

FALL EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION MEETING
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Montana Room – Heritage Inn – Great Falls, MT

Welcome and Attendance

Remembrance– Remembering Penny Landon – the EO donated \$300 in Penny’s memory to Montana Ronald McDonald House – Thank-You note will be read

EO Minutes – May 29, 2013 minutes (Corrections & Clarifications) – Lori Zeiser

Financial Report – Patricia Johnson

2-Year Review – FY2011 thru FY2012

FY2013 Financial Report

Current year Financial Report through November 15, 2013

Reports:

EO Area Representatives-Area Reps

Envirothon - Shonny Nordlund

MACD - Jeff Tiberi

DNRC - Dave Martin

MSCA - Jane Holzer - maybe

NRCS - Joyce Swartzendruber - invited

Old Business:

EO Display Boards – Area V has been working with Dave Martin on display boards. We will take a short mini-tour of the booth where the display is set up.

Health Insurance – Multiple surveys done – Did not have the interest required for a group policy, plus employers are required to pay 60% of employee premium. It was decided to wait until after the first of 2014 to see what impact the new health care law has. It might be cheaper for an employee to buy their own policy through the new exchanges, than to get insurance through a group policy.

Laurie Zeller and Don MacIntyre have worked on a resolution that would provide permanent funding of a group benefit plan for all conservation district employees by means of the conservation district’s annual regular levy. Sweet Grass Conservation District is sponsoring the resolution. As Laurie has noted, it seems as though a district’s desire/ability to provide health insurance and other benefits to their employees always comes down to cost. This resolution, if ultimately passed by the legislature, would give districts an opportunity, if they wish, to increase their mill levy to cover the cost of providing benefits to their employees.

EO Event – Teresa - Wednesday the 20th – Help needed?

50/50 Tickets and Raffle Tickets – Drawings for the 50/50 and the \$500 raffle will be during the banquet Thursday night. Turn in tickets and stubs to Julie Goss.

Training Committee/EO 2015 Conference

- Looking for volunteers to form a training committee. Responsibilities of the training committee will be to update the administrator’s handbook, create training materials by modifying materials/modules from other states, work on applying for a Capacity Building Grant to help support these activities.
- A sub-committee of the training committee may be formed with a representative and alternate from each area. Their responsibilities will be to help develop a training strategy, to research what other states may be doing for administrator training, collect input from other administrators in their area, provide input on the content of training materials and to review training materials as they are produced and to plan the next state-wide training session. Some possible general discussion ideas to give some guidance to the sub-committee when planning the statewide training: Do we want to have our training in conjunction with the legislative session if the MACD decides to have its annual convention in Helena during the session in odd numbered years – or should we consider having our next

state-wide training sometime in the fall of 2014 or later in the spring of 2015? Do we want to have one-day regional trainings during the 'off' years of our state-wide training to address regional issues? Should the content and scheduling of these regional meetings just be left to the responsibility of area reps in the region?

- Time and place for committee meeting during the convention.

Administrator of the Year – Carie Hess had suggested this idea several years ago and asked that it be brought up again to see if there is any interest in some type of recognition award.

New Business:

Capacity Grants – Dave Martin

Area Representative - Cheryl Miller has replaced Penny Landon as an Area IV rep and Bobbie Vannattan has replaced Barbara Berry. Marlene Moon has also agreed to be an Area III representative.