



## 2016 MACDEO Fall Meeting Attendees

### Districts

Big Sandy: Barbie Martin  
Bitterroot: Julie Ralston  
Broadwater: Denise Thompson  
Cascade: Tenlee Atchison  
Custer: Carol Watts  
Dawson: Nikki Wesolek  
Fergus: Shonny Nordlund  
Flathead: Valerie Kurth  
Garfield: Dusty Eike  
Glacier: Belinda Knapton  
Lake: Heidi Fleury  
Liberty: Gail Cicon  
Little Beaver: Sarafina Claeys  
McCone: Mary Hendrix  
Missoula: Jen McBride & Monica Perez-Watkins  
Petroleum: Carie Hess  
Phillips: Jenifer Anderson  
Pondera: Lorrie Grosfield  
Powder River: Liz Riter  
Richland: Julie Goss  
Roosevelt: Tifney Kempton  
Rosebud: Bobbi Vannattan & Monica Boyer  
Sheridan: Taylor Fjeldheim  
Stillwater: Tanya Lester  
Sweet Grass: Guelda Halverson  
Toole: Nea Rice  
Upper Musselshell: Cheryl Miller  
Valley: Penny Shipp  
Wibaux: Renee Nelson

MACD: Elena Evans & Jeff Tiberi  
SWCDM: Ann McCauley & Kate Arpin

### Partners

DNRC: Laurie Zeller, Scott Kaiser &  
Dave Martin  
MSCA: Jane Holzer  
FWP: Mike Baches & Ken Frazer  
CBMPP: Don Sassas

### Supervisors

Flathead: Pete Woll  
Glacier: Mark Suta  
Sheridan: Jeff Wivholm  
Treasure: Judy Knapp

# 2016 MACDEO Fall Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

## Draft Meeting Minutes

The MACDEO Fall Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at the Event Center in Sidney. The meeting began at 1:19pm.

Bobbi welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. See attendance list.

### **Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Reports**

Meeting minutes from the September 16<sup>th</sup> conference call were reviewed. Jenifer made a motion to approve the minutes and Carie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report and budget were reviewed. Renee made a motion to approve the report and budget and Gail seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Administrator & Supervisor of the Year Awards**

Carie mentioned that the awards are now in their third year and interest in the program is growing. In late May 2017, forms will be emailed to each CD's chairman who may want to discretely nominate their own employee. Forms will also be sent out to the administrator listserv, too.

There was a suggestion that the administrator of the year award be changed to employee of the year to reflect conservation district offices that may have more than one employee. Employees will need to be a member of the Employee Organization (EO) to be considered. For BSWC people in district offices, Carie suggested that the EO work with the Montana Conservation Corp (MCC) to recognize Corp members separately. A vote wasn't taken, but the award was changed from Administrator to Employee.

### **Area Reports**

#### Area 1:

- CMR Pilot project
- Cover crop cost share
- Wounded Warrior project
- Tree replacement program in Scobey
- Area meetings, QuickBook trainings
- Trees

#### Area 2:

- Julie G: Aquifer study for Fox Hills; MACD Convention; Cost-share; SWCDM Soil Health workshop in Sidney January 19<sup>th</sup>
- Liz: Powder River Coal Bed methane; increasing education program
- Carol: YRCDC financial agent: study completed and waiting on the Corp to put a stamp of approval; hosting a winter grazing seminar in Miles City in February; financial agent for MWCC Symposium; 310s and reserved water applications
- Sarafina: Soil testing; Bale grazing workshop in January-will have Burt Teigart

- Renee: Very successful soil health workshop in February; outdoor classroom in May; soil workshop in July and was Area 2 meeting host
- Nikki: Workshop in March-soil health for gardeners; and outdoor classroom this fall

#### Area 3:

- Gail: Good area meeting; revived outdoor classroom; 4 counties worked together on a cover crop grant; zebra mussel found in Tiber Dam
- Lorrie: Pondera Medical Center garden-the elderly can now spend time outdoors and interact with students; talked to students about pollinators; oral history project-Pondera did 5
- Barbie: Rotary club; kids & Arbor Day; painting pots with Kindergarteners and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Jenifer: Passed bison ordinance; she is now PT coordinator for the Milk River Alliance; with Valley CCD will co-host a BSWC person; held 3 workshops
- Nea: Attended Envirothon; hosted 2 Ag Days; MT Trends and other clinics; working closely with Extension Agent on farmers garden
- Shonny: the Maklar-Adams project-a 21 year project-has been completed; bison ordinance passed; Boys & Girls Club garden grant; soil health workshop; cover crop + no-till garden workshop; and range monitoring
- Tonya Merriman resigned; her last day is January 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Area 4:

- Bobbi: Working with NRCS on sage-grouse markers; no-till gardening workshop; granted up to \$200K in low interest loans; irrigation project; will be hosting a big soil health workshop November 30-December 1; hired a new employee-Monica Boyer who just sent out her first newsletter; was recognized by the state of MT for Forest + Focus 2015; held 6 conservation days; sold 3<sup>rd</sup> no-till drill, just purchased 4<sup>th</sup> one; Range Days will move to Carbon County for the next 2 years; 2 new water reservations added for a total of 12; Heather Nenninger (SGI) and she helped Laverne at the Nile
- Guelda: First time in Sidney-thank you to Julie; did host the MT Range Tour in September; 3 new water reservations; 310 violation-thanks to Ken Frazier for his assistance that helped move the decision to the favor of the district-also thank you to Laurie Z, Bob Fletcher and Don McIntyre.

#### Area 5:

- Heidi: Outreach; hugely successful Grazing & Pasture pivot tour in Dillon; will host Western MT Grazing Seminar
- Jen: Have been at the CD for 1 ½ years, Monica has been there for 6 months; February 9-10 Five counties workshop; a lot of workshops; legacy grant matches up to \$10K; Trail Creek project; (40) 310 applications-will do outreach & mailers to those who don't know they need to submit 310 applications; will have a BSWC person
- Valerie: Had a BSWC person who worked on a Watershed restoration project in Flathead County; created a sourcebook educator guide; hosted 2 educator workshops; held a flood awareness day for 9<sup>th</sup> graders; Flathead Valley Deep Aquifer; culvert replacement project; and has a new employee Cynthia Ingelfinger

- Julie R: Busy with fires-16 homes lost; emergency watershed protection with NRCS; 595 grant with Corp of Engineers and DNRC to improve a high hazard irrigation diversion on the Bitterroot River.

#### Area 6:

- Denise reported on Area 6: All CDs are working on 310s; soil & weed workshops; individually,
- Gallatin: Education & outreach for kids
- Madison: Had 3 BSWC people
- Ruby: Stream Team; bear awareness
- Lewis & Clark: Cost-share
- Broadwater: Will host a BSWC person for the 4<sup>th</sup> time-will repeat Katie Mumford from last year; a big shout-out to partners DEQ, DNRC, MCC, MACD; 6<sup>th</sup> year with Women in Ag-the book will be out soon; Pauline Webb, a 96 year old from Townsend, passed away and her funeral was November 15<sup>th</sup>-was glad she was able to capture her story; Local Working Group (LWG)-if you haven't done one, really encourage you do one; the Deep Creek project was removed from TMDL for sediment

#### **EO Vacancies**

- Vice President: Nominated at the Spring Board meeting: Tenlee Atchison & Denise Thompson. Denise declined; Julie R made a motion to approve Tenlee's nomination and Gail seconded it. The nomination was voted on and passed.
- Secretary: Gail was nominated. Denise made a motion to approve Gail's nomination and Barbie seconded it. The nomination was voted on and passed.
- New Area 2 representative: Sarafina Claeys
- New Area 4 representative: Tanya Lester
- New Area 5 representative: Heidi Fleury

#### **Agency Partnership Reports**

##### MACD: Elena Evans

- Good to see everyone; Area 1 & Area 2 worked hard all year on the convention
- There is a report on actions from last year's resolutions at the registration desk; the predator resolution was forwarded to NACD
- The restructuring of SWCDM & MACD is coming along; there are complimentary programs working through 44 districts

##### Kate Arpin

- DNRC grant on communications
- If you have any updates for the [admin@macdnet.org](mailto:admin@macdnet.org) listserv, please contact her; there are listservs by areas, too.
- MACD is a network of websites, if you need help develop your website, please contact her.

##### Mark Suta

- Thank you for everything ☺

DNRC: Laurie Zeller

- Very proud and pleased with all the work CDs do
- The survey previously sent on what's important to supervisors and administrators will help CARDD formulate how funding goes. Will be looking at ways to increase funding incrementally to help administrators.
- 17 districts have permissive mill levies
- She helped with elections, some laws were "goofy" due to past the legislative session; there will be some changes for the upcoming session
- Other changes would be removing delinquencies on mill levies.
- She attended a meeting in Missouri where contemporaries around the country discussed conservation and left thinking MT is thinking way too small. She left with ideas on refocused funding to districts.
- Bob Fletcher is working on the 310 database.
- Linda Brander is working on the book *Women in Agriculture*.

CBMPP: Don Sassas

- There are two resolutions this year to continue the work that the Coal Bed Methane Protection Program does; one is to keep the program and the second one is for funding.

Envirothon: Shonny Nordlund

- 21<sup>st</sup> year of Envirothon; theme was "invasive species"
- Had good speakers, station managers and administrators there to help out and sponsor teams
- 33 teams registered and 30 competed
- Winners:



- 2016 Envirothon Helena High 1st Place



- 2016 Envirothon Missoula FFA 2nd Place



- 2016 Envirothon Hamilton High 3rd Place
- Helena High went to Toronto to compete; there they met a Chinese team and one person from the Montana team had a trading session with them (food item?). They had a great time.
- Next year's theme will be "Agricultural Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship" and will be held April 24-25, 2017 in Lewistown. The national competition will be held in Maryland.

#### MSCA: Jane Holzer

- 34 CDs are involved with MSCA
- Hope you are receiving our newsletter
- MSCA Board of Directors works as a liaison with as many CDs on 223 grant opportunities
- They are willing to come to education events and trainings
- Has available: ties to soil health youth education; soil painting kits, Earthwise bracelets; will have a booth so stop by and see what's new

#### **Dues Committee**

##### MACD Executive Board: Jeff Wivholm

- The dues committee is the number one priority for the MACD Executive board.
- Wants a fair way to access dues; make sure districts are getting the correct amounts from their counties
- Looking for 2-3 administrators to serve on the committee; (small, medium & large districts)
- Julie Goss, Cheryl Miller and Carie Hess agreed to be on this committee
- Jeff also mentioned that they need other people for other committees, too.

#### **2017 Legislative Session**

##### MACD: Jeff Tiberi

- Coal trust account: natural resource dollars are down, so DNRC is trying to switch to receive some of the dollars from the general fund, but many people are too.
- Priorities are administrative grants and 223 grants
- Irrigation wasn't identified in the big infrastructure project for the state
- A senator is carrying the flood plains resolution
- Topics for upcoming the legislative session: water reservations, CBMPP, River councils, bison EIS, sage-grouse (both SGI & state sage-grouse programs)
- Same governor elected, but may see different heads of agencies.
- Feds may have a big infrastructure bill and that may piggy-back with irrigation projects in MT

## **EO Fundraisers**

50/50 raffle: Will have the 50/50 raffle again this year. \$5 an arm length; will sell it beginning Tuesday evening reception

Silent pie auction: Auction during the EO event.

## **Wednesday Night at the Museum**

Julie Goss:

- Setup after 2pm while people are on tours
- Will have micro-brews from 5 different breweries: Meadowlark (Richland), Beaver Creek (Wibaux), Busted Knuckle (Valley), Missouri Break (Roosevelt-Wolf Point) and Badlands Brewery (Dick & Connie Iverson)
- Wines from Tongue River Winery
- Entertainment: 2 accordion players
- Photo booth downstairs in pioneer town
- Will have 10-12 pies for the silent auction

## **2017 Administrator Training**

- Date: June, date TBD
- Place: TBD
- Comments: It was suggested to put together a training committee to discuss date, place and educational topics. The training committee will bring it back to the rest of the EO board / members by the end of the year.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting date was not set.

**Open discussion:** None

The meeting concluded at 3:29pm.

Submitted by: Mary Hendrix