



MACD Legislative Committee: Minutes

Feb. 7th, 2023 at 7:00 AM via Zoom *(The Legislative Meetings will be weekly on Tuesdays at 7am during the Legislative Session)*

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:01am

Attendance:

Dean Rogge	Jim Simpson <i>excused</i>	Greg Jergeson
Jeff Pattison	Bob Petermann <i>excused</i>	Steve Schanaman

Others present: Rebecca Boslough-King, Dick Iversen, Chris Evans, Hailey Graf, Mark Bostrom, Jane Holzer, Veronica Grigaltchik, LaRinda Spencer, Dan Rostad, Mary Hendrix, Stacey Barta, Randell Hopkins, Jane Holzer, Dan Rostad, Mary Hendrix, Byron Martinell, Jeff Ryan, Doug Bonsell, Ray Beck, Jason Garber, Jeff Ryan, Amy Yoder, Ray Beck, Alycia Nathe, Nathan Shackelford, Cascade CD, Renee Nelson, Sharon Flemetis, Steve Tyrrel, Elizabeth Emeline, Cindy Frank, Molly Master, Mary Hendrix, Bill Naegeli, Julie Goss

Approval of previous minutes (1/31 and 1/24)

- Motion: Jeff Pattison
- Second: Steve Schanaman
- Discussion: none
- Motion Carries

Legislation and Policy

CD Funding - [HB 321](#); [SB 28](#); HB2 (Section C Subcommittee)

- HB 321: MSBA, MEA, and MFT - Good explanation of the bill - then have them send out a blast.
- Have Rob take a look at the description and justification - If we lose HB 321. The way the justification is currently written is wonky.

Revise Nepotism Laws Related to Small Communities - [HB 295](#)

Dog Training Quiet Season - [SB 280](#)

- This would be a criminal as opposed to civil offense
- Tom France's Bill + 3 other bills

Highlights from the MACD Bill Tracker ([Bill Tracker Linked here](#))

SJ 9 - Joint resolution establishing soil health week and day - **Monitor**

- There is nothing in there about the impact of development and construction on key agricultural soils
- Will remain monitor
- Concerns around some

SB 83 - Creation of Western Montana Conservation Commission - **Support (as of 2/7 Vote)**

- This would not fiscally impact CDs. There would be two CD seats on the 16 member Commission.

Motion for MACD to Support SB 83

- Motion: Jeff Pattison
- Second: Dean Rogge
- Discussion: none
- Motion Carries (Greg Jergeson abstained)

HB 269 - Creating Disaster Resiliency Fund - **Support**

SB 72 - Revise judicial administration of water rights- **Monitor**

- Two different info sessions
- Further questions on water reservations were sent to DNRC. A written response
- Stockgrowers and Montana Farm Bureau are in support.
- Randell Hopkins (DNRC CDB): As read, this would not impact Water Reservations, because they are a different type of water right.
- [Legislative Brief from DNRC on SB 72](#)

HB 86 - Remove sunset for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

- Districts have had difficulty with this program in the past due to the previous lack of an administration fee.
- This amended bill reauthorizes the WHIP program and will allow a local CD to administer a grant project since they would receive an admin fee.
- Keep in touch with Rep. Ken Walsh on this and, in the future, work on getting a district seat on the advisory council.

Motion for MACD to support HB 86

- Motion: Greg Jergeson
- Second: Jeff Pattison
- Discussion: None

- Motion Carries

Upcoming Hearings

Tuesday 2/6

- House Taxation at 9am - Possible Executive Action (EA) on HB 321
- House Local Gov at 3pm - Possible EA on HB 295
- Senate Agriculture at 3pm - SJ 9

Wednesday 2/7

- House Taxation - Possible Executive Action (EA) on HB 321
- Senate Natural Resources at 3pm

On the horizon:

- SB 28 moved to Senate Finance and Claims - date TBD. (**Action Alert**: We need to start gathering letters of support and contacting committee members.)
- Feb 15: Section C Subcomm. - EA on DNRC budget (incl. CD increased appropriation request)

Partner Legislative Updates & Open Mic

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau - Updates provided on bills above

Missouri River CD Council - no updates

Yellowstone River CD Council - HB 86 could be very positive for YRCDC and districts in general.

- Hiring a contract grant writer would greatly benefit CDs
- Woody invasives

Milk River Water Watershed Alliance - no updates

Ray Beck (Cascade and Yellowstone)

- LC 4414 - Funding for West End Project. Yellowstone CD will work with the City of Billings on this. They will have an MOU with the City. Bill is still in drafting - waiting to formally speak on this until there is more movement/information.

Open Mic

- none

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:27am

Parking Lot