



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

April 12th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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:

- MACD Staff: Rebecca Boslough, Melissa Downing, Stephanie Adams, Eric Rannestad, Jeff Tiberi
- DNRC: Amanda Kaster, Mark Bostrom, Autumn Coleman, Mary Hendrix
- NRCS: Tom Watson, Kyle Tackett
- Scott Brown (MSCA), Jeff Pattison (MRWA, Water Resources Committee), Dan Rostad (YRCDC), Chris Evans (Education Committee), Dave Martin (Education Committee).

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

Approval of March 2021 Board Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Gary
- Seconded: Steve
- Discussion:
- VOTE: approve

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Approve Financial Report

- Motion: Mike
- Seconded: Gayla
- Discussion: Steve Wanderaas asked if the information on MACD-owned property be include in next meeting's financial report.
- VOTE: Approve

Dues Report

- Full Dues Paid By: Beaverhead, Daniels, Hill, McCone, Mile High, Petroleum, Treasure
- Partial Dues paid by: Jefferson
- **Important:** It was noted that sometimes the Mill Levy numbers MACD received from the Department of Revenue (DOR) are not the same as the actual Mill Levy dollars received by Districts. This means that the numbers sent out on the Dues Invoices to districts can be wrong. This potential for error was noted on the notices sent out. If any Districts have concerns or questions about the numbers on their Dues Notices, please let MACD know. We are happy to adjust the invoices to match the Mill Levy numbers that districts have on file (and we of course apologize for any related inconvenience). Thank you!

Motion to add \$1000 to Jeff's contract

- Motion: Steve Wanderaas
- Second: Roddy Rost
- Discussion: The contract began July 1st, 2020, and runs through April of this year. Please note that these additional funds *may not* be needed depending on when the legislative session concludes.
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Motion to make Rebecca a signatory on the former SWCDM accounts

- Motion: Roddy Rost
- Second: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Leadership training and strategic planning at MACD Spring Board Meeting in June

- What do people want for leadership training? What are our different approaches to leadership?
 - Shannon Stober will be leading this training. Please let Rebecca, Jim, or Dean know if you have ideas of what you would like included in this training. It will only be 2 hours long in order to make time for strategic planning.
- Rebecca, Jim, and Dean are in the process of choosing a consultant to assist MACD with strategic planning. Once we speak with consultants and finalize costs, this information will be brought to the MACD board.
- The MACD Board will approve funding for leadership training and strategic planning at the May MACD Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Merger Update

- See attached '*Executive Director's Report 4/6/2021*'

Events update

- See attached '*Executive Director's Report 4/6/2021*'

PARTNER REPORTS:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Tom Watson

They are starting to accept visitors in NRCS with some restrictions (appointments only and the doors remain locked)

Next week they start FY22 Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) review process for potential investment. He has requested additional farm bill funds, including \$8million for EQIP.

They are still trying to hire 15 people.

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Mark Bostrom

- With the passage of HB 374, there was \$1million provide to CARDD for this fiscal year. They are now able to get the 223 grants going, as well as a new round of District Development and 223 grants at RCAC. There will not be any holdbacks on the river council contracts or Envirothon. They will not move forward with the hiring of new positions until the new Fiscal Year.
- CARDD will be the lead agency for section 602 of ARPA. They will be dealing with the water and wastewater pieces of ARPA, which will be a significant workload for the next 3 years.

Director Amanda Kaster

- Thank you to MACD for all the work done on HB 374.
- There will be a good opportunity to sit down and think about how to fill the vacant positions, how to best leverage resources and support districts, and how to get as many resources to districts as possible.

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC) – Gayla Wortman

- Next meeting will be at the end of May, and the deadline for those applications has passed.
- There are discussions happening about reimagining the RCAC and looking at the guidelines and statutes for that program.

Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) – Steve Wanderaas

- Adaptive Management Plan for Lower Missouri – the draft EIS is open for public comment. This is huge for the irrigators, economy, and environment of Eastern Montana.
- There will be a few public meetings in Wolf Point.
- Liv Holt is unfortunately leaving, as she was offered a job with the Farm Bureau.
- MRCDC is on the same funding amount they were 15 years ago

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) – Dan Rostad

- YRCDC bylaws require MACD representation on their board. Judi Knapp and Don Youngbauer
- Next meeting will be in Miles City on May 26th.
- Their staff member, Aaron Kolb, has left, and Michael Perkins will now be joining as a Conservation Fellow. Aaron came from Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps).
- They are working with five irrigation districts
- They submitted a request to Representative Holmlund to include five different projects in HB632.
- MISTRIC will be in-person meeting in July.

Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) – Jeff Pattison

- The big focus is the ARPA money for Milk River, which will be going through Executive Action this week.
- There was also a recent failure at the one of the drops

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA)

- No report

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

- No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

District Operations – Steve Hertel

- They are working on the Resolutions Review Process. Districts have added the resolutions to this month's board meeting agendas.

Education

Chris Evans

- They have a planning matrix for 2020 to track previous work, and for 2021 to track this year. This includes tracking trainings for employees and supervisors.
- They are doing a lot moving forward! A new outreach subcommittee/workgroup has been

Dave Martin

- Short presentation on the outreach workgroup

Resources

- Washington State's Toolkit for Marketing <https://www.scc.wa.gov/cd/marketing-toolkit>
 - January 2021 Ed Com Meeting Presentation <https://youtu.be/wyWWMna3xHk>
 - February 2021 Ed Com Meeting Presentation <https://youtu.be/Fj0GYAnrYRQ>
- Also a link to the MACD Education Committee Information <https://education.macdnet.org>

Water Resources – Jeff Pattison

- Jeff has been working with DNRC Staff and the Committee
- Jason Garber has been working on 310-related resolutions

Soil and Land Use Committee – Steve Wanderaas

- They are looking for members of the Forestry Subcommittee – this could be supervisors, staff, or others.
- Steve would like there to be a resolution to deal with WSAs instead of having the committee working on policy.
- Participation at the last meeting was barely a quorum

Programs Committee

- Submitted written report

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve application to AmeriCorps Planning Grant for Soil Corps program idea.

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Gayla Wortman
- Discussion: If we are successful with the grant, the recommended starting time would be in September. MACD going to ask for ~\$60k-70k.
- VOTE: Motion carries

Please see the attached '*Executive Directors Report 4/6/2021*' for more information on the Soil Corps AmeriCorps Planning Grant

Legislative Report

Jeff Tiberi

- All bills should be settled by the end of this month, and Jeff should be able to wrap up by then.
- For ARPA funds, there was a proposal for Off Stream Watering Points (OSWP)
- There is an LAHC Meeting Tuesday at 7am
- Three bills with action
 - CD Study Bill HJ 27
 - SB 384 about AIS fees
 - Study of Flathead Erosion
- We have heard the legislature will try to save 5-10 days for when more guidance about ARPA comes down from the federal government.

Executive Director's Report

Rebecca Boslough - Please see the attached '*Executive Directors Report 4/6/2021*'

Motion to appoint Judi Knapp to the BPMC Board

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Move to Approve MACD Network Hosting Policy

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Pete Woll
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Operation Outreach

- Please see the attached '*Operation Outreach*' for April 2021

Open Mic

- During the meeting, Gayla Wortman asked that the Weekly MACD Leadership Meeting be renamed 'The MACD Friday Update.' Rebecca will implement this change starting this week.
- It was asked that the Board Agenda be posted on the website. Normally, the meeting notifications go out in District Dispatch. Rebecca will

1. continue including meeting notifications in District Dispatch
2. *START* posting the agenda to the website (without the zoom link due to security concerns)
3. *START* sending out all the board meeting materials to the admins list

Due to the meeting running long, several non-urgent items have been postponed to the May Board Meeting

- DNRC CDB positions
- Infrastructure and project ideas for CDs
- Soil Health Coalition

ADJOUN:

Meeting adjourned at: 9:07am

- Motion: Steve Wanderaas
- Second: Steve Hertel
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion carries, meeting adjourned.