

MACDEO Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
10:00am – 11:33am
Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

The MACDEO quarterly meeting was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 10:00am.

Those on the call—Conservation Districts: Angie Stahl (Treasure), Bobbi Vannattan (Rosebud), Tanya Lester (Stillwater), Julie Ralston (Bitterroot), Carie Hess (Petroleum), Gail Cicon (Liberty), Denise Thompson (Broadwater), Julie Goss (Richland), Renee Nelson (Wibaux), Bridgette Gibbs (Garfield), Liz Riter (Powder River), Stephanie Carroll (Carter), Melissa Opsahl (Sheridan), Teresa Wilhelms (Judith Basin), Darlene Schwend (Carbon), and Mary Hendrix (McCone).

MACD: Elena Evans

DNRC: Karl Christians and Dave Martin

Bobbi welcomed everyone at her first meeting as President of the EO.

EO Minutes: We do not have a copy of the last EO meeting minutes from the MACD Convention in Missoula. Julie R said that she will forward notes that she took from the meeting and Carie mentioned that she can contact Lori Zeiser for more information. Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.

Financial Reports: Carie provided the EO budget overview, P&L, dues paid report and balance sheet. She said that there are two outstanding invoices for a total of \$8,259.00 and when paid will bring the net income up to \$8,762.74. These invoices are for name badges and convention bills to be paid by MACD. She was asked to resend these reports after convention bills were paid. Financial reports will be tabled until the next meeting.

EO Area Representative Reports:

Area 1: Carie Hess & Mary Hendrix

Mary: We will have an area meeting on March 15th. This meeting will cover topics such as trainings, education, workshops etc. There are 3 new administrators in Area 1: Bridgette Gibbs (Garfield), Tifney Kempton (Roosevelt), and Mandi Maldonado (Valley). We will also have a QuickBooks training, but that has not been scheduled yet.

Carie: Petroleum CD has been very busy and have been putting on at least one workshop per month recently.

Melissa: Reminder—310 Workshop in Culbertson on March 8th.

Area 2: Julie Goss & Vacant

Julie: Area 2 also has a new administrator: Sarafina Claeys at Little Beaver CD. Training has not been scheduled yet. She mentioned that she has been busy working on the convention. Four hotels have been contacted and room blocks established. You can make your reservations now. The nightly rates are \$65-75 as each hotel has different amenities. The next convention meeting is March 21 at 10am.

Julie asked Stephanie if she was interested in being an Area rep and she said that she will think on it.

Area 3: Tenlee Atchinson & Gail Cicon

Gail: Area 3 has 2 new administrators: Nea (Toole) and Emily (Hill). These two conservation districts are unique in that they are run through their respective counties.

They will have an area meeting on February 24th. That training will include a Rolling Rivers trailer demonstration so that administrators will be certified to operate them. They are planning another QuickBooks training as their December training was impacted by poor turnout due to bad weather.

They are gearing up for their 3rd year of the four county (Toole, Pondera, Glacier & Liberty) cover crop grant program and the bi-annual New Trend Seminar. This seminar featuring new trends in agriculture will be held in Shelby on February 23rd. Area 3 is also working on a MACD survey.

Area 4: Bobbi Vannattan & Cheryl Miller

Bobbi: Area 4 had an administrators meeting in Billings recently. They discussed many topics including dues. She is interested in having a meeting with Area 2 and other area reps to go over any issues. Area 4 is willing and interested in assisting with the MACD convention.

She is working with Scott Kaiser on the grant workshop in Miles City. Rosebud CD will have another soil health workshop in December.

Darlene: There will be a QuickBooks training in Joliet on March 9th. The morning session is for beginners and the afternoon session will be an advanced session covering PERS.

Area 5: Leona Gollen & Vacant

Julie R: She thanked Bobbi for taking over and doing a good job in her new position.

There has been a lot of turnovers in Area 5. Lori Z is no longer at Missoula CD and Jen McBride is still there, but very busy. Chris Malgren will be retiring in June after 34 years (or so). She did a great job on the Winter Grazing Seminar in Missoula.

There has been no area 5 meetings for a while now, but will have one soon.

The Bitterroot CD was awarded a \$300,000 grant to modify an existing diversion on the Bitterroot River.

Area 6: Jamie Cottom & Denise Thompson

Denise: Area 6 will have a meeting on March 30th in Whitehall. It will have an open Q & A session, discuss problems that districts may be experiencing, future training that would be of value to administrators, 310s and Envirothon. Chris Evans is putting this together.

There is a lot of channel migration zone projects in the area. The new Ranching for Rivers program is now available and funded by FWCDM and MRCDC.

There was a 310 workshop in Dillion. Karl said that it worked really well and the CD board really appreciated it. Dan Marsh and FWP presented and they held a mock inspection of a site.

Envirothon: No report.

Next meeting: The next board meeting will be at the Spring MACD meeting in Helena. The EO meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15th at 1:00pm in the DEQ meeting room (if available) and conference phone for those who would like to call in. Dave to schedule the room and check on phone accessibility.

Julie R asked if we could try to do something for Chris M at the spring meeting.

Mary asked if there would be scholarships available. Carie said that in the past, officers and area reps had their room & mileage paid for by the MACDEO. That amounts to \$1,800-2,000.00. Mary asked if we could provide a scholarship for Chris M?

The scholarship discussion has been tabled until the bills have been paid and we can see if we have the funds for it.

Agency & Partnership Report:

MACD: Elena mentioned that dues notices will be sent out soon. The Department of Revenue provides MACD with a spreadsheet with taxable values and mill levy and she has sent emails to most districts to verify accuracy. She said that 1/3 reported that it was accurate, 1/3 reported that it was incorrect and the last 1/3 had not responded.

Bobbi mentioned that at the Area 4 meeting, districts mentioned that each assessor's office reported differently.

Denise said that the local assessor's office gets information from the state. They then use the worksheet that Lori Zeller provided districts and plugs in the numbers there. However, she noticed that the county takes an additional amount (using another line in the salmon boxes) for calculation.

Teresa thanked Elena for her efforts on getting things straightened out on the levies.

Elena also mentioned that they will continue to work with the convention hotel to resolve billing issues, but MACD will pay the invoice that the MACDEO sent them.

DNRC: Dave said that the Welcome Wagon went to Hill & Toole Counties. He mentioned that it was very effective when he traveled with a seasoned administrator to these districts. Mark Suta with MACD also stopped by. Scott will visit Garfield, Roosevelt and Little Beaver CDs.

Lincoln CD and Judy Knapp (Hysham) now have display boards. Area 5's board is in the pipeline and should be done soon. Julie R asked if Area 5's board would be housed in Missoula and Dave said that had not been determined yet. She asked if it was possible to districts to purchase their own area board and Dave said he will check on the pricing.

Denise asked about the status of the Area 6 board and was told that it will be sent out next week. Dave suggested that districts go out this spring and take good high resolution pictures.

Karl: There will be a QuickBooks training in Joliet on March 9th and in Dillon on March 11th. The morning session will be basics for beginners and the afternoon session will be more advanced for the experienced administrator. He asked that if you have any questions on QuickBooks to please send them to him so he can forward them to Wendy. McCone will be hosting a QuickBooks training in the future.

There will be a 310 Workshop in Culbertson on March 8th. This workshop will be a little different from possible projects effecting blue-ribbon streams we are more familiar with in the western part of the state. This will focus on oil and gas development and pipeline crossings. Should be interesting.

The 310 workshop in Dillon was a huge success. Julie R started off and did just a great job that she was asked by the Floodwaters Association to present at their event. Good job Julie!

Administrative grant emails will be sent out next week. It will probably be around the same amount as last year and there will be a webinar to help new administrators on the process. We will be looking at budget crunches due to coal taxes going down. 2016 should still be okay, but it's iffy in 2017.

Laurie Zeller wants admin grants to stay intact, but 223 grants and others will probably be down. Denise said thank you for the additional admin funds this year.

He asked that if your conservation district has supervisor areas, please get that information to him. If you don't and would like to, you will need to make it official with an ordinance.

The Watershed management grant round 2 is due in mid-April. Contact Lindsay Volpe for more information.

The Grant writing workshop is April 7-8 in Miles City. If you are planning on attending, get your scholarship requests (room & mileage) in as soon as possible to Scott.

Old Business: None

New Business: Vacant Vice President: Julie R asked if we still had a nomination committee that might make suggestions. Bobbi will look into it. This is tabled until the spring meeting.

Open Discussion: Website: Carie and Mary have been added as administrators. Carie will upload financials and Mary will add the minutes. Julie R asked if there can be a link to put the 310 presentation on the website. Carie mentioned that it would be easy to put it onto google drive.

Mary asked if it was possible to have a separate website meeting. It should be open to everyone who would be interested in what the EO site should look like. Bobbi to set up a date / meeting.

2017 Administrators training: Bobbi asked if anyone was interested in discussing the next training. We all asked to table it until the spring meeting ☺

The meeting ended at 11:33am.

Submitted by: Mary Hendrix