

MACDEO Meeting
August 24, 2004
USDA Farm Service Center – Lewistown
By Jan Fontaine

Present: Barbara Berry (Stillwater), Jean Dunn (Green Mountain), Jan Fontaine (MACD), Julie Goss (Richland), Pat Johnson (Valley), Penny Landon (Carbon), Renee Nelson (Wibaux), Shonny Nordlund (Fergus), Kit Sutherland (NRCS), Teresa Wilhelm (Judith Basin), and Laurie Zeller (DNRC)

Convention Update: Laurie Zeller and Jean Dunn will coordinate those needing a ride to and from the Amtrak station in Whitefish on Tuesday evening.

The EO will sponsor a session during the convention on retirement.

The MACDEO fall meeting will be held at 7:00 am on Wednesday, November 17th as a breakfast meeting (a scrambled egg breakfast will be served). Barbara Berry and Teresa Wilhelm will work on getting sponsors for this meal. Jan Fontaine will make arrangements with the hotel for space & food.

Wednesday Night Extravaganza at Convention: The MACDEO Wednesday night event will be held at the Central School Museum. The cost will be the same as last year at \$18. The budget will be \$15 for expenses with \$3 going to the EO. The Area 5 administrators are working on finding sponsors to off set the cost. Larry VanRinsum from Flathead CD is still getting quotes for food. Patsy Meredith from Eastern Sanders and Vickie McGuire from Lincoln are working on entertainment.

Raffle Tickets at Convention: The prize awarded this year will be \$500 cash. Julie Goss has made tickets and will be sending them out to the CDs.

Insurance & Benefits: Laurie Zeller, Chris Evans (Lewis & Clark) and Jan Fontaine met and designed a questionnaire that was sent from MACD to the CDs for them to bring before their next meeting. After they have been returned the committee, which also includes Pat Anderson (Phillips), will contact state and private insurance companies to gather ways of insuring CD employees and supervisors.

Resolution for Area Meetings: It was decided that the draft resolution (see attached) will be submitted to each CD so it can get to each Area meeting. After passing at the Area meetings will be go to the annual meeting of the district operations committee and then to the general meeting on Thursday.

MACDEO Reorganization: After much discussion a draft policy & procedures document was completed. This will be sent to all members in the next week for review and final adoption will be made at the meeting on November 17th.

Meeting Notes
MACDEO/Lewistown
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Present: Renee Nelson (Wibaux), Jan Fontaine (MACD), Laurie Zeller (DNRC), Penny Landon (Carbon), Barb Berry (Stillwater), Shonny Nordlund (Fergus), Pat Johnson (Valley), Julie Goss (Richland), Teresa Wilhelms (Judith Basin), Kit Sutherland (NRCS)

“Circle of Earth” Bracelets: Teresa brought a sample packet for everyone that was provided by Heidi Breuer/NRCS that can be used for a classroom activity for younger grades. There is an accompanying explanation/instruction of the significance of the colored beads that helps to illustrate how everything on Earth is related to everything else.

Convention Discussion

Coffee Station: Barb Berry knows of an opportunity for a complimentary coffee product set-up that could be available for a convention function or display during the convention. She was encouraged to see if they could be present at the Wednesday evening MACDEO Social Event, and possibly offer specialty coffees during the convention at the hotel. Jan will check with the hotel & Larry to see if that is possible and not in conflict with their policies.

Raffle Tickets: \$500 cash, similar to last year.

Laurie Zeller and Jean will coordinate those needing a ride to and from the Amtrak station in Whitefish on Tuesday evening.

MACDEO Breakfast: Scheduled for 7:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, November 17th. Barb Berry and Teresa Wilhelms will coordinate getting a sponsor to underwrite the cost.

Insurance Survey: Laurie and Jan explained the coordinated effort to gather information on the interest in health insurance and the survey that was developed to use as a guideline. Also, Laurie has already begun the research process to see what kinds of options could be considered. Shonny shared a letter to her district explaining the availability of Chamber of Commerce Membership health insurance that has recently been arranged. Laurie will continue the research on all of these possibilities. It was also thought that a strong show of support could be accomplished if each Area meeting produced a resolution expressing their interest and support in providing the opportunity for districts to offer health insurance and possibly other benefits to their employees and supervisors.

MACDEO By-Laws: The final draft of the By-Law revisions/simplification was completed and will be distributed by Pat Johnson within the next week for all districts to review and consider. Further considerations and final adoption will be made at the November 17th meeting.