

MACD Spring Board Meeting, June 3, 1993, 2-2:30 p.m. at Jorgenson's in Helena. Meet with Diane Stephenson for lunch at noon to discuss State Employees' Group formation.

Attending: Gloria Mason, Glacier CD
Kristi Schwartz, Toole CD
Gloria Griggs, Pondera CD
Julia Bitz, Chouteau CD
Dale Johnson, Teton CD
Diane Stephenson, Treasure CD
Ray Beck, Laurie Zeller and Steve Schmitz, DNRC
Mike Volesky and Sharon Lindberg, MACD
MACD Board of Directors
RC&D, SCS, etc.

Area III Director Tom Stelling was present. Don McIntosh wasn't.

We were there in support of Diane Stephenson's request to MACD to include a slot at convention for an Employee's meeting and for some monetary help in sponsoring Kay Wasinger to convention. Mary Ann Hanser asked if we would still form the Employees' group if Board did not give support. Answer was yes. Also it was asked if other CD employees besides Administrative would be included in Employees' group. Answer was yes.

Bob Schroeder made a motion to support formation of the Employees' Group and to help with speaker expenses at convention. Passed. Bob Story suggested that when the group is up and running, through a by-law change, make a position on the MACD Board for a member of the Employees' Group.

I was asked to speak for the employees. Quite a few questions were asked and total results were favorable.

Purpose of meeting with the Board was to get an idea of some of the business dealt with and to ask if the CDs were invited to the Board meetings. Agendas are not sent to CDs. Meetings are open as held, as was obvious by the attendance of SCS, RC&D, other people in attendance.

We need more timely communications - we sometimes get news long AFTER an event is already held, and sometimes not at all if the information isn't directly sent to the CDs.

Meeting minutes - CDs don't know what business was covered at MACD meetings since we don't get minutes until long after meetings are held. (1992 Spring Board Minutes, one year old, were just finished, not sent out.)

Area Board members need to be more visible. We do not see Board members - need to have them attend CD meetings. Would like to have Board answer or comment from time to time so we know Board members receive CD correspondence.

CD Law books will be reprinted (Laurie Zeller), after legislative

printing is complete, probably in the fall.

Following the meeting, Ellis Hagen and Tom Stelling approached me and said that Ross Racine, Billings BIA office, had been on the MACD agenda in the morning, requesting the Blackfeet Reservation have their own separate Conservation District since we do not work with them. Ellis suggested we specifically seek out a Blackfeet Tribe member to serve on our County Board. ??? Why this turn of events? They ^{wise} do not want any contact with State entities, and yet are willing to become one? Ellis will contact Tom Johnson and discuss this. Tom Stelling will attend a CD meeting this fall when his work is caught up.

The following items were discussed by employees but not all were brought up at the business meeting. The reason for this was that we weren't really prepared for a presentation, the short time slot we were allowed, and some of these items really need to be brought up by Supervisors, not employees.

*Timely communications are needed. Please send those communications to the Conservation Districts instead of SCS. Updated CD mailing list needs to be sent out.

*Send MACD Board meeting minutes to CDs.

*Set up fall Area meeting dates to fit Supervisors' schedules.

*Better Area meetings, shorter conventions. Expense causes lack of attendance at convention due to low CD budgets. Glacier could send two, possibly more, supervisors to convention with amount of MACD-NACD dues that are paid.

*Travelling 'road show' at Area fall meetings? Present information accurately (in written report form)?

We need to make these meetings worthwhile for supervisors and district personnel to attend. Since our budgets are pinched, we need to make the best use of our time and funds as we possibly can - for supervisor & employee training.

*Why should SCS be involved in CD Secretarial hiring? The work Secretaries do for SCS is not paid and doesn't require special knowledge.

*Please confirm that SCS oversees CD employee only when that employee is doing SCS work, unless Supervisors request otherwise.

*Is MACD 'Conservation District driven' or 'SCS driven'?

*Is it SCS employees' role to solicit Conservation District Supervisors - without CD knowledge, request, or sanction?

*How about SCS employees interfering with CD supervisors' duties - undermining their authority, and trying to manipulate their work?

*SCS employees working on conservation plans, etc., of producers they are related to?

*Why are the CD's not involved in selection of D.C.'s or other SCS field office employees?

*CDs request to be able to have some input in selection of new SCS-DCs.

CDs are concerned with SCS relating to the public and in bettering conservation programs.

*Information shared with CDs from DC meetings is, naturally, looked at from SCS' point of view. Since SCS comes to all CD functions, why aren't CDs invited to all SCS functions?

*Why does SCS feel they need to be in charge of MACD convention programming - to show us how to put on a convention? Isn't the convention put on by CDs, for CDs benefit, paid for by CDs, and not paid for with federal funds?

*NACD is SCS' lobby in Washington, D.C. Can NACD lobby for funding for the CDs, too, so there is decent funding for districts to operate on?

*Up to date MACD policy book for reference.

*Training available through MACD? DNRC? Tapes, videos, books - at what cost? Laurie to check into what is available through DNRC.