



# MACD Board Meeting: Minutes

March 13th, 2023 at 7:00AM via zoom

## Call Meeting to Order

### 1. Meeting called to order by Dean Rogge at 7:02 AM by Dean Rogge

Several board members are traveling this week and requested to be excused. A couple folks joined a bit late this morning due to the time change.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

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

**PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Rebecca Boslough-King, Mark Bostrom, Chris Evans, Dan Rostad, LaRinda Spencer, Scott Brown, Steph Criswell, Steve Hedstrom, Tom Watson

### 2. Review Governance Calendar - No major items for March. The Finance Committee will begin working on a Quarterly Finance Report starting in April (once we receive the March bank statements).

### 3. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda includes: Feb. Board Minutes; Feb. Executive Committee Minutes; Feb. Governance Committee Minutes; Feb. Finance Committee Minutes; Legislative Minutes (since last board meeting)

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Second: Rick VanDyken
- Discussion: none
- Motion Carries

## Financial Matters

4. **Financial Report** - LaRinda pulled together the revised 2022 Financials (with some expenses recategorized). The MACD bank account is unusually low, as we are waiting for several significant grant payments from NRCS due to the timing of our invoicing. We are also awaiting a smaller amount of funds from DNRC for the Communications Contract (Eric's time).
5. **Dues Update** - MACD will send out dues with a letter detailing where funding is at in the Legislature. This letter will mention the hope/intention that the dues structure can be reconsidered pending increased legislative funding. LaRinda and Becca are working on this.

## MACD Business

### 6. Partner Reports

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Tom Watson

- The Soil Health Symposium was last month, many producers attended and the event was sold out
- NRCS is working on hiring and is experiencing many vacancies
- Core Partners was last week. Looking to have another meeting around Spring Board and may move to 2x a year.
- Kyle and Tom are visiting with the Employee Organization next week to talk through a couple questions with CD Administrators

#### MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Mark Bostrom, Steph Criswell

- EPA Toxics Grant for the Columbia River Basin for \$7million was submitted. MACD is a small part of this grant.
- Meeting with Rep. Fielder is today (3/13).
- CD Funding Need Surveys are back (57 of 58). The top need is operational funding

#### Conservation District Advisory Council (CDAC) to DNRC - Steph Criswell

- The next CDAC Executive Meeting will be on 3/22 at 8:30am. These meetings are every other week.
- The Full CDAC Meeting will be on 3/29 from 8:30am-12pm. There will be a lot of conversations around boundaries, mill levies, etc.

#### Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Dean Rogge

- CMR Community Working Group is meeting on 3/16 at 10:00am in Lewistown
- The US Fish and Wildlife Director will tentatively attend the CMR Meeting on June 22nd

#### Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Dan Rostad

- Dan texted that he was having connectivity issues and will send a short report to Rebecca, which will be forwarded to the board.

#### Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Jeff Pattison

- Snowpack on the watershed is adequate

- There is a new Executive Director for St. Mary's/Milk River. This position was hired through an RFP from DNRC.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) - Scott Brown

- Contracting with NRCS on RCPP
- Scott has an announcement and information that he will send to MACD to go in District Dispatch

Montana Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MCDEO) - Chris Evans

- The EO is meeting with NRCS next week to discuss a couple things: office space, computers, and cooperative working group
- The Statewide Employee Training will tentatively be in August in the Fort Peck area

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

- The National Convention was in New Orleans last month. There was a lot of representation from MT. Representing MACD was Dean Rogge, Steve Hedstrom, and Karl Christians. Big Horn CD, Gallatin CD, Cascade CD (Envirothon), and DNRC also attended.
- The four resolutions submitted by MACD were all passed. It was very successful.
- NACD elected new executive officers.
- Dean worked a lot with South Dakota. He is currently working with SD (Carl Jensen) to try to improve their AIS inspection stations using best practices and lessons from MT. Dean received approval from Dustin Temple (FWP) to bring Tom Woolf (FWP AIS) with him to a meeting in SD.
- NACD and USFWS signed a new MOU. Dean requested that the USFWS Director attend the June CMR Meeting.
- Steve Hedstrom is now the Vice Chair for the Northern Plains Group
- The summer Northern Plains Meeting is in Bismarck, ND in July. This will also be the location for the NACD Summer Meeting.

**7. Committee and Work Group Reports**

Education Work group - Chris Evans

- They have met a couple of times to work on the new structure. There are four sub-groups working on different projects (
- The overall Education Work Group will meet every other month on the fourth Thursday at 8:00 AM. The next meeting is March 23rd at 8:00 AM.

Board Committees (Finance, Executive, Governance) - Becca Boslough-King

- The Finance Committee will work on a Quarterly Financial Report next month, once the March statements are received (around the 10th)
- The Governance Committee is helping with planning of content for the Spring Board Meeting and will also be the lead at MACD for training collaboration with DNRC. The Governance Committee is also working on review of MACD organizational policies in terms of what needs to be updated or created. The next meeting is on the
- The Executive Committee discussed the delayed invoicing with NRCS and also provided input/talking points for the meetings between MACD Leadership and the Governor's Office

### Resolutions and Policy Committee (+subcommittees) - Becca Boslough-King

- This month there will be a call for members of the subcommittees (Water; Soil and Land Use; CD Operations; National). The overarching Resolutions and Policy Committee is made up of the chairs of the subcommittees.

### Legislative and Advocacy Committee - Becca Boslough-King

- The big focus is funding and moving HB 321
- Weekly meeting tomorrow (3/14) at 7:00 AM via zoom

## **8. Executive Director's Report (Rebecca)**

### Legislative Update

- HB 321 (CD Coal Trust funding) is still in the Appropriations Committee and needs to pass the house by April 3rd. This will be the primary focus. We need all districts to start by contacting members of the Appropriations Committee. The second step (assuming we move HB 321 out of committee) will be for all districts to contact their Representatives to ask for a 'Yes' vote on the house floor.
- Just before transmittal the Budget Director stated that SB 28 (CD marijuana funding) would be subject to a veto, as the Governor's Office has other plans for the marijuana funds.
- Dean, Steve, and Rebecca met with Lt. Governor Juras, Budget Director Osmundsen, and DNRC Director Amanda Kaster.

### EPA Columbia River Basin Toxics Control Grant was submitted by DNRC

- This would be focused on non-point source pollution, with an emphasis on the issue of septic seep. MACD

## **Motion to approve the 2023 Operational Plan**

- Motion: Gary Giem
- Second: Bob Petermann
- Discussion: This plan was presented and discussed at a previous board meeting and has also been reviewed by the Governance Committee.
- Motion Carries

## **9. Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- a. AgroClimate: March 14-15, Billings
- b. Spring Board Meeting: June 6-8, Helena
- c. Old Salt Festival: June 23-25, Helmville
- d. Area Meetings: Last week of Sept. / First week of Oct.
- e. Convention: Nov. 14-16, Billings

## 10. Open Mic

Reminder that Board Organizational Documents (strategic plan, committee charters, annual meeting calendar, etc) are available on the website:

<https://macdnet.org/about-us/board-organization-documents/>

## Adjournment

### Motion to adjourn the meeting

- Motion: Rick
- Second: Steve Hertel
- Discussion: None
- Motion carries, Meeting adjourned at 7:59 AM

**Next Board Meeting:** April 10th at 7:00AM via zoom

### **Additional Report from Dan Rostad - Submitted on 3/13 Following the MACD Board Meeting:**

Yellowstone River CD Council Report to MACD Board – Monday, March 13, 2023

I have reported to your Board before how the Council has concentrated their efforts focusing on two of the Recommended Practices which came out of the river study.

We have been very successful with our efforts regarding Irrigation Water Management & Efficiency Practices over the past three years. As a result we have a contract professional working with NRCS staff in Park, Sweet Grass & Carbon Counties to install and train irrigators who use mechanized irrigation methods to use water more efficiently based on soil, cropping and irrigation methods. This has been a very successful effort which trains irrigators how to use soil moisture sensors and recording systems to track water use, which saves money with pumping costs and allows for the best conditions for crop growth.

We continue to work with the four large irrigation districts in Treasure, Rosebud & Custer Counties assisting them with strategic planning and project implementation. In the past three years, our assistance has benefitted these districts and allowed them to compete for infrastructure rehab projects which resulted in more than \$2 Million in on the ground improvements.

Following more than a year of planning and meetings focused on woody invasive plant control in the river corridor, Custer County Conservation District (on behalf of the Yellowstone River Council), was successful in being awarded a \$65K grant from the Dept of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

Custer CD and YRCD will oversee an effort to establish a Montana Woody Invasives Task Force. This task force will be the catalyst for future efforts to control chronic invasive woody plants like Salt Cedar

and Common Buckthorn by developing a statewide management plan. The task force aims to build on the large body of existing knowledge related to salt cedar, Russian olive and common buckthorn by integrating scientific information, best management practices and lessons learned to develop a focused strategic plan for managing invasive woody plants. Custer CD will seek a qualified firm to manage this project through the RFP process.