

MACD Board Meeting: Minutes

November 19th at 9:30am at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:00am by Dean Rogge.

1. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dean Rogge (PRES)	Jeff Pattison (1)	Roger Smedsrud (3)	Nate Jones (4) <i>Excused</i>	Rick VanDyken(6) <i>online</i>
Gary Giem (TREAS) <i>Excused</i>	Doug Bonsell (2)	Pat Anderson (3)	Bill Naegeli (5)	<i>EO Associate Member</i> Robbie Savelkoul
Steve Hertel (VP)	Roddy Rost (2)	Steve Schanaman(4)	Roger Marsonette (5) <i>online</i>	
Steve Wanderaas (1)	Ted Woods (2) <i>online</i>	Judi Knapp (4)	Tammy Swinney(6)	

PARTNERS AND OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Boslough-King, Jeff Tiberi, Tom Watson, Kyle Tackett, Mark Bostrom, Terry Profota, Diane Black Online: Stacey Barta, Sharon Flemetis

Highlighted = present. All white/unhighlighted names are absent. Board members who provided notice are marked 'excused.'

2. Review Governance Calendar - Completed

3. Consent Agenda*

- a. Approve October Board Minutes Minutes
- b. November Executive Minutes
- c. November Finance Minutes

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

- Motion: Steve Wanderaas
- Second: Jeff Pattison
- Discussion: None
- Motion carries

Executive Session Report from Dean Rogge. The MACD Board met in an Executive Session for staff annual review. Dean and Steve will have a meeting with Rebecca as follow-up.

Partner Reports

4. Partner Reports

- a. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Tom Watson
 - There will be forthcoming changes due to the administration change. Likely to have changes in funding, staff flexibility, and so on. There will be a decrease in hiring, and potentially a hiring freeze when the administration changes. The money that NRCS has had in the past to support MACD and other partners may not be there moving forward.
 - Tom is retiring in 6 weeks and trying to set things up as best as possible for the next person. In his tenure, Tom is particularly proud of his work with Montana Focused Conservation. Look at the opportunities you have to define the most important priorities in your counties.
 - Farm Bill: There is not a Farm Bill, there's a chance there is one before the lame duck session is over. These programs have been delivered without a Farm Bill, as there was language through the IRA that allowed that funding to move without a Farm Bill (that is the only way NRCS has deliver EQIP and CSP without a Farm Bill).
- b. MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) - Mark Bostrom
 - The CD trust is at around \$25 million and has generated \$609k of interest so far. This looks like it will fill in four years at the current rate (this could change)
 - St. Mary's: The loan is coming from a state special revenue account. In the loan there are no provisions to pay the loan back (it was in HB6, which is for grant programs. The state will pay themselves back...)
 - EWPP for St. Mary's clean-up, paired with RRG funds for the match.
 - Legislative session: CARDD has one policy bill for procurement to align CD, state, and federal procurement. This should streamline and clarify processes.
 - HB6 and HB7, there are some changes on the subgrants. Irrigation is the same. The Watershed Management Grant will be gone. Added NPS grant last session (this can be used to match federal 319 grant). Planning grants decrease. The emergency grants will be at the same level. At this point it looks like all projects should be funded.
 - Under crucial state need will add category for water storage
 - Concerned that if there is a contraction in federal funds that the needs will remain the same, and this may fall to the state.

DNRC Rangeland Resources - Stacey Barta

- Rangeland Day at the Rotunda - March 25th
- Grazing Academy June 3-5 Havre
- In process of creating advanced grazing workshop
- Next Bite GRazing Academy Aug. 19-21 Lewistown
- Montana Range Tour - June 18th Winifred
- Several BLM agreements through Good Neighbor Authority
- New website www.mtrangelsands.org
- Thank you to Tom and best of luck. Appreciate partnership

- c. Montana Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MCDEO) - Robbie Savelkoul
-Working on strategic framework
- d. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) - Dean Rogge
-New Northern Plains Rep Nicole Poitra was hired
-Jeremy Peters will be at MACD on Wednesday
- MACD presentation at NACD Annual Convention
- e. Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) - Steve Wanderaas
- Working on test flows and planning to hire someone to do surveys
- f. Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) - Judi Knapp
- Continue to work with Woody Invasive Workgroup and Irrigation Workgroup
- Meeting was Nov. 1 in Miles City
- g. Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) - Pat Anderson
-Still looking into restructuring. They have a co-meeting with MRCDC at 4pm today to look at the process of restructuring.
- h. Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) - Steve Wanderaas
-Impressed with the work that MSCA is doing with YRCDC, woody invasives, and salinity work in Treasure county

Financial Matters (Quarterly)

Detailed financials are always available from the Finance Committee and MACD staff, upon request.

5. Financial Report for Membership

Motion to approve Financial Report

- Motion: Roddy Rost
- Second: Doug Bonsell
- Discussion: none
- Motion carries

6. Dues Report - 57 of 58 dues paying districts

7. 2025 Draft Budget - The finance committee has reviewed a draft budget. Additional review needs to happen with the new Program Manager.

Executive Director and Operations Report

8. Operational and staff update

a. Review of Operational Plan Update (Jan-Oct)

Motion to approve Operational Update

- Motion: Steve Wanderaas

- Second: Roddy Rost
 - Discussion: none
 - Motion carries
- b. Discussion of 2025 Operational Plan priorities
- c. Fundraising Policies (for approval per Oct. Board Meeting)*

Motion to approve MACD Fundraising policies as presented

- Motion: Roddy Rost
- Second: Steve Wanderaas
- Discussion: These policies were reviewed and approved by the MACD Finance Committee.
- Motion carries

9. Legislative / Policy Update

- a. Legislative Committee - *December Meeting and preparation for upcoming session*
- a. Rotunda Day and Legislative Meet & Greet (Jan 23, 2025 - Helena)
- b. SMZ 310 discussion - *Taking place with MLA and other forest partner organizations.*
- b. Montana Forest Products Letter - *Moved to Thursday board meeting. Becca will send a request to Steve Kimball to see if he can attend.*

Committee and Work Group Business & Recommendation

- 10. Committees and Work Group Reports** (Resolutions and Policy Committee + subcommittees, Education Work Group, Programs Work Group, Legislative and Advocacy, etc)
- a. Approval of Committee Members - *Several members were approved in October. This will be moved to the next meeting for further discussion.*

Other Agenda Items

- 11. NACD First-timers scholarship for NACD Annual Meeting (Feb. 2025)** - *no nominations submitted to MACD*
- 12. Bylaw clarification on quorum** - *for Board discussion*

Motion to approve bylaws clarification, as presented (exact text at bottom of these minutes)

- Motion: Judi Knapp
- Second: Bill Naegeli
- Discussion: none
- Motion carries

13. Operation Outreach Discussion - *Terry Profota*

Discussion:

- *Sunsetting official program for the time being*

- Preparation for the session - districts need to be ready to tell their story and answer questions about funding.
- MACD outreach: MACD jackets for board members and staff - representation and start a conversation. CD supervisor cards.
- “Where partners and CDs come together and collaborate to get things done.” - Steve Hertel

14. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- [2024 Board Calendar](#) (live document) and [MACD Online Calendar](#)
- Thursday Board Meeting (11/21) from 2:30-3:30pm in the Lewis & Clark room

15. Open Mic

Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 12pm

MADC BYLAW CLARIFICATION NOVEMBER 2024

Previously read:

6.07 Quorum and Adjournment. A majority of the directors in office immediately before a meeting begins shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting. The appropriate percentage of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present may take any actions which the directors are authorized to take on behalf of the MACD.

The Board may continue to transact business at a meeting at which a quorum was initially present. In order to take any action at a meeting at which a quorum is no longer present, **the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present is the act of the Board.**

A majority of the directors present may vote to adjourn any meeting to another time and place even if the number of directors present or voting does not constitute a quorum. If the meeting is adjourned for more than forty-eight hours, the secretary shall give notice of the time and place of the adjourned

SUGGESTED REVISION (Approved)

The Board may continue to transact business at a meeting at which a quorum was initially present despite the loss of quorum, if any action taken or decision made is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for that meeting.

Additional Information:

* - denotes required board action or approval

Committee organizational documents:

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