

# MACDEO Spring Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

## Draft Meeting Minutes

The MACDEO Spring Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at the Montana Historical Society and Museum in Helena. The meeting began at 11:09am.

Bobbi welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

In attendance—Conservation Districts: Bobbi Vannattan (Rosebud), Julie Ralston (Bitterroot), Gail Cicon (Liberty), Denise Thompson (Broadwater), Tenlee Atchison (Cascade), Julie Goss (Richland) and Mary Hendrix (McCone).

DNRC: Laurie Zeller and Dave Martin

Those on the call—Conservation Districts: Tanya Lester (Stillwater) and Monica Perez-Watkins (Missoula)

### **Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Reports**

Meeting minutes from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> conference call were reviewed. Tenlee made a motion to approve the minutes and Gail seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting minutes from the June 7<sup>th</sup> conference call were reviewed. Julie R made a motion to approve the minutes and Denise seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report and budget were reviewed. Tenlee made a motion to approve the report and budget and Denise seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **New Administrator Welcome**

Area 1: Taylor Fjeldheim (Sheridan) and Tifney **Kempton** (Roosevelt)

Leaving: Bridgette Gibbs (Garfield)

Area 2: Sarafina Claeys (Little Beaver)

Area 3: Emily Mayer (Hill)—works part-time for county & part-time for the district, wants to work full time for the county, so there may be an opening soon; Nea Rice (Toole)

Area 4: No new administrators

Area 5: Jen McBride & Monica Perez-Watkins (both Missoula)

Leaving: Chris Malgren (Lake)

Area 6: Jamie Cottom (Beaverhead) is the newest administrator and has been there about a year

### **EO Welcome Committee**

Should the EO form a committee with one representative from each Area to team with MACD & DNRC when a new administrator is hired?

Dave said that he has traveled with seasoned administrators to see new CD employees:

- Dave and Tenlee visited Nea at Toole CD
- Dave and Teresa Wilhelm visited Emily at Hill CD
- Dave and Denise visited Jamie at Beaverhead CD
- Scott Kaiser and Julie G visited Tifney at Roosevelt CD

He thought it worked well by joining forces with DNRC doing a presentation on CDs and the administrators discussing the ‘nuts and bolts’ of operations. Mark Suta (MACD) and a couple of supervisors were also present at another welcome wagon visit. He encouraged supervisors to be included in visits. It is also effective if the welcome committee goes within the first two months a new employee is at a district.

Tenlee mentioned that Area 3 held a couple of administrators meetings after the welcome wagon.

Bobbi said that it was important to make sure new administrators were added to the MACD email list.

### **EO Area Representative Reports: A highlight of a few of the many projects per Area**

#### Area 1: Mary Hendrix

- CMR Pilot project
- Cover crop cost share
- Wounded Warrior project
- Tree replacement program in Scobey
- Area meetings, QuickBook trainings
- Trees

#### Area 2: Julie Goss

- Attended the Grant Workshop in Miles City
- Changes may be coming to YRCDC
- Nikki Wesolek (Dawson), Mary and Julie attended Envirothon
- Convention meetings
- Fox Hills RDGP grant awarded; surveyed 130 wells

#### Area 3: Tenlee Atchison & Gail Cicon

- Conservation, Ag, Resource workshops
- Lorna Krause (Chouteau) and Barbie Martin (Big Sandy) worked with Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) on the River Rendezvous
- Cover crops
- Several trainings: 2 QuickBooks, Insurance, Permissive Mill (Laurie Z), Rolling Rivers (Dave), Supervisors Summit
- Montana Youth Range Camp in July in Highwood
- NEW Liberty County newsletter is a joint venture with Extension
- New Trends seminar
- Cover crops tour
- Need a replacement for a coordinator for the Marias Watershed Coalition

- Kevin Stone is the new coordinator for Sun River Watershed working with Teton, Lewis & Clark and Cascade CDs. They are working under two watershed management grants that were received this year.
- Cascade CD is working on some issues within the urban corridor. There is a big restoration project that needs to take place on the banks of the river behind the refinery and the water treatment plant. A FEMA grant application was submitted that the City of Great Falls had to sponsor, but they pulled out at the last minute so the application was not completed on time.

Dave mentioned that conservation districts are often a cooperative partner with watershed groups. He mentioned some examples:

- Lewis and Clark CD and Ten Mile
- Cascade CD and Sun River

#### Area 4: Bobbi Vannattan

- Rosebud CD had a Conservation day
- November 30-December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cover crop workshop. There will be big name speakers; info will be out soon. Dave said it was one of the best workshops he had ever been to.
- Soil health tour in the county
- Had a producer say he would never use the no-till drill, but he did for the first time last week
- Rosebud CD's 4<sup>th</sup> drill will be arriving this month, the 3<sup>rd</sup> one recently sold. \$20 per acre incentive
- Grant writing workshop
- QuickBooks training in Joliet
- Range Days

#### Area 5: Julie Ralston

- Soil health and range management workshops
- Walk-throughs: One a month (topics: cover crops, soil erosion, weed management)
- Several grants: RDGP grant requires cultural, tribal and irrigation surveys
- Meeting quarterly
- Openlands Management Easement (any federal grants will require you to do a cultural resource survey and any mitigations)
- Local Working Group (LWG) getting very active
- Envirothon teams
- Education projects
- Bitterroot water restoration projects: 5 different on the ground projects
- Lincoln CD (Becky Lihme) Tobacco River project: 319 = \$500,000 & RDGP = \$500,000. This has spun off to others projects, too. Hope to be completed by 2018.

#### Area 6: Denise Thompson

- Trees
- Workshops; 310 workshop in Dillon
- Cover crops, plant health
- Community garden
- Aquatic invasive

- 3 Big Sky Watershed Corp in Area 6; one is doing monitoring work with Jim Beck (Broadwater)
- 50 people (1/2 producers, 1/2 agency) attended LWG meeting
- Irrigation projects; 6/24 Show Me-Big Springs (convert entire ditch to pipeline)
- NEW Avalanche irrigation district

### **Agency Partnership Reports**

DNRC: Laurie Zeller

- Wage survey due by July 15<sup>th</sup>, have already received about a half of those **sent** out.
- DNRC budget crisis: It will be fairly widespread throughout the agency. 2017 might be a rough year. The Conservation District Bureau's number one priority is to keep conservation districts funded. The administrative grants have been approved.
- Bob Fletcher has been hired as the NEW Stream Permitting Coordinator. He starts on Monday (June 20<sup>th</sup>).

### **Old Business**

Display Boards: Dave mentioned that there will be 10 display boards: 4 conservation districts overview boards and 6 Area boards. The Area 5 board is done. He asked for quality photos and write-ups to complete the boards.

Distribution of display boards: One conservation district overview board is housed at Miles City. It can be: picked up there, delivered by someone traveling to your district or mailed to you. The cost of mail could be around \$40.00 each direction. The requesting district will need to make those arrangements.

### **New Business**

Vacant Vice President: Julie G made a motion to nominate Denise for Vice President and Mary seconded the motion. Denise made a motion to nominate Tenlee for Vice President and Gail seconded the motion. The position of Vice President will be voted on at the Fall EO meeting. Both agreed to help Bobbi until then.

Rolling Rivers trailers: Dave said that Pete Woll and he are on a Rolling Rivers subcommittee and they are working on some of the technical issues such as where they should be housed, schedules and insurance.

Nominations & fill Area Rep vacancies: Tabled until the Fall meeting.

### **MACD Fall Convention**

Live Auction Items: 'One night stand': Each area brings one; agency partners are welcome to participate too. Julie G hopes that this new idea works and encourages people to be creative. Bobbi mentioned that the flyer was good and it conveyed the idea well. The auctioneer this year will be Danny Goss, Julie's son. It was suggested we check to see how much the live auction proceeds were for the last five years and also the silent auction. Julie G will check with Elena about MACD's thoughts on the silent auction.

We decided to continue to do the 50/50 ticket sales.

Meals: Pizza, pasta, salad bar. Beef Wellington are a couple of the suggested ideas for the meals.

EO Event: Bobbi shared that Jeff Wivholm said that the MACD 'allows' the EO to host the event.

The event will be in a museum. Meal ideas would be fried chicken or finger steaks. Possibly a pie social or auction and old time photos. We would like to collect different hats for the photos- women, cowboy, fedoras, military, etc.

### **All State Training for June of 2017**

Possible locations training will be Billings, Great Falls or \_\_\_\_\_? We need to form a training committee and begin collecting ideas for the training. We will also need to plan on submitting a 223 grant for the training early in 2017.

### **Credit Card Payments**

Tenlee uses the SRUARE – it has a smaller fee than PayPal and works well if all you want to do is collect money. It would not work well for Registrations.

Dave has some other options he is looking at- one is Registration Online. They send a follow up with bank charges, names, etc.

### **NRCS**

Julie R had some questions about the MOU the districts signed with NRCS and DNRC. She was curious to know if other district supervisors sign Conservation Plans. There seems to be some confusion on whether or not Conservation districts can disagree with a Conservation plan.

### **MACD**

Mark Suta stopped in to visit. He wanted to make sure we realized that MACD is nothing without the local input and he doesn't want to lose this. He hopes to spend some time promoting the need for the local input. The laws have changed concerning 501's and the bylaws for SWCDM haven't changed in 27 years. He sees a good future for MACD and SWCDM working together with local districts.

The meeting concluded at 2pm.

Submitted by: Mary Hendrix, Julie Goss