



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*We're growing Montana's future.*

## MACD BOARD MEETING

May 10th, 2021

## 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 Petermann ( 2)	Judi Knapp (4)	Bill Naegeli ( 5)	

**PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Rebecca Boslough, Melissa Downing, Stephanie Adams, Eric Rannestad, Stacey Barta, Chris Evans, Jeff Pattison, Kyle Tackett, Audra Bell, Mary Hendrix, Scott Brown, Autumn Coleman, Amanda Kaster, Brandee Fladstol, Tom Watson, Andrew Kretschmer, Steve Hedstrom, Jeff Pattison, Connor Mertz

**Meeting was called to order by Jim Simpson at 7:33AM**

### Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Steve Wanderaas
- Seconded: Rick VanDyken
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

### Motion to approve the May 2021 Financial Report (which includes the Dues Report)

- Motion: Gayla Wortman
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: Shirley Parrot did a rough estimate for the value of Bridger Plant Materials Center (BPMC), and it was around \$800k. Another comprehensive Financial Report will be put together for Spring Board. If you have any questions, comments, or edits, let Rebecca know.
- VOTE: Motion carries

### Auction and Raffle Items

- The Board has helped in the past and is planning to help this year
- Convention Planning Committee will send out additional information and a reminder
- In the past - each District has donated a fairly significant item
- Have a raffle, Auction, or Silent Auction? This question will go back to the Convention Planning Committee for consideration.

### Approve cost of leadership training up to \$1500

- Motion: Mike Hansen

- Second: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

#### **Motion to Approve Cost of Strategic Planning up to \$5000**

- Motion: Dean Rogge
- Second: Tick VanDyken
- Discussion: Strategic planning will launch in June at the Spring Board Meeting. Mark Bostrom at DNRC has said there is a 95% chance that they can cover up to \$5000 for leadership training and strategic planning. At Mark's request, Rebecca has sent a purchase order to DNRC for leadership training and strategic planning. Rebecca will be working with Amy Personnette from DNRC on this. Chris Evans mentioned that LCCD has some money from DNRC that could help cover leadership training.
- VOTE: Motion carries

#### **Motion to give Jeff Tiberi a \$1000 cash bonus plus a contribution to an embroidered vest for Jeff Tiberi**

- Motion: Bob Petermann
- Second: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: Jeff has done a phenomenal job and put in far more hours than he has been paid for. Districts have full funding and have more money than they have had in several years!
- VOTE: Motion carries

#### **Spring Board Meeting**

The Spring Board Agenda has been updated. The main components of the agenda are MACD business, board leadership training, and hearing from state agency directors.

#### **Partner Reports**

##### Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Tom Watson and Kyle Tackett

NRCS got five million dollars of EQIP and 2.5 million of CSP funding. They are still doing direct hiring. They are still doing watershed planning efforts and are still meeting with irrigators and the Farmer's Conservation Alliance.

##### Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Amanda Kaster, Autumn Coleman, and Mary Hendrix

- There will be a CD Supervisor Training Module on the 310 Law on Wednesday (5/12) at 7am
- DNRC wants to make it a priority to fill positions in the Conservation Districts Bureau (CDB).
- Importance of a standalone CDB Chief
- HR Services - Where do staff go if they have an issue that they feel needs to be addressed outside their board? This is important for DNRC to consider and address
- DNRC staff who can answer straightforward legal questions
- There has been a lot of change in DNRC and the CARDD Division. Amanda sees this as a potential opportunity and wants to figure out the best way possible to serve conservation districts
- Message Conveyed by Autumn: Mark is very grateful for the help and support of MACD and individual districts during the legislative session. Because of the remote session and new administration, DNRC was not up at the legislature like they had been in the past, and the

weekly and sometimes daily communication with MACD and districts was critical. DNRC also feels that Jeff Tiberi did a phenomenal job!

#### DNRC Rangelands -Stacey Barta

There will be a Range and Livestock Forum at the end of the month in Billings

#### Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC) - Gayla Wortman

RCAC has another round of grants to review later this month. They will be meeting in Helena to discuss how RCAC can elevate themselves into a different type of entity, as opposed to an entity that only looks at grants.

#### Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Steve Wanderaas

MRCDC is looking forward to meeting with Director Kaster tomorrow, alongside YRCDC. Liv Holt, the MRCDC coordinator has moved on, so they have interviewed applications and will offer a position on Wednesday. They are trying to get comments on the current EIS - Their main concern is that there is no mitigation for flooding or crop losses.

#### Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Judi Knapp

They will be meeting in Miles City on May 26th at 10am.

#### Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA)

MRWA is moving forward with MACD and NACD on making something happen related to the Pallid Sturgeon Resolution. There will be repairs on a couple small diversion projects on St. Marys. HJ7 was a great success thanks to MACD and DNRC. Sarah Hitchcock will be leaving MRWA, and the alliance will be looking for a new coordinator. Thank you to everyone for their support on Milk River efforts.

#### Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA)

MSCA is doing lots of field work on its salinity RCPP. Rained out this morning from the weekend rains which is a good thing.

#### National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

None

### **Quorum issues at Standing Committee Meetings**

Each Board member has been assigned a standing committee assignment. Some of the standing committees have been having issues with attendance. Please make sure to attend your committee meetings

### **Committee Reports**

- District Operations - They are still working on resolutions. They have contacted different districts and are waiting to hear back from those local district boards.
- Education - They have finished their resolutions review and need to get that information to MACD. They are meeting Monthly
- Water Resources - They are going to assign the resolutions to the Area Meetings and have people from those Areas pick them up. Jory and Jason are working on some of that stuff.
- Soil and Land Use - A majority of the resolutions have been addressed.

**Executive Director's Report** - See written report

**Legislative Report** - See written report

**Operation Outreach (OO)** - See written report

This will be discussed at the Spring Board Meeting to determine efficacy and what OO will look like moving forward.

**Open Mic**

- Bylaws - Need clarification on quorum for standing committees - Jeff Pattison
- Bob Petermann called CDs to determine if CDs are receiving PILT money. Out of 11 Districts Bob has spoken with - only 2 receive PILT money. Chris Evans said that LCCD also does not receive PILT money.
- Autumn - There was a bill in the legislature sponsored by MACo that would allow for counties to set up special districts to direct the PILT money. Autumn will find this bill and recommends MACD talk to MACo. Potentially laws would need to be passed at the county level.

**Meeting adjourned at: 8**

Motion: Mike Hansen

Second: Roddy Rost

Discussion:

VOTE: Motion carries, meeting adjourned