



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

MACD BOARD MEETING

May 9th, 2022 via zoom

Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS

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

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Watson, Kyle Tackett, Steve Hedstrom, Scott Brown, Jeff Pattison, Renee Nelson, Melissa Downing, Stephanie Criswell, Mark Bostrom

Call Meeting to Order

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Steve Wanderaas
- Seconded: Bill Naegeli
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Financial Matters

Approval of Financial Report:

- Motion: Jim Simpson
- Seconded: Judi
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries

Bridger Plant Materials Center (BPMC)

- MACD needs to work through the lease renewal with NRCS. This was previously within the duties of Steph Adams and will be transferred to the new programs manager.
- The Board reviewed the roof repair proposal, which will come out of the BPMC account - which has enough money to cover this cost.
- Wyoming CDs were not included on the legal document of ownership. This will need to be addressed.
- Discussion will need to continue regarding consideration of BPMC becoming an LLC.

Old Business

Spring Board Meeting

- Board members need to confirm attendance. Becca will finalize hotel block and send in MACD RSVPs for the event at Kleffner Ranch.

Vacancies

- **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) West of the Divide Representative** This call has been out in an email and in District Dispatch. The previous rep was Donna Pridmore from Flathead CD.
- **Area 5 Representative** - Jim and Bill sent out a request to self-nominate or nominate someone else

New Business: Partner Reports

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

- NRCS is resuming normal operations in terms of covid
- NRCS has a number of vacant District Conservationist positions across the state that they are actively working to get them filled.
- NRCS is also moving forward with awarding MACD a large agreement similar to in the past and hope to get it done soon. Looking at nearly \$3 million over 5 years.

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

- The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) will be having a high-level discussion with the Department of Interior regarding 30x30. Mark is speaking with Martha Williams tomorrow.
- Admin, 223, district development, and pollinator grants were due at the end April. The RCAC is meeting in Lewistown tomorrow and will review these grants.
- On Friday, May 6th there was a deadline for grants for districts to implement on-the-ground conservation. 10 RFPs were received and will be ranked by CDB Staff. The focus of these grants will be to benefit multiple districts.
- DNRC CDB is under contract with Big Sky PR on marketing for conservation districts, in collaboration with MACD and the Education Committee's CDOWG (CD Outreach Work Group).

Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC) - Stephanie Criswell

- The RCAC is meeting in Lewistown tomorrow (May 10th and 11th) in Lewistown. In addition to reviewing grants, RCAC will also be looking at renewal and redefining the purpose of the council. DNRC is looking to RCAC to be the advisor for on-the-ground conservation.

Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Molly Masters

- Quarterly meeting will be May 17th in Sydney.
- During the May 17th Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) Meeting, MRCDC and the Army Corps will present to WPIC on the Fort Peck Test Flows.
- CMR Community Working Group is meeting May 19th in Circle to discuss invasive species.
- The Montana Salt Cedar team is up and running again. The next meeting will be June 22nd in Lewistown. They will be discussing education maps, research by MSU, etc.
- The River Rendezvous will be July 21 and 22 in Petroleum County.

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRDC) - Judi Knapp

- YRDC secured ARPA funds for several projects.

Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Jeff Pattison

- MRWA is working with partners to develop a joint position and is moving forward. This position will be

funded primarily through NRCS and DNRC.

- Jeff Pattison was invited to go to the NACD Meeting in Fargo, ND, this summer.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA)

- They worked on a project north of Circle last week. They are receiving a lot of requests to look at concerns for salinity. MSCA is also working with Treasure County CD to submit an ARPA Irrigation Grant.

Montana Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MCD EO)

- DNRC entered into a contract with Lewis and Clark representing the EO. The contract is focused around employee onboarding, retention, and offboarding. The contract also includes technical assistance and funding support for the EO to become a 501(c)3. They will put on a new employee orientation this fall. The contract is around \$50,000.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) - Steve Hedstrom

- The entire NACD policy book is being reviewed.
- The NACD Northern Plains meetings will be June 6 and 7th in North Dakota for NACD. Dean and Steve will present on how Montana is operating with AIS.

Additional New Business

Executive Director's Report

- a. Legislative Update - The Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) and the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) will meet this month to discuss Flathead River Erosion and District Funding, respectively. EQC currently has a draft bill for CD funding, and MACD will give a presentation on a proposed budget. Dean Rogge and Jim Simpson will travel to Helena for EQC.
- b. MACo Insurance Rates - MACD is hosting an info session on Thursday at 10:30am via zoom
- c. Staff Updates
- d. MACD will continue to sponsor Grants that require 501(c)3. In these cases, grants will need to be approved by the board - which is the standard process.

Open Mic

- Could MACD folks ride with DNRC to the NACD Meeting. Veronica from DNRC is also attending.

Motion to approve travel expenses for MACD Representatives to go to NACD Meeting in Fargo in June.

- Motion to Approve: Jim Simpson
- Seconded: Mike Hansen
- Discussion: They may ride with Veronica in a DNRC vehicle. Dean Rogge, Steve Wanderaas, and Steve Hedstrom are tentatively planning to attend. Rebecca cannot attend as she is on vacation that week for her wedding.
- VOTE: Motion carries

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:48am.

- Motion: Steve Wanderaas
- Second: Roddy Rost
- Discussion: none
- VOTE: Motion carries, meeting adjourned.