at least for me, is to craft documents that will help explain what the new organization might look like should the merge go forward. Many have asked me "what will this animal look like" and "what will the budget be". Unfortunately, I don't have the exact answer to either of those, or many other questions, because that is not what I was tasked to do. I will offer ideas that the two Boards of Directors may consider, but I am not going to make decisions. I can only offer ideas, which I am presenting as "suggested modules". They will include the organizational diagram, a combined budget, staffing designs, board structure, and others as needed. **On that note, for those of you who really want to know "what the animal will look like," I encourage you to offer your ideas as well in the form of a document that can be given to the Boards.** I will share these "modules" as soon as I possible.

Third, I know there is a lot of frustration and confusion afloat in the field. **Please** be patient. We are doing the best we can to answer questions and develop this idea into something tangible. The goal is to have module documents and a Power Point presentation, along with the final Committee report, ready for the Spring Board Meeting, which we will likely only have if the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Also, please feel free to join the conference calls of the Reorganization Committee. Our next meeting will be May 6; the **call-in number is 888-575-2051**. Your ideas, questions, concerns and the like are always welcome, and I WILL respond to each of you as necessary. Also, my telephone number is 468-2756 (home) or 788-3128 (cell); I'll gladly visit with you about anything, MACD related or not.

In addition, Jeff Tiberi has been appointed to head up the By-Laws Committee. I know they have had at least one meeting and are working on updating both the MACD by-laws and those of SWCDM. We'll hear more as they progress.

Finally, anyone is welcome and encouraged to join the MACD Board of Directors conference calls as well. They are held the second Monday of each month at 7:30 a.m., using the call-in number above. If you are wanting to know what's going on; what the Board is doing, this is a sure way to find out. In addition, Kate, Stephanie, and Melissa in the MACD/SWCDM office are working hard to keep the web sites updated and the communications lines open. Financial reports, the budgets, Board members and other information is included on the web site. I really appreciate our staff's efforts to fill the gap of Executive Director.

GET INVOLVED, STAY INVOLVED. EXERCISE YOUR VOICE. This is YOUR organization. I urge each of you take part as we work through this next chapter. Thanks. Stay safe.

Cordially yours,

Gayla M. Wortman
Reorganization Study Committee Chair