

MACDEO 2019 CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 1:30 PM

Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center – Kalispell, Montana

ATTENDEES

Administrators:

Maria Hopkins	Big Horn	Chris Evans	Lewis & Clark
Tenlee Atchison	Cascade	Gail Cicon	Liberty
Emma Link	Cascade	Wendy Jones	Lower Musselshell
Shonny Nordlund	Fergus	Diane Black	McCone
Hailey Graf	Flathead	Jen McBride	Missoula
Samantha Tappenbeck	Flathead	Carie Hess	Petroleum
Becky Clements	Gallatin	Casey Gallager	Petroleum
Katie Mumford	Gallatin	Julie Goss	Richland
Dusty Olson	Garfield	Tahnee Benson	Sheridan
Kim Stolz	Glacier	Sharon Fletmetis	Stillwater
Teresa Wilhelms	Judith Basin	Nea Rice	Toole
Heidi Fleury	Lake		

Partners and others:

Kate Arpin	SWCDM	Sunni Knapton	NACD
Mary Hendrix	DNRC	Bryan Vogt	Missoula CD
Stacey Barta	DNRC	Barb Kreis	
Jason Garber	DNRC	Mike Hanson	Gallatin CD
Andrew Kretschner	Sheridan CD	Steve Hedstrom	MACD
Elisha Dempsey	MACD	John Tubbs	DNRC

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tenlee Atchison at 1:32.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- **Secretary –Gail Cicon, Liberty County CD**

Minutes from the November 13, 2018 MACDEO Convention meeting were emailed prior to the meeting. Gail Cicon moved the minutes for approval. Carie Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried. Nea Rice moved that they be accepted, Teresa Wilhelms seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes from the June 3rd, 2019 MACDEO meeting were emailed prior to the meeting. Carie Hess moved the minutes for approval. Nea Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Treasurer - Dusty Olson, Garfield CD**

FISCAL YEAR OVERVIEW REPORT – January 1 through November 18, 2019. Gail Cicon moved that this report be accepted, Shonny Nordlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET– Fiscal Year 2020. Proposed budget approved as amended. (See attachment) Emma Link, Cascade moved the budget be accepted, Heidi Fleury, Lake seconded motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Carie Hess moved the report be accepted. Tahnee Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACDEO PAID DUES REPORT - Presented

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE - \$21,893.07

SUPERVISOR AND EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

_Carie Hess,

Petroleum County CD has taken charge of this program in the past. She updated the group with the following information:

- She is not receiving many nominations and explained that anyone can nominate.
- Reports go out in July and nominations are sent to Laurie Zeller by September
- The committee is comprised of a member of NRCS, MACD and DNRC
- The group in attendance discussed some of the observed issues:
 1. Poor time of year to ask for nominees
 2. Concern about not having an MACDEO representative on the selection board
 3. Need better explanation of award
 4. Have a former winner on selection board
 5. Difficulty of completing application – might use Survey Monkey or more measurable system to determine winner.
 6. Having former award winner on the selection board.
 7. Better explanation of the award.
 8. Possibly award a jacket with a certificate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman, Tenlee Atchison explained that according to the MACDEO bylaws, officer elections are held at the time of the MACD Spring Board Meeting. We have held them at State Convention in the past due to the larger number of Administrators in attendance. Tenlee would like to have an employee training at Spring Board meeting also.

An Ad-hoc Nominating Committee was appointed by the Chairman to deal with this situation:

Heidi Fleury, Diane Black, Gail Cicon

HEALTH CARE

Tenlee Atchison explained that this is still a possibility for Administrators and those working on it in the past are still looking for possible solutions.

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The MACDEO has used the Tax ID number of Judith Basin CD for the past several years for our bank account. MACDEO has applied for their own number, and it will be changed in 2020.

MACDEO WEBSITE AND HANDBOOK

Work in 2020 will focus on updating the MACDEO website and the Employee Handbook.

PARTNER REPORTS

Conservation District Legal Counsel – Caitlin Overland

- New replacement for legal counsel position

NACD- National Association of Conservation Districts Sunni Knapton, Northern Plains Region Representative

Sunni discussed these areas related to the NACD:

- Mission purpose, resources and membership
- Technical Assistance Grants
- Small scale conservation practices
- Soil health champions
- Youth education
- Conservation Careers workshop
- Leadership Development Program

Montana Association of Conservation Districts/Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana - MACD/SWCDM – Charles Cornillie, Executive Director

- New MACD Executive Director located in Helena
- Talked about technical assistance grants

DNRC-Department of Natural Resources Conservation – John Tubbs, Director

Rangeland Resources, DNRC – Stacey Barta

Related this current information:

- Rangeland Resource Committee
- Leopold Conservation Award
- Working Lands Internship Program
- Range tour – Malta – September 8 & 9
- Youth Range Camp – Augusta – August 3-6
- Range Forum – June 3 & 4

Soil Health Grant – Diane Black

- Funding from DNRC
- Must have commitment by December 31, 2019
- Application is very easy

Flood Plain Management – Mark Pitman

- National Flood Insurance Program



Envirothon – Shonny Nordlund

- This year's topic: water resource Management – Local Control and Solutions
- North American Event – Lincoln Nebraska

DNRC – Mary Hendrix

- Wage survey
- Conservation District Directory is now in print and online
- Online Training Modules
- Pollinator Grant Program – Lake CD – Heidi Fleury

MSCA – Montana Salinity Control Association – Jane Holzer

- Site specific saline seep projects
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
 -  Soil painting kits
 -  Earthwise bracelets

AREA REPORTS

Area 1: Montana Focus Conservation, tree survey, Clear Lake Aquifer Management, Winnett Aces, AIS Stations, noxious weed control, Video on Milk River Watershed, sage grouse

Area 2: Irrigation projects, two AIS stations, biocontrol, education events

Area 3: quarterly meetings, trainings, workshops, Range School, Envirothon, American Prairie Reserve

Area 4: riverbank projects, Conservation Days, workshops, Montana Range Tour, AIS station

Area 5: new employees, convention

Area 6: Deep Creek Watershed Restoration Project, Montana Gulch, Flooding and Career tech prep – High School, Madison Stream Team

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20.

Tenlee Atchison, President

Gail Cicon, Secretary