



Montana Association of Conservation Districts

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING
Oct. 12th, 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)	Pat Anderson (3)	Steve Schanaman(4)	Rick VanDyken(6)
Dean Rogge (VP)	Roddy Rost (2)	Mark Suta (3)	Kathleen Johnson (5)	--
Steve Wanderaas (1)	Bob Peterman (2)	Judi Knapp (4)	Bill Naegeli (5)	--

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Boslough, Stephanie Adams, Melissa Downing, Tom Watson (NRCS), Kyle Tackett (NRCS), Tenlee Atchison, Scott Brown (MSCA), Mary Hendrix (DNRC), Renee Nelson, Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Jason Garber (DNRC), Chris Evans

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Steve Wanderaas
- Seconded: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion Carries

New Board Members and Employees

- Patt and Kathleen are new directors
- Shay Farmer is our new employee, at a training this week

Financial Matters

Financial Report:

- Motion to approve with modification, if necessary: Make Hansen
- Seconded: Juddi Knapp
- Discussion: Income negative under District L&E Fund (Line #4), no auction was held last year at the Convention so there were no budgeted funds there, maybe due to the scholarship funds that were taken out of that fund. Rebecca will review.
 - Resolved: This amount was from the L & E funds being transferred from the bank account into the DA Davidson Fund (which is for L & E).
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Dues Report:

The budget we set for the year was met.

Prairie CD - Future Variance Request

Prairie has a track record of paying dues but sometimes struggle to pay before the Area Meetings. Variance allowing for Prairie to pay later in November if need be in the future due to the timeline of when Prairie receives DNRC Admin Funds.

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Seconded: Dean Rogge
- Discussion:
 - Some discussion was had related to districts who do not pay dues, variance letters, and timing of dues, and the timing of DNRC Admin Grants.
- VOTE: Motion Carries
 - Clarification: Prairie has paid their 2021 dues already, this variance is for the future.

2022 Draft Budget:

Jim's intent is to introduce the 2022 budget to the board during this meeting, but budget discussion will take place in November, before the business meeting, where it will be moved to membership

- Rebecca asked about a zoom meeting open to districts to look at the budget before the Convention to ask questions.

Old Business

Approval of Teleworking Policy*

This policy was suggested to us by the Office of Communication Services when we hired our remotely-based AmeriCorps Planning Grant Coordinator

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

Area Meeting Debrief

- 6 of the 7 resolutions passed
- MACD positions were filled by Kathleen Johnson and Pat Anderson
- Area 5 was fully virtual.
- Pros and Cons of the virtual component were discussed, Dean felt the in-person format was great to return to and was well worth the trip around to the districts.

MACD Convention

- Final decision is to be made for a virtual or in-person Convention.
- Tenlee: Cascade has many in-person events going on. This past weekend included a 500-person event at the Heritage Inn and at the end of the Month Montana Farmers Union will be having their in-person convention. School and College events are continuing. COVID is still happening, but things are moving on.

- Rebecca: Emma had reached out to the Health Department and they suggested against having large events and they are continuing to have high COVID rates. Many other organizations are canceling events. MACD will need to make our own decision as an organization, regardless of which other organizations are continuing with or cancelling in-person events.
- Dean: Can we get a contract from the Hotel if the Health Department shuts us down? Many districts asked that there be an in-person and virtual option for Convention.
 - Tenlee discussed this with the Hotel and they would drop our contract in that case.
 - Melissa will check in with the Hotel and would be more confident to have that in writing from the Hotel. (*Confirmed - we will not be charged and we have this in writing.*)
- Willie: if we don't have good attendance, or if NRCS can not come, will it affect our budget?
 - Tenlee: The committee has discussed this and referenced past conferences with fewer NRCS attendances. The Convention Planning Committee is working on sponsorships.
- Pat: When we have a multi-day meeting which makes it harder to stay engaged virtually
- Tom: NRCS will not be able to send the same number of people as has been sent to Convention in the past. Tom and Kyle will plan to be there and they are working to send DC's that would not require lodging for attending (those that live within 1 - 1 ½ hours from Great Falls).
 - It was asked if other entities could pay for DC attendance, this would be against federal policy.
- Jim: Nationally the COVID cases are beginning to drop and it's hopeful Montana will also see declining cases by Convention

Motion to continue with MACD Convention in Great Falls

- Motion to commit to having an In-Person Convention: Dean Rogge
- Seconded: Willie Bernard
- Discussion: (see above)
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Discussion on Auction Items was had: A few districts have already delivered auction items during the Area Meetings, some have preferred to provide funding. A variety of platforms have been discussed and a raffle system has also been discussed to try and obtain funds from outside of the organization. No value is set in place, districts may provide smaller items and Areas have put together larger packages. Rebecca mentioned that some districts have gone to their community for donated items so the district is not pulling these funds from their own budget. The Planning Committee is continuing conversation on the platform they plan to use for the auction.

- Clarified that auction income goes to the legislative fund and for the Education Scholarships.

Sibanye-Stillwater Sponsorship for Convention:

\$5,000 to help cover the banquet and part of the lunch expenses. We will find out if we receive these funds in the next few weeks. Dean and Rebecca spoke to a representative from Area 4. Sibanye is a mining company and provides some funding to YRCDC.

Resolutions Update:

- 6 of the 7 resolutions passed. These will be sent out in District Dispatch and posted on the Convention Website under 'Resolutions.'
- It was discussed that we should obtain permission from the DNRC for their Attorney to review each of the resolutions.

Partner Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - None

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

Attended NASCA meeting in Washington. Met with Joe Koleman about EQC, they will be sending information to Joel for moving things forward.

NASCA Explored differences in other states and how their State Organization is involved with CDs and funding sources that are used.

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC) - Judi Knapp

Will be meeting in November, virtually, and are being more involved with CARDD reviewing their budget and activities. Mark added his appreciation to RCAC.

Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Steve Wanderaas

MRCDC submitted a comment to APR, thanking Fergus County for information for that. CEMIST met with the director and deputy director or FWP in Two-Dot which was productive. There is a request to MRCDC to participate in a meeting with FWP and MSU to discuss bison reintroduction.

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Judy Knapp

Meeting on the 22nd in Billings. There are 5 working groups that are very active.

Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Patt Anderson

Still looking for a Coordinator.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) - None

MACD Employee Organization (MACD EO) - Chirs

Fall Training next week in Red Lodge, 56 registration with 8 of those virtual.

National Association of Conservation Districts - Rebecca Boslough

Aubry Evans from NACD attended all of the Montana Area Meetings and expressed her impression with Montana's CD's and plans to attend the Convention.

Committee Reports

District Operations

Will be revising the resolution policy, Patt Anderson is stepping down as Chair which will need to be filled

Education Committee - Chris Evans

- Working on a report for Convention. The Outreach Workgroup is still looking for supervisor and staff to help guide discussions on what districts need.

Water Committee - None

Soil and Land Use - None

New Business

Partnership and support: Montana State University (MSU) application to WSARE

Cathy Zabinski has been involved in the Soil Health Steering Committee and is applying Grant Funds through WSARE to help support soil health research and is asking for \$6,000 to provide to districts who are interested in collaborating on soil health field days. More information to come on if MSU receives this grant.

Executive Director's Report

- Re-capped EQC activities including getting information from conservation districts to give to the Interim Committee. The Water Policy Interim Committee will be discussing the Flathead Erosion Study, Rebecca and Haily Graf plans to attend this.
- Strategic planning is winding down, there is a draft plan being reviewed and a focus group with partners is planned to be held.
- There is interest and concern around the Tribal Conservation Districts to be discussed
- Merger: 990's have been delayed by the accounting firm. 990's have been filed but we are still waiting to hear back from the firm.

Open Mic

- Dean: District Operations meeting is tomorrow (10/13)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM

Motion: Dean Rogge

Second: Judy Knapp

Discussion:

Vote to Adjourn: Motion Carries