



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

April 11th, 2022

Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Rogge (PRES)	William Bernard (1)	Mark Suta (3)	Don Youngbauer (4)	Mike Hansen (6)
Gary Giem (TREAS)	Tony Barone (2)	Pat Anderson (3)	Jim Simpson (5) <i>excused</i>	Rick VanDyken(6)
Steve Hertel (VP)	Roddy Rost (2)	Steve Schanaman(4)	Vacant (5)	
Steve Wanderaas (1)	Bob Peterman (2)	Judi Knapp (4)	Bill Naegeli (5)	

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Boslough, Steve Hedstrom, Chris Evans, LaRinda Spencer, Terry Profota, Tom Watson, Eric Larson, LaRinda Spencer, Chris Evans, Sydney Lyons, Molly Masters, Veronica Grigaltchik, Hailey Graf, Scott Brown, Steph Criswell, Dick Iverson, Robbie Savelkoul, Mary Hendrix, Tahnee Benson, Shay Farmer, Kyle Tackett, Elizabeth Emeline, Becky Clements, Stephanie Adams

Meeting was called to order by Dean Rogge at 7:31am

Approval of March Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Judi Knapp
- Seconded: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Approval of March Financials

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Steve Hertel
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Approval of April Financials

- Motion: Bill Naegeli
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Review of SAM

- Motion:

- Seconded:
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Old Business

Motion to move forward with the proposed changes to resolutions and committees

- Motion: Mike Hansen
- Seconded: Willie Bernard
- Discussion: We can make changes to this as we go forward if needed. This
- VOTE: Motion Carries

Event Updates:

- **Spring Board**
- **Area Meetings**
- **Convention**

Partner Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Tom Watson

This week is the Spring State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting in Missoula-tomorrow morning. NRCS just released their Montana Community Agriculture Strategy and will be starting to address the action items contained over the next year or so. Tom is starting to make investment decisions since the federal budget was signed. NRCS Montana is still waiting to receive their allocation but is planning to move forward with additional hiring and agreements with partners. There is still no Supervisory DC position in Circle/Jordan, and NRCS has advertised it twice with only three total applicants. NRCS continues to have an "acting" and will be re-advertising with a 25% relocation incentive. NRCS has filled the Conrad/Cutbank/Browning Supervisory DC position and will also need to fill the Glasgow/Malta Supervisory DC position. NRCS is also moving forward to advertise all other vacant DC positions across the state.

Eric Larson - Water Supply Update/Presentation

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

- DNRC is re-envisioning the Resource Conservation Advisory Council.
- DNRC recently issued a RFP to districts to compete for additional grant/project funds that will benefit.
- DNRC is providing the Employee organization \$40,000 for training, employee retention, onboarding, mileage, new laptop for treasurer, Statewide employee training, 501(c)3 status, professional accounting services, etc. (This contract is sponsored/administered by Lewis and Clark CD). DNRC is sponsoring the EO to get up and running as a 501(c)3 nonprofit.
- CD Admin Grants due April 29th

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC)

They sent a letter to the Governor's Office to renew the role of the committee and redefine the roles.

Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Molly Masters

- MRCDC has been working with the Legislative Committee on Fort Peck Test Flows. There is also an upcoming Salt Cedar training that will be moved to
- River Rendezvous is scheduled for July 21st and 22nd - the Save the Date is forthcoming. It will be in Petroleum County
- CMR Community Working Group - Discussing trying to find some funding to incentivize producers to join (ex. Mileage or mills). She is looking at a grant from Network for Landscape Conservation. They need to apply through a 501(c)3. They would like to partner on that grant. It is due April 22nd.

Motion to apply for Network for Landscape Conservation Grant on behalf of MRCDC

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

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Judi Knapp

- Dan Rostad provided notice ahead of time that he would not be available.
- YRCDC is currently working on 15 projects in the corridor
- The full council will meet in May

Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Jeff Pattison

- They are working on a coordinator position. They will now work with the Joint Board of Control and others on a joint position.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) - Scott Brown

- They have six projects lined up for this spring, waiting to get

Montana Association of Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MACD EO) - Chris Evans

- Area Reps are meeting monthly.
- They have trainings planned in conjunction with the MACD Spring Board Meeting.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) - Steve Hedstrom, Dean Rogge, Steve Wanderaas

- Steve Hedstrom requests assistance regarding serving on forestry committees through NACD and elsewhere.
- There is a public lands RPG Meeting later today that Dean will attend.
- Northern Region Meeting will be virtual on May 5th. Steve Wanderaas is on the agenda to follow-up on the AIS resolution from 2020. He will also look for an update on what's going on with 30x30.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

- May 4th at 1pm

District Ops (basically the Resolutions and Committee Workgroup)**Education**

- Reviewing scholarship applications
- Working on poster contest
- How to assist districts with social media for different education events

Legislative and Advocacy

Interim Session Update

- **EQC -**
 - Bill draft
 - need to meet with Lang
 - Next meeting is May 24th and 25th (asked Tiberi to potentially take over on 25th)
 - Waiting to hear back from Joe Kolman re: Flathead pres?
- **WPIC**
 - Fieldtrip?
 - Presentation on Fort Peck?
- **Section C -**
 - Keeping Holmlund Updated
 - will take place on June 15th
- **Revenue**
 - Coal trust study
 - CI-121 panel - concerns about shift of property taxes to agricultural and commercial

Fort Peck Test Flow Letter from MACD*

Motion for MACD to request that Fort Peck Test Flows be halted or at the very least, further mitigation measures be considered and implemented

- Motion: Roddy Rost
- Seconded: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: MRCDC has continued work on this issue, most recently meeting with fish biologists. Part of the issue is the Corps of Engineers is only responsible for the Missouri - but MRCDC, MRWA, and others are encouraging them to look at tributaries for sturgeon habitat.
- VOTE: Motion carries

MACD continues to testify and send out letters on policy issues related to resolutions.

- Letter to Fish and Wildlife Commission re: wolves

Programs and Funding

Sage Grouse Oversight Team

We will have a workgroup to explore this potential and determine if (1) MACD should consider holding term leases for districts, (2) support districts in individually holding term leases, or (3) having one or two districts hold term leases for those across the state. There are many different factors to consider, including the responsibility (financial and organizational) to hold leases for several decades and what entities are best equipped to take this on. Garfield CD currently holds a term-lease.

Water Quality and Education Mini-Grants - close April 15th

Soil Corps Update

- Working through details with MCC

Soil Health Outreach

- Meetings happening now <https://montanasoiloutreach.macdnet.org/>

Miles City and Great Falls were in March

Kalispell

Thurs. April 14th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Kalispell ImagineIF Library Community Room

Dillon

Fri. April 15th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

National Guard Armory Classroom

Livingston

Wed. April 20th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Livingston Food Resource Center Community Room

Virtual Meeting

Thurs. May 26th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

NRCS proposal and WMG submitted (Big kudos to Melissa and Steph, respectively)

- Conservation Menu update a part of this, invited MWCC to collaborate on this

Additional new business

Executive Director's Report

Staff Updates:

- Stephanie Adams moving on to FWP as state trails coordinator
- Implementing pay increase for Eric as outlined in new communications contract with DNRC - This has been discussed, but the board could make a formal vote?
- Time off for wedding, will send out final dates to board. Roughly two weeks leading up to June 11th

Next Steps for 2022 Operational Plan:

- Begin working on other goals
- Work through committees at Spring Board - training by Terry Profota
- Operation outreach at Spring Board

Resource Highlights

- Login for employees and supervisors on MACD Website
- Web Calendar

Operation Outreach

- Operation outreach
- Further discussion and work on this at Spring Board

Open Mic

Thank you to Stephanie Adams.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am

Motion: Steve Wanderaas

Second: Roddy Rost

Discussion: none

VOTE: Motion carries, meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: May 9th at 7:30am