



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING
September 13th, 2021 at 7:30am via zoom

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)	Vacant (3)	Steve Schanaman(4)	Rick VanDyken(6)
Dean Rogge (VP)	Roddy Rost (2)	Mark Suta (3)	Vacant (5)	
Steve Wanderaas (1)	Bob Peterman (2)	Judi Knapp (4)	Bill Naegeli (5)	

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Hedstrom, Rebecca Boslough, Stephanie Adams, Eric Rannestad, Autumn Coleman, Tom Watson, Kyle Tackett, Tahnee Benson, Mark Bostrom, Stephanie Criswell, Jeff Pattison, Tahnee Benson, Robbie Savelko, Dan Rostad

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Roddy Rost
- Seconded: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Financial Matters

Financial Report:

- Motion: Roddy Rost
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: The personnel committee will review the draft 2022 budget to discuss employee compensation packages
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Motion to extend dues deadline to Sept. 24th

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Steve Schanaman
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Old Business

Board Training with Terry Profota

This board training will take place during the Nov. 8th Board Meeting. The majority of this board meeting will be the training, as the board will also meet in conjunction with Convention.

Area Meetings

- Steve Wanderaas requested very clear guidance on what we should do in regard to past resolutions at Area Meetings.
- The pattern of covid increasing across the state was discussed. The final decision will on in-person meetings will continue to be left up to the Areas.

Convention

- At this time, the Cascade County Health Department does not recommend any in-person events above 100 people. The Board will make a final decision on the Convention at the October meeting.

Motion to approve Resolution deadline to Sept. 15th

- Motion: Dean Rogge
- Seconded: Roddy Rost
- Discussion:
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Partner Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Tom Watson

- The Biden Administration has moved in the direction of mandating all federal employees to be vaccinated. Tom does not yet know the details. There is a call with the Chief today, although he does not know what information will come down and when it will come down. It is also unclear at this time how it will impact partners in the office. This presents challenges in the agency internally as well as regarding partnerships with conservation districts. Tom will share new information as soon as he receives it.
- They are down to the last three weeks of the fiscal year. The new fiscal year will likely start with a continuing resolution (CR), although this may not have any bearing on farm bill money as CR has more to do with discretionary funding not mandatory farm bill funding.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Mark Bostrom and Stephanie Criswell

- DNRC has hired Stephanie Criswell as the new CDB Program Manager
- Stephanie has worked within CARDD for several years as a grant manager and with MISC.
- Any questions related to ARPA should be directed to Autumn Coleman.
- Thank you to MACD for the organizing and support of HB 374 during the legislative session. The impact of house bill 374 is very apparent. There has already been a transfer of \$1.7 to make CDB full (just to start the year out). There will likely be more transfers.

- CDB Budget
 - Due to the funding stability and availability from HB 374, Districts will be able to get up to \$40k in CDA grants this year (previously around \$36k).
 - There was an additional \$200k that added project funding to 223. There will be a total of \$300k for 223 grants moving forward, as well as \$260k for 310 support.
 - The river councils have been evened out. Now YRCDC will also receive \$110k, which is what MRCDC currently received. MRWA was also added as a line item as a river council. MSCA will maintain their base.
 - With the new infrastructure bill in congress, there is potentially \$100 Million for St. Mary's.
- This has been a devastating fire year. Money has gone out to several districts. There is \$58k left, this will likely go out to Broadwater, Meagher, and Lake CDs for fire restoration grants.
- Stephanie Criswell was born and raised in Helena and attended UM and Evergreen State College. She worked in publishing for a decade and then got a masters degree in public administration. She worked for the National Parks Conservation Association, and then worked for DNRC as a grant manager and the MISC coordinator.
 - Stephanie Criswell P.O. Box 201601
 - Helena, MT 59620-1601
 - 406.444.6669
 - scriwell@mt.gov

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC) - Judi Knapp

- RCAC met at the end of August and were glad to be able to go over the budget with Mark. They awarded six 223 grant applications. They continue to receive good and deserving applications.

Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Steve Wanderaas and Dean Rogge

- Carie Hess has moved on to a new position.
- There is a meeting in Malta on Wednesday night regarding the BLM comment period on Bison. This is around a change to permits to the APR. Dean Rogge will attend the meeting or get a report after. He will share this information with Rebecca.
- Dean will determine if MACD should give comment on this based on active resolutions

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Dan Rostad

- YRCDC has two new planning grants for Lower Yellowstone. YRCDC is now supporting a total of 15 projects, most related to irrigation efficiency and infrastructure upgrades.
- Dan participates in the Nutrient Work Group as the representative for East of the Divide. There are two groups: stakeholders group and technical working group. They are currently meeting almost every other week to prepare for rule making. Contact Dan with any questions.

Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Jeff Pattison

- Partners are currently reviewing the job description. Valley CD met and will push this out by the end of September.
- The watershed has been really stressed in terms of water quantity.
- There are issues with PILT funding in Valley County. The Board may want to take a look at this again and contact MACo.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) - None

MACD Employee Organization (MACD EO) - None

National Association of Conservation Districts - Steve Hedstroms

- The Resource Policy Groups (RPGs) having meetings this week, including the BLM RPG meeting today
- Aubrey Evans, the new Northern Plains Regional Rep, will be attending Area Meetings

Committee Reports

District Operations

- District Ops will need to meet before Area Meetings to finalize any procedural details for the business meetings at Area Meetings. Becca sent out a poll last week and will schedule the meeting shortly based on this.
- The District Ops Committee drafted elections guidance for Area Meetings.

Education Committee - Eric Rannestad

- CDOWG searching for steering committee members - staff or supervisors. Email eric@macdnet.org if you are interested.

MACD Committees Strategic Planning Focus Group will be Thursday 9/16 at 1pm

Water Committee - Jeff Pattison

- Reviewing resolutions at Area Meetings instead of individual districts.

Soil and Land Use - Steve Wanderaas and Stephanie Addams

- Steve Hedstrom said this committee should check-in about letter to Governor commending re: Forestry letter

New Business

Program Report

- Strategic planning focus group session
- New 319 reports
- This report will go out in DD

Approval of up to \$2500 for Kay Webb for virtual meetings

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Dean Rogge

- Discussion: The Executive Committee previously approved up to \$1000. DNRC is providing up to \$5000 for hybrid/virtual meetings. Make sure to show this grant as income in the MACD financial report.
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Open Mic

- Bill Naegli wanted to thank Judith Basin CD for passing along their Owl Web Cam that was not in use.

Meeting adjourned at 9am

Motion: Dean Rogge

Second: Roddy Rost

Discussion:

Vote to Adjourn