

# Montana Association of Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MACD EO) Area Representative Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday December 15, 2021 – 1pm

**Approved: 3/16/2022**

## ATTENDEES

Area I	None present
Area II	Julie Goss (Richland County Conservation District)
Area III	Emma Link (Cascade Conservation District)
Area IV	Sharon Flemetis (Stillwater Conservation District) Wendy Jones (Lower Musselshell Conservation District)
Area V	Heidi Fleury (Lake County Conservation District) Julie Ralston (Bitterroot Conservation District)
Area VI	Becky Clements (Gallatin Conservation District) Chris Evans (Lewis and Clark Conservation District)

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2022 MACD Convention EO Event, to get a feel for what we want as a group and direction we want to go with that event. The Area VI employees will be meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to discuss Convention planning for the 2022 MACD Convention in Helena.

## Awards

The group decided that the EO should do our own awards during the Wednesday EO Event, separate from MACD and that the selection committee will be the past winner (Dusty Olson?) and two others from the Executive Committee (Area Representatives).

## EO Event Brainstorming

The group discussed the merits of different types of EO events. Doing it onsite is preferable for some of the older folks who have a hard time getting around. There also needs to be a section where people can just sit and talk (quieter) while still being part of the action. Game nights, etc. sounded popular. The EO Wednesday Evening Convention event should be first and foremost a networking opportunity, but also a fundraiser for our bi-yearly training, scholarship, and other efforts. We came up with raffle items at the very last minute for this year's convention to break even. Every CD and Area should have an option to bring something for a fundraiser for the EO and/or Convention, with the possibility of a silent auction as well as a raffle. Ticket prices for the EO event should be at least \$50 or enough to cover the cost of the event and to make a profit.

The EO in general and the Area Reps can help plan that event, sharing the burden with the host area.

## General MACD Convention Discussion

General convention discussion was that it's important for the break sponsors to have a sign at their break recognizing them, as well as shout outs throughout the convention for all sponsors. The host district/area should also be well recognized for their hard work. Virtual presentations, especially those with MACD staff or DNRC staff with new people, should have photos of the staff if they won't be on screen so that people online can put names with faces. Those who receive awards who aren't present

should be told in advance that they're getting an award and it should be followed up on after the convention.

The EO, since we are pursuing our nonprofit status, should have a vendor booth with swag at MACD Convention. Wendy Jones has a source for a tablecloth, etc.

### **EO Membership Dues**

Sharon Flemetis has been fielding new employee questions about dues and the merits of paying them. Chris Evans will write up a "Why Pay Your EO Dues" article to send out to CDs, emphasizing the work that the EO does in training, networking, and support of CDs across the state. We'll try to get that in the District Dispatch.

Speaking of dues, we're going to start charging at least \$25 up to double what the EO Members pay for training events for non-members. This should encourage people to pay their dues and recognize that the EO is working hard at providing networking and training as well as support to CDs.

### **Area Updates and Training Discussion**

Wendy Jones is working on a plan for an Area IV or wider training and is looking at a grant to do that. She said at their next Area IV lunch they'll be doing an introduction of new CD Employees, a CEMIST presentation, talk about grants and projects and training requests.

Speaking of training, we're asking that the Area Representatives talk to members in their area about training needs and get those to the group at our next meeting. The Area Representatives are the training committee for the organization.

Chris Evans asked about ideas for tagging along on NRCS training efforts. If they could reserve a few (4 or 5) slots at trainings for CD employees, that would go a long way toward the partnership. Heidi has some more ideas that she'll get to Chris Evans. Evans will forward her thoughts and re-forward Heidi's ideas to NRCS.

### **Nonprofit Transition**

There was discussion about funding for our nonprofit transition as well as a logo, laptop, QuickBooks, as well as swag for the EO to sell or give away. Emma Link will work on a grant to cover the potential costs associated, should be around \$2500 to \$3000 most likely.

There was discussion about having the web address changed to mcdeo.org. Evans will ask Eric Rannestad about that.

The group discussed beginning to meet monthly and settled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, just after the EO Roundtable every month.

Our next meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup> around 11am or following the Roundtable. Chris will send out the Roundtable link and members should just stay on when that concludes.