



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

DATE

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)	
Steve Wanderaas (1)	Bob Peterman (2)	Judi Knapp (4)	Bill Naegeli (5)	

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Hedstrom, Autumn Coleman, Jeff Pattison, Jeff Tiberi, Rebecca Boslough, Mark Bostrom, Stephanie Adams, Mary Hendrix

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Roddy Rost
- Seconded: Steve Schanaman
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Financials:

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Gayla Wortman
- Discussion: We have been getting contributions from Districts for the legislative fund.
- VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Legislative Fund Donations to Date

District Donations	
District	Amount
Gallatin	\$500.00
Flathead	\$1,500.00
Wibaux	\$500.00
Bitterroot	\$500.00
Garfield	\$500.00
Lincoln	\$500.00

Total	\$4,000.00
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NACD Resolutions

- Sunni Heikes-Knapton resigned as NACD regional representative as of February 19th
- The AIS resolution from Montana passed at the NACD Annual Meeting and is on the books. Steve will be in contact with the AIS Committee for NACD to figure out next steps.
- NACD Auction is still ongoing
- The NACD AIS Advisory Group would like a presentation from the Montana AIS resolution folks.
- Dean Rogge, Steve Wanderaas, and Dusty Olsen did an excellent job getting this resolution through despite some roadblocks coming up at the NACD Annual Meeting.

PARTNER REPORTS:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Autumn Coleman & Mark Bostrom

- DNRC has been focused on the legislature and the budget for CD accounts. The legislature is still working on HB2. They are trying to push through contracts for CDs and wrap that up.
- They are very focused on maintaining open lines of communication with MACD and the river councils.

Missouri River Conservation District Council

- They will meet Wednesday

Milk River Watershed Alliance

- Meeting next week
- Milkrivermt.org

COMMITTEES:

Motion to approve Water Resources nominations: Jeff Pattison, Valley CD (Chair); Kent Myers, Bitterroot CD

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Gayla Wortman
- Discussion: none
- MOTION CARRIES

Motion to approve Soil and Land Use nominations: Steve Wanderaas, McCone CD (Chair); Jay King, Petroleum CD; Paul Rosenberg, Bitterroot CD

- Motion: Judi
- Second: Gayla
- Discussion: none
- MOTION CARRIES

Motion to approve Education, District Operations, and STAG nominations.

- Motion: Mike
- Second: Tony
- Discussion: none
- MOTION CARRIES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

DNRC Budget (HB2)

- DNRC Budget will go to executive action in the next week or two.
- FWP budget hearing is today (2/8) at 9am. Rebecca will be testifying.

Grant Programs: HB 6,7,8,11,14

- This Friday is (tentatively) executive action on these bills

Other bills

- HB 943 text has not come out yet. This bill would cover the shortfall from coal tax for the current fiscal year.
- Jim will testify to support Amanda Kaster today.
- Rebecca will testify to support the FWP Director tomorrow.

Motion to formally support the Soil Health Study Bill Resolution

- Motion: Gayla Wortman
- Second: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: Mike thinks that chairing the committee is a very good position for districts to be in.
- MOTION CARRIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Merger

- According to the secretary of state's office website MACD and SWCDM are legally merged. We are still waiting to receive the certificate of merger, which is needed for the next steps. This year, we are planning to redesign the MACD website as part of the merger process.

In Person Meeting with Director Kaster and Michael Freeman (Natural Resource Advisor)

- Jim Simpson and Dean Rogge will be in Helena February 26th. We have scheduled meetings with Director Kaster and Michael Freeman and are in the process of scheduling meetings with other appointees and legislators, depending on availability.

CARES Act Reimbursement

- MACD received the \$8,000 reimbursement from Prairie CD. Gallatin CD is still awaiting their reimbursement from the state, and they were in contact with Gallatin County last week.

\$10,000 from DNRC for NRCS computer reimbursement

- Districts have been informed of the \$10,000 available to cover covid-related tech costs that were not able to be reimbursed by the state (Ex. NRCS computers that didn't arrive in time to be reimbursed). A formal application was sent out to districts, and funding for individual districts will be capped at \$2,000 each.

Communications

- Our RFP with DNRC for Eric's position was confirmed. Eric has hit the ground running in his first months as our communications specialist. He has been assisting many districts with website updates, graphic design, and general tech issues. He has also been working on postcards updates to the EO website, updates to the MACD website, and a redesigned legislative brochure.

Standing Meetings

- MACD, DNRC legislative meeting: Thursdays at 1PM
- LAHC: Tuesdays at 7AM
- Weekly leadership check-in: Fridays at 1PM
- MACD NRCS monthly meetings

Personnel Committee and Employee Job Descriptions

- The MACD staff are working to create detailed job descriptions to clarify responsibilities. Additionally, the Personnel Committee will be meeting with MACD staff on Friday February 12th.

Approval of MACD Budget

- So far, we have received budget approval from six districts. The original deadline of February 19th may be extended depending on district response.

Weekly Legislative Updates

- MACD is sending out weekly legislative updates following the Tuesday morning LAHC meetings. These email updates include a highlight of key information and action items alongside detailed meeting minutes.

MWCC Fall Tour

- MWCC is hosting a fall tour of the Rocky Mountain Front. They will be contacting conservation districts in that area, and they have also invited MACD to participate.

OPEN MIC

Report on all funding out to Districts from DNRC in the last 5 years (Mark Bostrom)

- Around \$12 million
- Mark will send this to Rebecca, Jeff, and Jim who will share with the Board and Districts, as well as added to the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15AM

Motion: Dean Rogge

Second: Steve Wanderaas

Discussion: none

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Send legislative one pager and operation outreach
2021 dues

Send out resolution packet to all districts (from Steve H).

Add \$12million from DNRC to MACD annual report