



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

September 14, 2020

***DRAFT* 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: Rebecca Boslough, Jeff Tiberi, Scott Brown, Kyle Thacket, Steve Hedstrom, Liz Stavick, Laurie Zellar, Scott Brown

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

August 10th Board Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Steve Hertel
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Financials:

Approve Financial Report

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Seconded: Rick
- Discussion: Judi asked questions about (1) the NACD technical assistance of \$1000, and (2) the multiple rent-related line items at \$630. Becca checked with Melissa and shared the following answers:
 - (1) NACD provided each state organization with \$1,000 to help facilitate their technical assistance grant program. The \$1,000 in 'NACD Technical Support' is for the support MACD provided this year.
 - (2) The amount in 'rent and lease' should have been in 'Rent/Utilities/House Investment'. Melissa made this change, so now 'rent and lease' is zero and 'Rent/Utilities/House Investment' is \$1,260.00. See the Transaction Report (attached) for a breakdown of these costs. Basically, this amount is the rent paid by MACD.
- VOTE: Motion carries

Approval of MACD to participate in Business Adaptability Grant Program

- Motion: Gayla Wortman

- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: None
- VOTE: Motion carries

Approval to increase the MACD credit limit to \$10,000

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Gayla Wortman
- Discussion: Mike Hansen asked if we should reduce the limit back down after. This was decided to be considered as a second motion.
- VOTE: Motion carries

Decrease of MACD credit limit down to \$2500 after 3 months

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Gary Giem
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Dues updates

Cascade CD Dues Variance - Motion to accept variance and allow for full participation

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Steve Hertel
- Discussion: Jim thought the letter met all requirements for CDs asking for the variance, and he thought the letter was well written. Steve Hertel agreed.
- VOTE: Motion carries

2021 Draft Budget - Motion to move to the membership

- Motion: Rick VanDycken
- Seconded: Gary Giem
- Discussion: Jim took a portion of the 2019 and 2020 budget to put together a draft. Rebecca and Melissa also looked this over. The discussion is whether or not we move this to the membership for approval. Jim noted that the current bylaws allow for a mechanism to approve MACD business by email, which may be relevant if the members vote to combine the organization and a new budget is needed.
- VOTE: Motion carries

Convention Planning update - Rebecca Boslough

Discussion: Standing Committees

- Steve recommended that, as has been done in the past, standing committees organize meetings before the conventions.
- At the convention, only Standing Committees that have resolutions will be held
- Mike said that 18th and 19th would be the best days for the convention, and that mornings are better than afternoons. Others agreed.
- Mike also noted the potential to have standing committees have an open meeting (like a typical meeting beforehand) prior to day one. Then resolutions can come out of meeting with recommendations. That would streamline day one to less than 5 hours. Jim was concerned about participation in these meetings.

- There is a mechanism on zoom that allows participants to vote.
- MACD will need a person from each of the districts in good standing to participate
- Jim has heard that many of our supervisors simply will not attend a long virtual meeting, so we decided to cut this down to the bare bones and do everything we can to encourage individual supervisors (at minimum the person who will vote for the CD). Concern about additional day for the committees is that it will be difficult to get supervisors engaged. It does appear right now that we will have only two standing committees meet.
- The resolutions deadline was extended to September 15th

Decision to forego the online auction and consideration of L & E Fund

Rebecca gave background on the tentative plans for an online auction at the virtual convention. The Board decided that it would better at this point not to hold the auction and prioritize engaging folks in both days of the virtual convention.

- Gary mentioned that MACD could ask for contributions to the L & E Fund from supervisors and board members, and that this ask could be deferred until next year. Mike agreed.
- Jim said that rather than tying fundraising to the convention, MACD can focus on this after the potential merger when there will be a combined budget and better understanding of what the new 501(c)3 can do with the income stream from districts and programs.
- Typically convention costs districts money, so might be an opportunity to ask districts to donate to L & E Fund.
- Gary noted that Ruby could donate some funds. Gallatin is also in the same boat, as are others.

Area Meetings

Discussion

- Stephanie Adams is leading that charge. Areas mostly adopted draft agenda. Zoom training for area hosts and district admins is ongoing.
- Stephanie is updating the Area meeting website.
- Partners will have a 2-5 minute report.
- Stephanie is helping area admins with the contact lists for partners

CARES Act Relief Funding to Districts Update - Rebecca Boslough

- Business Adaptability Grant Program closes on the 16th
- All Districts are encouraged to apply through the Local Government Reimbursement Program, which has a significant pot of funding available. Jim Brought up that MACD could potentially loan funds to Districts who are not able to front the money.

Motion to loan funds to Districts for the Local Government Reimbursement Program

Motion: Mike

Seconded: Gary

Discussion: We need to encourage this as much as possible. Gayla - I think Districts need to really be imaginative here. Cascade CD doesn't need technical assistance, but we do need a place to meet. The Cascade CD Board is going to have socially distanced meetings at the airports. They have applied for reimbursement for the meeting room. Jim said Lake CD has also been renting large rooms to meet face to face. Bighorn is also doing that. Bill said that with those funds, there is not the strings attached to them like some other grants. Not so much reporting, simple reporting. Folks should think outside the box. They want to get those funds out!

Motion: Motion carries

Partner Reports

Kyle Tackett from NRCS

Not a lot to update, just wrapping up the fiscal year. He is going to participate in the CD orientation Webinar on September 23rd.

Laurie Zellar from DRNC

DNRC CDB is trying to keep CDs connected through a series of monthly zoom meetings. They have gotten good feedback from employees.

Laurie hired six CD admins to help CARRD process CARES Act applications. Many district admins offered to help.

DNRC also conducted interviews for the water reservation technician position, and will be making a decision shortly. Last Tuesday a job announcement went out for Laurie's job. She is retiring at the end of December. (This application will close in about a month).

Liv Stavick from MRCD

The Ranching for Rivers Application is still accepting applications on a rolling basis. The program provides a 50% cost share and can provide funding for putting together ranching management plans.

The CMR has an October 22nd meeting focused on grasshoppers. Counties outside CMR can participate as well! (the meeting will be virtual)

Core Partners Meeting September 15th

Jim will be attending virtually

Standing Committee Reports

None

Legislative Committee Report - Jeff Tiberi

Laurie pushed a bill through SAVA committee to deal with election issues for supervisors, this was approved and will come forward as a committee bill. There is also an ongoing discussion about nepotism laws that will come in front of the LAHC which will allow smaller counties to hire someone they are related to.

Bylaws Update – Rebecca Boslough and Jim Simpson

This would go through District Operations if they approve combining the new entities.

Open Mic

- Zoom meeting for next Board meeting
- Rebecca, Jim, Dean, and Jeff are having weekly MACD check-in meetings over Zoom.

For next agenda

- Finalize and identify districts in good standing
- One more review of the convention agenda

Meeting adjourned at: 9:10

Motion: Mike Hansen

Second: Bob Petermen

Discussion:

VOTE: Motion carries