



The MACDEO Spring meeting was held at 1 pm on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena, MT.

Minutes:

The minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed and a clarification was added under EO training: the 223 grant is for "Conservation District" employee training, rather than "Employee Organization" training. Jean Dunn moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Chris Evans seconded the motion and it carried.

Financial Report:

Jan Fontaine said that her review of the EO books showed no discrepancies. She advised the EO to continue to have someone else review the finances. Kodi Farkell told the group that there was one bill for \$200 for EA dues. We did not pay last year and we did not get a bill for it. Jean Dunn asked if we felt the membership was valuable. Lori Zeiser said that we don't seem to get a lot of direct benefit, and if we send someone to the meetings, the report isn't given until six months later. Jean Dunn made a motion that we not pay the \$200 for EA dues and Cheryl Mahnke seconded the motion. The motion carried. Lori Zeiser said the pin logo for MACD was expiring and it would cost us \$70.00 to keep the logo on file. If it lapses, it will cost us \$300.00 to have it redone. The pins cost \$20.00. Chris Evans made a motion to pay the \$70.00 and Toni Nelson seconded. The motion carried.

Lori Zeiser suggested adding a line item to the budget for meeting expenses. The fall meeting will be held at 7 am on Wednesday, so we should host a light breakfast. Jean Dunn made a motion to add a line item for meeting expenses and Chris Evans seconded. Discussion ensued, and the motion was amended to read, "Add a budget line item for \$150 for meeting expenses". The motion carried.

The budget convention total income was clarified for Jan Fontaine. She also asked about the item "fees collected". Kodi Farkell said the item had always been in the budget.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Reports:

NRCS:

There will be a new Conservation District Liaison. A question and answer session will be held at the convention in November.

MACD Report, Steve Hedstrom:

Steve Hedstrom introduced the new MACD Director, Jeff Tiberi. Jeff Tiberi said that he would like to see district supervisors more involved in MACD. He said that MACD will be asking districts to submit the name of the supervisors that should be (per the by-laws) on standing committees. Jean Dunn asked that a list of standing committees be sent out and Steve promised that Jan Fontaine would send one out along with a short description of the committee's purpose so that the supervisors understand what they are supposed to be doing. Steve Hedstrom said the committees won't take up a lot of the supervisor's time, but it will be a good resource list. Some will be very involved, some not so much, but it will be a way for the CD's to become a bigger player at the state level. Jeff Tiberi said that he would attend a meeting in each area in the future. He plans to be a strong communicator

Steve Hedstrom said that he and Jeff Tiberi were at the meeting to answer any questions or address any concerns that EO members might have. He asked that anyone not comfortable mentioning them right now could call or email him. He also asked that minutes and newsletters be sent to both he and Jeff Tiberi. Various administrators requested new supervisor materials be updated. Steve Hedstrom said it is district's responsibility to train the supervisors with DNRC's guidance. Karl Christians had been doing some updating of current materials and there should be some online training available in the future.

DNRC Report, Alice Stanley bureau chief under Ray Beck:

Resource Development Bureau grants are financed by funds from the resource extraction industry. The goal is to fund projects that protect, repair, conserve or develop renewable natural resources. CD's are a perfect match for these grants, but because they are so understaffed, it is difficult to find time to write them. Planning grants can be used to use funds to hire consultants to write the full grant. The grants go quickly so get them in soon. They are two or three pages long and not very difficult. It is also possible that government entities such as the Forest Service can write the proposals and the district can support them, or they can be a pass-through for a watershed group. Alice Stanley's phone number is 406-444-6687 and her email is a.stanley@mt.gov.

Big Sky Public Procurement Association (BSPPA) Report, Rob Rung and Jan Fontaine:

The BSPPA contract management certification program has three components. Module 1 is ready for a dry run and two is almost ready. There will be a training session held on September 17 in Billings. They will offer as many training sessions as possible and there are scholarships available to help offset some of the costs. There is approximately \$5,000 in the 223 grant that needs to be used for Conservation District training, so put in a request and they will bring the training to your area. Chris Evans made a motion to put some of the money from the 223 grant into scholarship fund for the BSPPA training. After discussion, it was decided to amend the motion to "funds will be available for area training until June 30, 2008 and then the remaining funds will be used to purchase scholarships for conservation district employees from Montana Watercourse for the BSPPA training. Funding requests will be sent to Marlene Moon. Jean Dunn seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business:

MACDEO by-laws, roles, and responsibilities of Officers, Area Directors and EO members:

This agenda item was tabled until the fall meeting when more members will be available. Information will be sent out for review prior to the meeting. Input will be sent in so there doesn't have to be a lengthy discussion at the meeting. Lori Zeiser suggested that there should be more committee work done prior to meetings. Emails could be sent out saying what we want to accomplish, this is what you need to look and comment on, then share it with the general membership prior to the meeting. After email discussion, the committee could present the two or three best choices to the group for their approval. The group discussed the need to combine meetings with training so that more people will be able to attend. Kodi Farkell asked which area directors were up for election and when the election would be held. The secretary will gather that information and send it to Kodi Farkell.

MACDEO Scholarships:

Lori Zeiser will appoint a committee to review the current guidelines and a committee to restructure the guidelines.

MACDEO Fund Raisers:

A committee will form to explore new ideas for EO fundraising.

MACDEO Convention:

Convention will be held November 18-20, 2008 in Missoula, MT. This event will be hosted by Lake County CD with the help of the Area V CD's.

EO Event at Convention:

The event will be off-site at the Museum of Mountain Flying. Shuttles will be used and food and drinks will be

catered. There will be a no-host bar. The cost for the event will be less than \$1,000. It is possible that Wrangler will help to sponsor the event. The theme will be cancer awareness, which was suggested by one of the supervisors. It was suggested that theme baskets be sold in a silent auction or raffled off in the way that they do 50/50 raffles. Each area could donate two baskets. Baskets could be purchased at yard sales or thrift stores and filled with just about anything. Money from the fund-raiser would be split three ways; the EO, 4-H Ambassadors (training money) and to the cancer organization. Chris Evans felt it was important that attendees understand why the money was being raised. Chris Evans made a motion that the executive committee be responsible for the decisions concerning the convention as long as they were rational. Julie Ralston seconded the motion and it carried.

\$500 cash drawing:

We need members to promote sales of the tickets so that we earn some funds. We need to start selling tickets earlier. Kodi Farkell, Treasurer, will collect the money and tickets for the drawing.

Old Business:

Administrator Academy:

A suggestion was made to hold three training sessions a year.

Shirts:

Jan Fontaine brought in a copy of the logo that MACD uses. "Employee Organization" could be added under the logo for a setup fee of \$25. Marlene Moon and Gloria Mason handed out a cost sheet on the shirts. It is possible to add individual CD information for an additional \$5.00 per shirt. The item was tabled until the fall meeting.

CD Training Plans:

No specific plans were discussed other than the BSPPA module training.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Kelley, Secretary
Rosebud Conservation District