



MACDEO Spring Meeting
May 29, 2013
DEQ-Directors Conference Room
Helena, MT

Attendance:

Julie Ralston, Bitterroot CD, Area V, Past Chairman
Guelda Halverson, Sweet Grass County CD, Area IV, Chairman
Patricia Johnson, Valley County CD, Area I Representative & Treasurer
Carie Hess, Petroleum County CD, Area I Representative
Penny Landon, Carbon CD, Area IV Representative
Lori Zeiser, Area V Representative & Secretary
Denise Thompson, Broadwater CD, Area VI Representative
Belinda Knapton, Glacier County CD
Marlene Moon, Toole County CD, Area III Representative
Jan Fontaine, MACD
Jeff Tiberi, MACD
Pete Woll, MACD
David Martin, Pam Smith, Lindsay Volfe, Alicia Stickney, Ray Beck, John Tubbs DNRC
Joyce Swartzendruber, NRCS

A quorum being present, Guelda Halverson, EO Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.

Minutes from the January 23, 2013 MACDEO (Rescheduled) Fall Meeting were approved as presented – Jan Fontaine made the motion, Carie Hess seconded – motion passed.

Patricia Johnson provided the Financial Reports for FY2012-2013 and the budget balances October 1, 2012 thru May 24, 2013 as well as the 2012 Convention financial reports. Pat also presented the EO Proposed Budget for FY 10/01/2013→09/30/2014 for approval-it was noted that the \$200 for NACDEA Regional dues was not added to the Budget – Lori Zeiser moved to accept the proposed FY2013-2014 Budget with the change to add the \$200 for Regional dues, Carie Hess seconded – motion passed.

Pat read 2 thank you notes from NACDEA and from Rhonda Vetch, Regional President for paying the \$200 to NACDEA this past March.

Area Reports – Each Area reported on highlights of activities in their areas.

North American Envirothon & Volunteer Update – Teresa Wilhelms – Teresa was unable to attend the EO meeting – Jan Fontaine and Lori Zeiser asked that those that have not signed-up or would still like to sign up – get a hold of Teresa for the Volunteer List for the NA Envirothon – please ask your supervisors and other agency partners to volunteer to help with the event – you can volunteer for 1 day or the entire week it is a lot of work, but very rewarding and the Envirothon committee folks are great people to work with. Jan Fontaine and Lori Zeiser gave an update on the state competition held April 22nd & 23rd-Missoula Big Sky HS placed 1st, Missoula FFA placed 2nd, Fairfield placed 3rd, Helena had high test scores.

Partnership Reports

MACD -

Jeff Tiberi, MACD Executive Director and Pete Woll, MACD President attended the meeting, Jeff gave an update and over-view of the 2013 Legislative session and funding to CD's and DNRC for CD's. Jeff also asked those that were present to take home some of the new "Livestock Operation" on-site guide publications that MACD & MSU-Extension Service recently produced and to take extras for other CD's in their areas to save on postage to mail to the CD's.

DNRC-

Dave Martin – Dave prepared a written report on his activities.

Ray Beck spoke briefly and introduced John Tubbs, the DNRC Director. John expressed that he is looking forward to working the CD's.

Pam Smith, Lindsay Volfe, & Alicia Stickney attended and gave an over-view and answered questions on the various grant programs available through the DNRC – please visit DNRC website for more information.

NRCS-

Joyce Swartzendruber, MT State Conservationist – Joyce attended the meeting and gave an update of NRCS activities in the state. Over the next couple of months NRCS will be working with Conservation Districts and DC on re-doing and updating the cooperative agreements between the CD's and NRCS – Joyce asked that if any CD's had ideas, suggestions and wanted anything specific added to their agreement to discuss this with their DC's, who will in turn discuss this with the NRCS State Office.

The federal NRCS is doing a reorganization of the Administrative Services nation-wide to eliminate the extra and confusing departments and consolidate this into 1 department.

MSCA- no report

Old Business

Health Insurance – those present discussed the insurance issue and that the responses that Julie Goss received on the survey was that only 20% of the CD's that responded to the survey would participate in the insurance and the EO would need to have 60% participation. Lori Zeiser asked that this issue not be dropped – although CD administrators are stating that they are covered by their spouse's policy or some are able to participate in the county insurance – they are still paying for insurance and with the new health care laws going into effect some business (particularly private industry employers) will see a 200% increase in premiums – Lori stated that there is still a lot of work and research that is needed. Guelda reported that during her conference call with the NACDEA Regional Presidents, etc. that Wyoming and Colorado have just gotten or are in the process of getting insurance for CD staff. This insurance issue will be tabled to be discussed again at the fall meeting, and more research will be gathered for updates on the EO Directors quarterly conference calls.

MACD Convention – November 19th through 21st – Great Falls – Jan gave an update of the EO Wednesday night event for Teresa Wilhelm – Teresa has questions regarding how much the EO typically spends for the off-site event and how much for event attendee ticket prices. Teresa said that to rent the Civic Center it would be \$750 and would this be reasonable? Since we do not have a lot of details, Lori Zeiser moved to allow Teresa to use her discretion on the venue and to set the event ticket prices in the price range of +/- ~\$35 depending on expenses for meal, venue, band(?), tables, decorations, etc. – Penny Landon seconded – motion passed.

Lori also let everyone know, and she will also e-mail Cascade CD & Teresa that the Administrators from Area V said to pick a theme (50's Sock-Hop was mentioned) and they will be in charge of the decorations.

EO Display Boards – some discussion on the display boards, but it was decided to table this until after the Envirothon

New Business

EO Fund Raising – (MACD Convention) – Silent Auction & Live Auction – Lori Zeiser gave a history of the Silent Auction – this was begun in 2008 at the MACD Convention held in Missoula – the EO decided to try the silent auction of “Theme Baskets” to help off-set the cost of the EO Event to keep the event tickets at a reasonable price – the EO made ~\$700 on the silent auction and gave a portion of the money to the American Cancer Society as the theme was “Dare to Wear Pink” for cancer awareness – the EO decided to continue the Silent Auction as a fund raiser for the EO. At the MACD Convention in Billings in 2010, MACD approached the EO and asked to split a portion of the silent auction, and that they wanted to try a different approach to the Live Auction because the Live Auction was getting too long and they were losing bidders towards the end – their proposal was to have Areas (6) have 1 to 3 large ticket items for the live auction. The MACD depends on the funds from the live auction to assist in their legislative lobbying efforts for Montana Conservation Districts.

Lori reported that the Administrators from Area V would like to go back to original way the silent/live auction was held, or to have the EO do something different for a fund raiser. The reason being – MACD has come to depend on the spit from the silent auction because the large ticket items are not bringing in the money that MACD needs for the legislature – the people at the convention cannot afford to spend the money that MACD was hoping to bring in on the live auction and this is why the silent auction has been so successful – bidders can bid on and purchase 4 or 5 silent auction items for \$200, but when live auction items are starting bids at \$300→\$500+ they cannot afford to bid on these items. Marlene Moon also expressed her concerns, and agreed that the large ticket items were way outside the price range for most live auction attendees.

Much lively discussion about this issue ensued.

This issue was tabled for further discussion and for Area Directors to ask at their Area Administrators meeting for ideas – this will be discussed once again at the Area Directors quarterly conference calls. If anyone has ideas, please let Guelda know.

Administrator Workshop 2015 – Guelda asked for volunteers for the planning committee for the 2015 workshop – set for the week of MACD’s Legislative Meet & Greet ~the 3rd week of January. Guelda also stated that MACD has a proposal to hold the MACD Convention in Helena in the odd years to run during the legislative session. This issue was tabled pending further information following the MACD Spring meeting.

Education & Training – Dave Martin

Dave Martin briefly went over some training and education ideas.

moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded – motion passed - meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Zeiser, Secretary