



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*We're growing Montana's future.*

## MACD Programs Committee Meeting January 26th, 8:00 AM 2021 Meeting Minutes

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hansen	Gary Giem	Roger Hybner	
Jeff Wivholm	Roddy Rost	Heidi Fleury	

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Stephanie Adams, Eric Rannestad, Jillian Henrichon, Jim Simpson.

Meeting called to order by Mike Hansen at 8:02 AM

### Committee Members:

During the MACD meeting in January, Mike, Jeff, Gary, Roddy, Roger, and Heidi were appointed to the MACD Programs Committee. There is currently one vacant position, which needs to be filled by a conservation district supervisor, from a district in good standing with MACD.

### Officer Appointments:

Mike Hansen expressed that he would like to open up the chair position for someone new. Jeff Wivholm also expressed that he would like to step down from Vice Chair.

- Roger nominated Heidi Fleury as Chair
- Jeff nominated Roger as Vice Chair
- It was expressed that Gary should maintain Treasure, as it coincides with his position with the MACD Board.

Motion to approve Heidi Fleury and Committee Chair, Roger Hybner as Vice Chair, and Gary Giem as Treasure:

- Motion: Jeff Wivholm
- Second: Roger Hybner
- Discussion: There was discussion regarding how the Chair was previously the signatory for grant and agreements, it was decided that Gary would be a more appropriate person to carry out signatory responsibilities. Mike also suggested that he maintain responsibilities including providing personnel assistance to Stephanie, in regards to programic staff such as the Sage Grouse Initiative Employees.
- VOTE: Motion Carries

### Meeting Minutes (November 17th, 2020)

Mike suggested that we provide acknowledgement of the close-out items regarding the SWCDM Board.

- Motion to Acknowledge: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Roger Hybner
- VOTE: Motion Carries

### 2020 Year End SWCDM Financial Report:

- Motion to Acknowledge: Mike Hansen

- Second: Jeff Wivholm
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Moving forward, the MACD Board will be handling the overall budget. For the programs committee, Stephanie will provide a simplified grants and agreements overview for referencing what current programmatic funding we have and where it is going.

### **Non-Voting Member Invites**

The Program Committee Charter includes that “The PC will also consist of non-voting representatives from identified partner organizations and agencies”. The Committee discussed inviting NRCS and DNRC representatives to sit on the Committee as non-voting members and inviting others to participate in meetings as appropriate.

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Second: Jeff Wivholm
- Vote: Motion Carries

### **2021 Meeting Schedule**

Stephanie suggested a standard schedule of Committee meetings every 2 months, with the opportunity to call additional meetings as needed. The Committee agreed to the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 AM.

### **Program Updates**

Stephanie Introduced Eric Rannestad and Jillian Henrichon:

- **Eric:** Communications Specialist for MACD, has experience working with CDs in Washington state and communications consulting. Eric works remotely out of Bozeman.
- **Jill:** Big Sky Watershed Corps member, shared with LCCD and FBC. Jill is originally from Massachusetts and holds a degree in Environmental Science. She is working with MACD on implementing the septic cost-share program as well as working to build our social media capacity.

Stephanie included a programs overview in the meeting packet, which was reviewed.

### **Reports/Open Mic**

Jim Simpson asked if folks knew of anyone who would be interested in filling the open Programs Committee seat. Mike mentioned that he knew of another Gallatin CD supervisor who was interested but first wanted to see if folks from another geographic area would be interested.

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Roger Hybner
- VOTE: Motion passes

**NEXT MEETING:** March 16th, 8:00 AM



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## **01/19/2022 Programs Update**

### **Grant-Funded Programs:**

#### **1. Education & Outreach Mini-Grant Program**

- a. FY2019 contract: Ongoing management with many requests for subaward extensions or amendments due to COVID.
- b. FY2020 contract: Working with DEQ to finalize Spring 2021 Call for Applications. \$24,000 available for subawards.
- c. FY2021 DEQ 319 application for Mini-Grant funding in 2022 has been accepted. Contract pending (\$33,090).

#### **2. Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership (FBWP)**

- a. FBWP MOU finalized
- b. BSWC member, Jillian Henrichon, started on 01/11 and will spearhead FBWP efforts
- c. \$30,000 available for Septic Maintenance cost-share in priority areas of the Basin

#### **1. Ranching for Rivers**

- a. 2 Projects completed in the Blackfoot River Watershed
- b. 2 Projects currently encumbered (\$11,468.40)
- c. \$50,508.60 available in cost-share
- d. Grant agreement extended to Dec. 15th, 2021.

#### **2. Watershed Stewardship Funding**

- a. \$ 10,975 encumbered for subawarded program with the Gallatin Conservation District
- b. \$ 6,125 encumbered as 50% of cost for shared BSWC member under the Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership efforts

#### **3. District Assistance & Communications**

- a. Added new users to the email network, maintained lists, continued identifying and correcting errors with internal and partner contacts.
- b. Fulfilled 3 website assistance requests to CD's.
- c. Assisted CDs with recording meetings, screen sharing, and call-in features for virtual meetings as well as train hosts on Zoom/UberConference features on an individual basis.
- d. Created drafts of outreach material for 2021 legislative session.
- e. Pending DNRC RFP for continued funding

### **NRCS Contribution Agreements**

#### **1. Conservation Delivery Agreement (Pollinators, Soil Health, & Conservation Stories)**

- a. Agreement expires August, 2021. Waiting for notice on possible extension.
- b. Soil Health: Planning for 2022 Soil Health Symposium, planning meetings will resume on January 28th.
- c. BSWC: Supporting 4 host sites, Lake CD, Missoula Weed District, BPMC and CEMIST.
  - i. \$24,500 total in funding to the above organizations

## **2. Montana Conservation Partnership Initiative**

- a. Subawards
  - i. MR CDC: \$49,436.64
  - ii. Valley CD/MRWA: \$100,000.00
  - iii. Blackfoot Challenge: \$30,000.00
  - iv. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies: \$174,043.60
  - v. Pheasants Forever: \$811,150.00
  - vi. Little Beaver CD: \$78,050.00
  - vii. TOTAL encumbered: \$ 1,242,680.24
  - viii. Pending: YR CDC
- b. Sage Grouse Initiative:
  - i. 2 current vacancies, with the Malta position to be filled in the first quarter of 2021
  - ii. Pending new agreement with WWF for SGI Support (~\$5,800/yr)

### **Bridger Plant Materials Center**

- Decision was made to postpone the LCC transition until after the MACD-SWCDM merger was completed. Currently working with Theresa on a 2021 budget. There will be a board meeting in mid-March.

### **Other Completed Programs Activities since 11/17/2020:**

- 12/2 - Eric's first day & onboarding (remote)
- 12/3 - Natural Heritage Partners Mtg
- 12/8 - Flathead Basin Wastewater Partners Meeting
- 12/8 - CORE Partners Meeting
- 12/17 - Flathead Basin Commission Education & Outreach Partners Meeting
- 12/18 - Natural Resources Grant Workgroup
- 01/07 - Meeting with interested partners and MACD members to discuss possible interest in pursuing MT Forest Action RFP (decision was unanimous to not pursue this funding round)
- 01/13 - FBWP and BSWC meeting