



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING
July 12th, 2021 - 7:30 AM
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: Stephanie Adams (MACD), Chris Evans (Lewis & Clark CD), Eric Rannestad (MACD), Jason Garber (DNRC), Mary Hendrix (DNRC) , Kyle Tackett (NRCS), Molly Masters (MRCDC), Robbie Savelkoul (Roosevelt CD), Steve Hedstrom (NACD/Judith Basin CD), Steve Wanderass (McCone CD), Tom Watson (NRCS), Autumn Coleman (DNRC), Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Stacey Barta (DNRC), Jeff Pattison (MRWA / Valley CD), Tahnee Benson (Sheridan CD).

Executive Director, Rebecca Boslough, was absent due to travel

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Steve Wanderaas
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: Noted typo where it says "1,000" should read "\$1,000"
- VOTE: Motion Passes

Financials:

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Seconded: Steve Hertel
- Discussion: It was asked that Rebecca (not present) follow up with a report on how much of the budget has been spent on lobbying activities in 2021, including Tiberi's time, travel, Rebecca's time, ect. Under a 501(c)(3), only 20% of the budget can be spent on lobbying activities.
- VOTE: Motion Passes

It was noted that a dues report was attached showing that MACD is \$8,000 short of budgeted amount. Jim would like follow-up on if the second dues notice has been sent to districts who have not paid yet, or have partially paid.

A letter from Valley CD was provided, asking for updates on past resolutions submitted by the district. Rebecca had put together a response (included in the board meeting packet), detailing the status of each resolution in question.

Partner Reports

NRCS (Tom Watson)- STAC meeting in Great Falls tomorrow (Galya will not be able to attend. Jim may be able to attend remotely and Stephanie plans to attend in person). NRCS continues to work through the Direct Hiring process.

DNRC (Mark Bostrom) - The fiscal year ended July 1st and the benefits of HB374 have kicked in. CARDD is still forming their budget, but it looks like there may be an opportunity to increase CDA amounts with a second round of funding. Mark is hoping to roll out a budget to RCAC and continuing conversations on the roles of RCAC. Regarding the recruitment of a Program Manager (previously called the Bureau Chief), the posting closed at the end of June, a review committee has been formed, and they hope to have an offer made by the end of July.

DNRC (Autumn Coleman) - Rebecca asked to do a training for CDs on July 14th on ARPA, though it might be rescheduled. The conversation will be around how CDs can work with their County about receiving funds through the Minimum Allocations pot of ARPA funding, which is a good alternative to the Competitive Grant pot, particularly for planning and assessment projects. It was also noted that RRGL, and Reclamation and Development Grants Planning Grants are open for applications. Mary Hendrix added that 223, Pollinator, Education mini-grants, and district development grants are all due July 16th.

MRCDC (Molly Masters)- Molly introduced herself as the new MRCDC Coordinator and has been working for a month. Molly went to college in Bozeman and was previously an Extension Agent. Currently, Molly is getting to know the different programs and working on the upcoming River Rendezvous, which will be held on July 23rd with a MRCDC meeting on July 22nd in Bozeman.

MRWA (Jeff Pattison) - MRWA is in the process of hiring a new coordinator (Communications Specialist), Jeff commented on the dry year, record drought, diminished grazing, and wells that are going dry along the highline. MRWA is currently drafting letters to send to each of the counties along the highline asking for them to get involved with the Milk River project.

Employees Organization (Chris Evans) - Chris is now the VP of the EO. The EO is planning for their EO training in Red Lodge Oct. 20-21. Training will be about employee leadership networking, outreach, and communications. The EO has also been holding Monthly Roundtables that have been well attended by CD staff.

Committee Reports

District Operations (Steve Hertel) - The next meeting will be on July 16th and they will be discussing a resolutions follow-up process to propose during the MACD Annual Meeting.

Education (Chris Evans): The committee is working on a collaborative effort with NRCS, DNRC,EO, and partners for a comprehensive training calendar that can be used by all parties.

Water (Jeff Pattison) - The committee is still planning on getting resolutions to the different districts to review and determine if they will be sunset.

Soil and Land Use (Steve Wanderass) - No new activity, the process of reviewing resolutions was completed last May/June. The Forestry Subcommittee has been formed with 6 current volunteers. For the months of June-July the committee was asked to check in with various forestry-related partners about the current involvement of Conservation Districts and what role they may be able to play in the future. The next Forestry meeting will be on August 11th.

- Jim added a note that previously it was discussed if MACD should get more involved with the topic of WSA's, perhaps through forming a process document on how to address WSA issues, which may require a resolution. At this time it was suggested that Rebecca's plate is too full to work on developing a solution to this issue and it may be something the individual CDs and Supervisors will need to spearhead.

Programs (Stephanie Adams) - The next Programs Committee meeting will be July 20th, a notice will be sent out this week along with a status update of all the ongoing programs. This notice will also be sent to the MACD Board.

Nutrient Working Group - West of the Divide District Representative

Samantha Tappenbeck, Flathead CD Conservation Program Manager, was Nominated to be the Western CD representative. A Motion was made to approve Samantha as the representative for the Nutrient Working Group

- Motion to Approve: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Dean Roggee
- Discussion: Jim noted that Lake CD has worked with Samantha and she would bring a lot of knowledge to the table.
- VOTE: Motion Passes

Hidden Pasture Creek WSA Tour and Meeting

Dean Roggee discussed the WSA Tour that was previously attended by 28 people. These groups agreed to meet on a monthly basis about how to address the WSA issue, Dean also thought that this process may result in a template that others can follow for other WSA issues.

Approval for MACD to begin working with Wild Montana and other partners on this Issue

- Motion: Dean Roggee
- Second: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: Dean mentioned that if Rebecca can not allocate time to this issue, that he would be willing to take on parts of that role. Jim noted that we should be aware of the capacity limits between staff and board member time.
- VOTE: Motion Passes

Retroactive approval for travel reimbursement for Dean Roggee to the Hidden Pasture Creek WSA Tour, 900 miles (Garfield CD agreed to help pay for Dean's hotel rooms during his travels).

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Second: Bob Petermann
- Discussion: N/A
- VOTE: Motion Passes

Executive Report

An executive report was attached to the meeting notice, Rebecca was not present to discuss.

Jim made a comment regarding Terry Profotta who was hired as a consultant to develop a strategic plan for MACD. Overall Jim expressed his support for Terry's work thus far. Additional optimistic comments were provided regarding Terry's thoughtful work and a positive outlook on the strategic planning process.

Operation Outreach, July 2021

An Operations Outreach overview was attached to the meeting notice. Stephanie quickly reviewed the topics included in Rebecca's report. The purpose of this document is to act as more-or-less talking points for Area Directors to take back to their districts.

Open Mic

Steve Wandraas - August 2-6th is Watercraft Inspector Appreciation week. McCone CD is planning on having a BBQ at their station.

Bob Petermann: Curious about the status of the infrastructure bill, Bob called his senators to consider the Milk River project. Bob asked if MACD should follow-up as a group on this issue and stressed the importance of the number of people who depend on the Milk River.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:37

Motion: Dean Rogge

Second: Rick VanDyken

Discussion: N/A

VOTE: Motion Passes