



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

August 10th, 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 Holzer, Dave Martin, Steve Hedstrom, Rebecca Boslough, Liv Stavick, Jeff Tiberi, Laurie Zeller, Pat Anderson, Kyle Tacket, and Tom Watson

Meeting was called to order by Jim Simpson at 7:30 AM

July 13th Board minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Judi Knapp
- Seconded: Dean Rogge
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Financials:

Jim posed questions on the budget that were discussed regarding the Office Management Services (\$9,000 to SWCDM each year for admin assistance) , negative balance for "Dividends/Interest Revenue (unrealized losses), and the Memorial fund and DAD-L&E fund (Legislation and Education).

- Motion to Approve: Gayla Wortman
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Dues updates

Jim discussed the list of districts that have not yet paid their dues and inquired about re-visiting the idea of sending out a second dues notice. Concern was noticed that the bylaws state that a district must have their dues paid in full or an approved variance letter by September 1st in order to be considered "in good standing". The board agreed for Jim to put some thought into how to best approach this and other Area Supervisors said they would reach out to their districts for insight.

Lewis & Clark County Conservation District Variance Letter *

- Motion to Reject the provided variance letter : Gary Giem
- Seconded: Jeff Wivholm
- Discussion:
 - It was pointed out that LCCD mentioned paying dues at the end of the year, however, current bylaws do not allow for that delayed timeline (must be paid by Sept. 1st in order to be in good standing and able to vote at Convention). Board members vocalized

concern about our ability to run an efficient Association without district dues and the strain it has put on hiring and completing important work. It was expressed that we need districts on the same page and contributing so we can move forward.

- Dave Martin provided his concerns on behalf of LCCD, citing unclear services being provided, the elongated time without an Executive Director, and LCCDs intentions on taking on an additional staff member that will reduce their ability to pay dues.
- VOTE: Motion Carried (LCCD Letter of Variance was rejected)

Dave and Gayla requested that an official letter be submitted to Districts outlining the criteria that was reviewed and used to determine how decisions are made regarding variance letters. It was suggested that, if there is not currently a specific list, that one be formalized in writing.

SWCDM time expenses on MACD Activities

Invoice provided as information to the board, no action required.

Convention Planning Update

Vote on Virtual or Face-to-Face Meeting Platform *

- Motion to hold Convention virtually this November and potentially hold a face-to-face in Winter/Spring 2021: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Judi Knapp
- Discussion: Board members discussed the pros and cons of a virtually-held Convention. Jim is working with a committee who has been delegated the task of figuring out the nuances of how the meeting(s) and voting will be run.
- VOTE: Motion Carries (11 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained)

Kay Webb Contract for Services *

Kay Webb, the District Administrator for Little Beaver CD, has experience attending and planning virtually-held conventions and meetings, particularly through Zoom. She has indicated that she would be willing to act as a lead for the planning committee. The contract for services would be directly between MACD and Kay Web. Jim is drafting a contact and asked the board to approve up to \$2,000 (\$25/hr.) for Kay Webb's services.

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Steve Hertel
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Are Meeting Updates

Discuss Virtual Format

There will be a meeting today (08/10/2020) to further discuss how virtual meetings can be accomplished, with Kay Webb and other committee members. There will also be a meeting on 08/11/2020 with the hosting district Administrators about Area Meetings. Board members and participants reviewed the current sample agenda. Feedback received included a desire for longer allotted time slots for partner reports.

A question was raised regarding letters from those intending to run for Area Director. Pat mentioned that information regarding that process should be in the [MACD Process Document](#).

Partner Reports

- **DNRC, Laurie Zeller:** DNRC will be holding a CD new employee onboarding meeting in the next month with various partners to talk about 310 permitting and other CD-pertinent information. There is a small amount of funding going to the Education Committee to work on items asked for by CDs last year.
- **NRCS, Kyle Tacket:** NRCS is reaching the end of fiscal year. Next week they are reviewing 30 TIPS and look forward to how these turn out. NRCS is also continuing to work on Milk River Planning
- **MRCDC, Liv Stavick:** There will be a CMR workgroup meeting on Sept. 17th in Jordan - TBD if it will be in-person or virtually. The Corps of Engineers surveyed 60 sites and received additional funding to do a second survey of an additional 60 pump sites.
- **Salinity, Jane Holzer:** The drill rig is busy compiling work in Roosevelt County and they are still open for applications.

New ED (Rebecca Boslough) First Week Report & Assignments

- Rebecca is looking into how SWCDM/MACD can use their eligibility for COVID relief funding to help purchase new hardware and software for districts. She is currently working with Stephanie, Mark Bostrom, and Tenlee on this issue. Laurie suggested talking to Mary Hendrix.
- Rebecca is familiarizing herself with MACD and SWCDM bylaws and will start drafting a possible merged set of Bylaws with Stephanie.
- **Approve an MACD credit card for Rebecca Boslough & add to checking the account ***
 - Motion to Approve: Dean Rogge
 - Seconded: Mike Hansen
 - VOTE: Motion Carries

Standing Committee Reports

Education Committee

- **Bob Peterman:** The committee previously talked about having supervisor training at Convention and recommended that DNRC/MACD work to provide a sort of binder of informative information for supervisor to read. Laurie added that DNRC is looking at a multi-pronged approach to supervisor trainings including written materials, virtual trainings/webinars, and future face-to-face trainings.

Legislative Committee Report

Jeff Tiberi: A July monthly report along with minutes from the ad hoc committee meeting was sent out in the last District Dispatch. The next meeting at 7:30 AM on Friday the 21st. Issues on the agenda include Wilderness Study Areas and a drafted Soil Health resolution from the Natural Resource Defence Council. Jeff also addressed a rumor regarding conservation districts becoming placed under county commissioner control. Jeff said that this type of legislation is unlikely to pass through but he will keep an eye on any activity.

Strategic Framework & Implementation Task Force Report (merger progress)

A draft merger Strategic Framework was provided for the board to review. The idea is that this will be passed along to districts as soon as possible for their review prior to the Area Meetings.

- Motion to approve the Strategic Framework for district review: Gayla Wortman
- Second: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: Gayla asked that she be able to look over it one more time before Stephanie sends it

out in District Dispatch this week. Stephanie agreed to await her confirmation.

- Motion Carries

Also provided to the board was a correspondence with Crowley Fleck. Gary is also waiting to hear back from Crowley regarding some questions regarding the Secretary of State.

Jim provided a draft resolution that will be going to Lake CD this week regarding the merger.

Communications Director Vacancy

Kate resigned a few weeks back. SWCDM is working with Laurie Zeller on a possible funding agreement and will be working on filling that position once funding is secured.

Open Mic

Gayla revisited the discussion regarding a criteria list for reviewing variance letters and how that should be completed. Jim suggested that districts provide input on what they think that should look like and pass a resolution to amend the bylaws with that criteria.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Bob Peterman
- VOTE: Motion Carries