



Montana Association of
Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

10/13/2020

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: Elisha Dempsey, Sarah Hitchcock, Jane Holzer, Jeff Tiberi, Mark Bostrom, Melissa Downing, Kyle Tacket

Meeting was called to order by Jim Simpson at 7:36AM

2. Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Roddy Rost
- Seconded: Gary Giem
- Discussion: None
- VOTE: Motion Passes

3. Financials:

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Steve Schanaman
- Discussion: Move Kay Webb to Convention. This was approved at an earlier meeting.
- VOTE: Motion Passes

4. Dues Report

- Hill has said they intend to pay dues.
- Liberty and Mile High both paid half of their dues and did not send letters (Jim and Rebecca need to follow-up to see if they would like to send in a letter).
- Valley said they would pay but have not yet.

Recognize that 11 conservation Districts are not in Good standing

- Motion: Steve Hertel
- Second: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: Sarah Hitchcock confirmed that a check is in the mail from Valley. Judi asked about the due date to be in good standing. Jim Simpson said that the bylaws say that the deadline is September 1st, but that the board will review payment after that and determine which districts are in good standing and which are not.

- VOTE: Motion passes

If dues come in between now and convention, automatically reverse the standing to good standing.

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion passes

5. Gallatin CD Contract for purchase of 33 Owl Pro Webcams

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Steve Schanaman
- Discussion: Mark Bostrom said that if for some reason this goes south, DNRC will work with MACD to figure something out.
- VOTE: Motion passes

6. Approval of costs for meeting in Lewistown

Discussion: Based on Covid cases, this is not a good time to spend the money on this. Instead, a virtual invite will be sent out to the Districts

7. SWCDM Hours for MACD

This is an update for the Board about hours that SWCDM staff have billed to MACD for work on Area Meetings and other time before the MACD ED was hired.

8. Motion to increase total funding available for web services by Kay Webb from \$2000 to \$3000

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: Mike Hansen said that the technology during the Area Meeting worked very well, and that Kay and Stephanie did a great job.
- VOTE: Motion passes

9. Convention Update

- The website is now up to date. <https://convention.macdnet.org/>
- We need to have 30 minutes added at the beginning for folks to get on ahead of time and make sure that phones and technology are working.
- Jim will call a Board Meeting on November 23rd if needed.

10. Area Meetings and Resolutions Update

- Send out resolutions (make sure they are updated) and remind CD's that they need to have a representative
- Elisha Dempsey - as far as resolutions go, it would be nice if the CD that submitted the resolution were a part of the process of following through with the resolution throughout the year. This should be added to the resolutions process for the District Operations Committee.
- The District Operations Committee will be working on an Area Meeting Planning Document, for approval at the June Board Meeting. This will be sent out to Districts to help Guide Area Meeting Planning in future years.

11. Cares Act Funding Update

- Working with SWCDM and MWCC, MACD is distributing nearly \$23k worth of items to Districts through Business Adaptability Grant.
- There was a webinar held for Districts on applying to the Local Government Reimbursement Program on October 13th at 11am. This was co-hosted by MACD and DNRC.

12. Bylaws Update

- The most recent version of combined Bylaws are with non-profit lawyer Joel Kavela. Jim Simpson, Dean Rogge, Mike Hansen, Rebecca Boslough, and Stephanie Adams are meeting with Joel Kavela on Wednesday (10/14) at 3:45pm.

13. Partner Reports

SWCDM (Melissa Downing)

- SWCDM is advertising a part time communications position.
- Stephanie is working on the mini-grants program for 2022.
- Ranching for Rivers goes through December 2021. When this expires there will be a reassessment of the program and decision if not to continue.
- The Soil Health Symposium has been officially cancelled. Stephanie is working on moving forward with the 2022 Symposium.
- MCPI agreement with NRCS: SWCDM signed an amendment for the agreement, which added an additional \$367k. This includes sub-awards, some staff time, and the 2022 Soil Health Symposium. There is \$236k of subawards set aside for Districts and other organizations, including the Big Sky Watershed Corps (with five host sites where half of the cost is covered).
 - As part of this, SWCDM has been working with Valley CD on a subaward for Valley CD and the Milk River Watershed Agreement
- Melissa has been working on getting a lease together between MACD and individual districts for the Rolling Rivers Trailers.
 - Emma from the Sun River Watershed Group (a Big Sky Watershed Corps member!) developed a handbook with curriculum for the RR Trailers.

DNRC (Mark Bostrom)

- Maybe LAHC could put a letter together to send out to the candidates about CDs. It's about this point in time that potential Governors are thinking about forming up their cabinet. Send to both candidates so it is neutral and that we are on their radar.
- The coal severance tax has notably reduced revenues. DNRC is trying to figure out how to take the hit instead of Districts taking reductions in 223 grants. DNRC is working with a \$800k shortfall. This may involve delaying replacement of some folks when they retire so that there are some vacancy savings. They will be looking for more diverse funding sources or alternate sources
- The Business Adaptability Grant Funding deadline is November 15th. MACD and SWCDM will need to submit receipts for purchases by this time. (These are the purchases made on behalf of the Districts.)

NRCS (Kyle Tackett)

- A lot of different factors went into cancelling the Soil Health Symposium.
- Melissa and Stephanie have done a lot of working on the MCPI agreement and subawards. They have kept up with everything and made it happen even with some staff turnover on the government side.

MT Salinity Control (Jane Holzer)

- They are doing a lot with their field work this year, and they are always open for more applications.

14. Standing Committee Updates

Education Committee (Elisha Dempsey)

- There is a resolution about NRCS helping out with range days. Elisha asked if there needs to be a formal agreement for this, or if there is there one already in place?
- The Education Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10am.

15. Legislative Update (Jeff Tiberi)

- Legislative Meet and Greet: Jeff is hesitant to send out the invites and is looking for direction from the Board on this. The Board decided that invites will be sent out with the caveat that it may not happen depending on Covid. Jim Simpson says to emphasize that this is very tentative and that there's a good chance this won't happen.
- There are 524 Bill Draft Requests. Jeff looked through the first 350 it looks like there are 30 that could possibly affect CDs. The drafts are not available yet, just the titles.
- Laurie Zellar from DNRC continues working on election law issues. The nepotism issue is on the backburner until we hear from more Districts.
- Three of the seven resolutions passed at 2020 Area Meetings deal with legislative issues.
- The LAHC meets this Friday at 7am via zoom. Jeff will add Mark Bostrom's suggestion about drafting a letter to legislative candidates. Another important topic is thinking about going after the funds if marijuana is legalized. Mark said a lot of these funds are allocated to FWP. So if they are getting this funding, could some of their old funding go to Districts?
- The LAHC will consider the idea of the creation of a Futures Committee to look at funding for Districts. If it moves forward it will go to the MACD Board.
- Issue of resolutions overload: There are 91 resolutions on the books. How do we manage this? We have a statewide organization serving 500 people across the state (and all the issues they deal with in different environments).
- Comment periods - There are four different national and statewide rules that are of significance to districts. Important to comment in thoughtful and timely manner
 - Keystone XL
 - Army Corps Mitigation Banks
 - Montana Forest Action Plan
 - Western Bumblebee Listing

16. Area Elections Issues

Mitigation Bank comment period through the Army Corps of Engineers

- Dan Rostad is interested in commenting on this issue.
- Resolution on the books to create a mitigation bank.

Weather Stations, \$21 Million grant to the University of Montana.

https://missoulian.com/news/local/um-awarded-21m-army-corps-contract-to-expand-climate-monitoring-network/article_8c70bf7f-6777-5380-8707-7bc3f754aff5.html

Ranch Management Planning

- This is academic research on Ranch Management Planning done by CSU as well as MSU. The Board decided that this can be sent out in District Dispatch, as it is completely optional for ranchers to participate.
- Additionally, it was mentioned that Rachel Frost is working on this project. Rachel was the MRCDC Coordinator for years.

Draft Forest Action Plan Comment Period

<https://www.montanaforestactionplan.org/>

- As a community we need to go through this and make sure that interests are represented. Grazing is only mentioned once. Folks need to take a look at this document and make comments. The Districts need to take a serious look at this and get some comments in.
- It's a great Forest Plan, except there is a lack of plan for a grazing option in it.
- Rebecca will send out a reminder to Districts, as the comment period ends on October 23rd.

ED Goals and Objectives

- This is an FYI. Please let Dean, Jim, and Roddy know if you have any comments.

Open Mic

None

Meeting adjourned at: 8:57 AM

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Second: Rick VanDycken
- Discussion: None
- VOTE: Motion passes