



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

July 13th, 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, Jeff Tiberi, David Martin, Jane Holzer, Laurie Zeller, Pat Anderson, Steve Hedstrom

Meeting was called to order by Jim Simpson at 7:31 AM

June 9th & 10th Board minutes:

Correction: The minutes for the second day should read "June 10th"

- Motion to Approve as Amended: Mike Hanson
- Seconded: Dean Rogge
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Financials:

- Motion to Approve: Gayla Wortman
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: Gayla asked what expenses were listed under the "Miscellaneous expenses" and cautioned using that line for expenses. Steph added that the expenses were likely related to the ED job posting and a tenant-requested deadbolt for their door that leads to the office. Board members asked that expenses under miscellaneous be foot-noted in future reports.
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Approve a draft letter to CDs regarding MACD activities *

Jim and Dean drafted a letter detailing MACD activities over the last 6 months to be sent out to CDs.

Discussion on "next steps" was had, relating to the MACD-SWCDM merger, that will be voted on by CDs at the Convention. It was suggested that language be added regarding virtual meetings and the potential for a virtual Convention.

Motion to submit the letter as amended to the CDs via District Dispatch

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Steve Hertel
- Discussion: Dean recommended that area directors contact their District Chairmen and/or attend meetings/calls to help answer questions relating to the letter.
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Second Dues Notice

The Group discussed if a second dues notice was needed, typically, a second notice would be sent late Spring to Districts. Overall, the Board agreed that the letter planned to be sent to CDs would suffice and there was not a need for an additional dues notice.

- Motion to not submit a second dues notice: Dean Rogge
- Second: Judi Knapp
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Search Committee Report

Dean reported that there is a planned in-person interview for July 22nd. Steph added that we will likely need to rent a room, since many free venues are closed to meetings. Jim added that travel costs will be accumulated as well.

- Motion to approve the rental of a room for ED interviews: Mike Hansen
 - Second: Dean Rogge
 - VOTE: Motion Carries
-
- Motion to approve Board travel costs associated with attending ED interviews: Judi Knapp
 - Second: Dean Rogge
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

It was suggested that a footnote be added to future financial reports, reporting that travel expenses included travel costs and room rentals for the ED search and hiring process.

ED Hiring Process

Jim proposed that, following the interview, a discussion be had regarding next steps for the candidate, whether to offer the position, or to request additional in-person interviews with Board members. A full quorum will be required on the 22nd for this decision.

Convention Planning Update

Jim provided that planning for the original Bozeman 2020 Convention is roughly 90% completed. However, recently there has been discussion on a possible virtual format as an alternative to the Bozeman meeting. Kate Arpin, Becky Clements, and Jim are meeting weekly to discuss planning options, possibly having the Convention content spread out over the course of a couple weeks. Stephanie added that staff has discussed the possibility of using CARES ACT funding to help fund updated/new tech programs/equipment to help run the convention smoothly. Mike added that investing in these technologies now could help with future efficiencies as well.

A final decision on whether to have the MACD Convention via video conference or in-person will be made during the August Board meeting. Currently it seems that we can get out of our current hotel/catering contracts due to COVID concerns without penalty. Willy, Gayla, Bill, and Mike provided comments in favor of a virtual format.

Jim asked the Board to think about potential prizes that could be raffled during convention (in-person or virtually) and bring ideas to the August Board meeting.

Area Meetings

Gayla proposed a question regarding the number of attendees at Area Meetings and if a virtual format should also be considered for these, citing that Area 3 typically has ~65 people. Steph proposed an internal meeting (Jim, Laurie, Steph, Kate, Tenlee, and any other interested members) to further discuss

an approach and then holding a call with the hosting CDs.

Submit MACD Bylaws to the Membership

The MACD board previously approved the bylaws for submission to CDs for review. Jim will provide Steph with a notice to be included in the next District Dispatch related to this.

Approve new resolutions process and Sept. 1st deadline for resolutions *

Pat Anderson previously provided updates to the resolution process following the Spring Board for review. Dean mentioned that the process may need another review for clarification in a year.

- Motion to approve the new resolutions process: Mike Hanson
- Second: Gayla Wortman
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Partner Reports:

DNRC, Laurie Zeller: Recently, 2 settled court cases: One was in Federal Court with the Flathead CD and the other was a District court case. These courses confirm the process that CDs go through to make decisions. Recently, CDs have been asking about open meeting laws and how COVID affects their standard operations. Laurie is working with Kate to put together a list of information for CDs to follow. 5 of 6 CDs were awarded the NACD Technical Assistance Grants.

NACD, Steve Hedstrom: The Summer NACD meeting will be virtual. For the last year has been working with the Forest Action Council and plan development. Greatest concern is the lack of language addressing grazing. The plan will come out near the end of July for comment. Grazing is not a large concern under the plan at this point. The NRCS STAC meeting is tomorrow, July 14th in Great Falls, there is also a remote option for attending. Regarding Saint Mary's, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation designated the construction of Drop 2 and Drop 5 as an emergency and qualified for their emergency funding.

MRCDC, Dean Rogge: Liv is doing a site survey this morning. Liv and John Chase are working on comments for a forest plan and may be available for Steve Hedstrom to talk to.

MT Salinity Control Assoc, Jane Holzer: Busy with fieldwork, RCPP is well and ongoing.

Legislative Committee Report

Jeff Tiberi: A letter will be sent to the CDs via District Dispatch. Some meetings have been held and collected information regarding the BLM Water Rights issue. Planning to attend the MACD Education Committee meeting and would like to be included in other MACD Standing Committee meetings. Held discussions with the MACO in regards to the proposal of CDs being placed under County Commissioner jurisdiction. There is a rumor about a special session happening in the next few months as well.

Progress report on Strategic Framework

No new progress to date. The committee plans to meet on 7/14 in Great Falls. Gary Giem is also waiting to hear back from an Accountant and Attorney about some of the questions that came up during Spring Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM

- Motion: Dean Rogge
- Second: Rick VanDyken
- VOTE: Motion Carries