

MACDEO 2018 CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 1:00 PM

Billings Convention Center, Billings Montana

ATTENDEES

Administrators:

Nea Rice	Teresa Wilhelms	Darlene Schwend
Diane Black	Barbie Martin	Julie Ralston
Josie Reynolds	Denise Thompson	Lorna Krause
Mike Bjarko	Shonny Nordland	Valerie Kurth
Katie Mumford	Dusty Olson	Tabitha Furnare
Kat Whitaker	Teresa Wilhelms	Sarafina Clays
Carie Hess	Lorrie Grosfield	Liz Riter
Sharon Flemetis	Guelda Halverson	LihAn Yang
Renee Nelson	Tenlee Atchison	Gail Cicon

Partners:

Kate Arpin, SWCDM	Samantha Tappenback, SWCDS	Elisha Dempsey, TCCD
Tracy Cumber, NRCS	Jane Holzer, MSCA	Laurie Zeller, DNRC

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tenlee Atchison at 1:10.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- **Secretary – Gail Cicon, Liberty County CD**
Minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting were sent out prior to the meeting. Tabitha Furnare moved that they be accepted, Teresa Wilhelms seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Treasurer - Dusty Olson, Garfield CD**
FISCAL YEAR OVERVIEW REPORT – July 2017 through June 2018. Dusty Olson moved that this report be accepted, Nea Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET– January – December 2018. It was suggested that monies for Representative travel for Spring Board Meeting and Leadership Conference be budgeted every year even if the events are biennial. Under travel, \$750 was added, and \$1,250 for Leadership Conference. Denise Thompson moved the budget be accepted, Teresa Wildhelms seconded motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Teresa Wilhelms moved the report be accepted. Shonny Nordlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACDEO PAID DUES REPORT - Presented

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN – Former Vice Chairman, Tenlee Atchison filled the office of Chairman when it was vacated Fall 2018. Teresa Wilhelm moved that Tenlee Atchison fill the office of Chairman for a two-year term, 2019-2020. Barbie Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tenlee will fill the two-year term.

VICE CHAIRMAN - Chairman, Tenlee Atchison sent an email request to all CD administrators prior to Convention, requesting interested administrators to run for the office of Vice Chairman for the MACDEO. Carie Hess, Mary Hendrix and Tabi Furnare responded as being interested in the position. Tabi Furnare rescinded her offer at convention. Nominations were again opened, and Darlene Schwend nominated Sharon Flemetis. Lorrie Grosfield seconded the motion. Motion carried. Election was held, with Mary Hendrix having the most votes. Nea Rice moved that Mary Hendrix fill the office of Vice-Chairman, Julie Ralston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NCDEA DUES

MACDEO received a request for payment of dues to the National Conservation District Employee Association. It was moved by Shonny Nordlund and seconded by Denise Thompson that we pay these dues. Motion carried.

BY LAWS

The entire By Laws document was examined by the those in attendance. Tenlee Atchison made prior proposals that were edited on the hand-out. The group at large voted on the following changes. (Copy of ByLaws are in Addendum)

Articles I & II – leave as written

Article III – Teresa Wilhelms moved to accept as proposed. Carie Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Article IV – Dusty Olson moved to accept as proposed. Nea Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Article V – Denise Thompson moved to change the membership dues to \$30/year. Carie Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Katie Mumford moved that the Treasurer shall send a reminder by November 1. Josie Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

Article VI – Mike Bjarko moved that Election of Officers be held at the Fall Board meeting. Tabitha Furnare seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Article VII – Teresa Wilhelms moved that the Fiscal Year follow the calendar year. Lori Grossfield seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISTRICT ISSUES

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Most conservation districts in the state are using Payne West under the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) for liability insurance. In the past two years many districts have seen substantial increases in premiums. Several districts have searched for more economical policies but have not found good options.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

Many districts throughout the state would like to offer health insurance as an employee benefit. Chairman Tenlee Atchison has been in communication with **Summit Health Care Insurance**. This company appears to offer very reasonably priced plans. A committee was appointed to investigate this insurance issue:

- Tenlee Atchison
- Lorrie Grosfield
- Mike Bjarko
- Teresa Wilhelms

COORDINATION

The *Aquatic Invasive Species* issue is still an eminent threat to water bodies in Montana. Conservation Districts throughout the state are working to varying degrees on this issue. The districts are encouraged to work on the following:

- Early detection of invasive species
- Good coordination between districts and agencies
- Make sure phone trees and networks are in place

OFFICER TRAINING

The Vice Chairman of MACDEO has attended leadership training sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in the past. MACDEO has funded the cost of travel for this event as it has always been held out of state. The group was undecided as to whether MACDEO should continue the training.

ENVIROTHON

Shonny Nordlund reported on Envirothon 2018 held in Lewistown. Helena High won the state competition. Shonny emphasized that she always needs help from administrators. 2019 Envirothon will be held April 29 & 30.

NEW BUSINESS

SWAT

(Statewide Administrator Training). This is a biennial training for conservation district administrators. Tenlee Atchison appointed a committee to plan this event and date:

Mary Hendrix, Vice Chairman – Committee chair
Katie Mumford, Gallatin
Tabitha Furnare, Glacier

2018 EO EVENT

“Night in the Old West” was the theme of the Employee Organization’s annual dinner and event. Area I was in charge of this event as well as the rest of the convention. They had already

arranged the help needed for set-up, so most administrators were free to attend the scheduled tours. Thanks to Area I for doing a terrific job on Convention 2018!

PARTNER REPORTS

MACD

Katie Arpin reminded all in attendance that she is able to provide technology assistance in areas such as websites, email, or anything else districts may need to enhance their operation.

Jim Simpson, MACD board member talked about the new executive director Dan McGowan's investigation into the possibility of merging the MACD and SWCDM organizations. Apparently, Dan has found that a 501c3 organization can lobby. This arrangement may provide financial savings to the entire MACD organization.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Tenlee Atchison, President

Gail Cicon, Secretary