



# Montana Association of Counties

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## DISTRICTS 1, 2 & 3 MEETING MINUTES

Circle, MT – McCone County Fairgrounds, Kitchen

May 13, 2016

### District 1

- Daniels
- Phillips
- Roosevelt
- Sheridan
- Valley

### District 2

- Dawson
- Garfield
- McCone
- Prairie
- Richland
- Wibaux

### District 3

- Carter
- Custer
- Fallon
- Powder River
- Rosebud
- Treasure

**MACo Staff:** Harold Blattie, Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, Associate Director; and Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Analyst & Communications Specialist

**MACo President & Officers:** Maureen Davey, Stillwater County Commissioner, MACo President; Todd Devlin, Prairie County, MACo 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Guests:** Jason Rittal, Eastern Plains EDC; Stephanie Verhasselt, Richland County Clerk & Recorder; Connie Eissinger, Retired McCone County Commissioner, MACo Past President (2011-2012); Christy Hagler, Congressman Zinke's Office

### Pledge to Flag

**Roll Call & Introductions:** Doug Buxbaum, Dawson County, welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and conducted roll call.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** June 1, 2015 Minutes

- MOTION: Richard Dunbar, Phillips County, moved to accept the June 1, 2015 minutes. Todd Devlin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### District Chair/Vice Chair Nominations:

- District 1: No elections until 2017
- District 2: Decided to hold the nominations and elections at the August meeting
- District 3: No elections until 2017

**Next MACo Districts 1, 2 & 3 Meeting:** August 2016

- District 3 will host the next meeting in Forsyth (Rosebud County). The venue will likely be the exhibit hall at the fairgrounds.

### MACo Officer Nominations: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Fiscal Officer

Harold Blattie announced that Laura Obert, Broadwater County, was nominated as MACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County, was nominated as MACo Fiscal Officer, at the previous district meetings.

- There were no further nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President or Fiscal Officer. Nominations remain open up until the floor session at the Annual Conference.

**MACo FY2017 Proposed Budget:** Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood**Revenues**

- Proposing \$5.2 million budget; MACo side of things is \$640,000, majority is pass-through money from insurance trusts; in contrast to anticipated revenue of \$4.7 million last year—higher in this coming year
  - Full \$5.2 million represents MACo and three trusts
- FY2017 Anticipated Revenue
  - Advertising in Directory and Newsletter: Not anticipating any extra
  - Conferences revenue up this year, \$2,000
    - Midwinter Conference—higher, with higher attendance as it's in Helena during the legislative year
    - Miscellaneous Workshops—down \$4,000; don't have time for July workshops this year
  - Member Dues: \$13,447 increase
    - According to Bylaws, the Board of Directors can increase dues up to CPI without approval of membership; 1/10 of 1% was approved by the Tax & Budget Committee to take to the Board of Directors as an increase; this has been done every year; keeps increases low
    - Reappraisals moved many counties in the mill tier schedule due to increases in taxable values
  - PILT Assessment: Assessment of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1% based on previous year's PILT payments (split payments between October and June this year); this is used to defray the costs of participation in the NACo WIR activities
    - Mike Murray and Lesley Robinson not running again this year. Mike Murray is retiring and Lesley Robinson is running for Lt. Governor, so their positions will be open on WIR. MACo President Maureen Davey and First Vice President Todd Devlin will be working on making appointments.
  - NACo Dues: For convenience, we bill and collect your dues and remit to NACo on your behalf; Montana is 100% membership state.
  - Grant income: \$6,000 less than last year—will be touched upon in the expenses section.
  - Interest Income: Bank & QCI Interest Income—marginal difference (expecting more)
  - Miscellaneous Income: MACo pins sales; name badge income; photo ID card income; etc.
  - NACo Programs/Marketing Revenue: Caremark Rx Card (everyone should participate); CRS Inmate Medical (most comes from this very successful program); Nationwide Deferred Compensation; US Communities
  - Investment Income: Projected to increase nominally at about \$1,000
    - For administering investments of 3 pools, MACo charges 5% of investment income; however, this past year, the trustees of two of the pools approved of moving 25% of portfolio into the equity market; MACo would be losing revenue, because there is no investment income, so we have to restructure to show the value of the portfolio to achieve approximate revenue neutrality (changing the formula model to a percentage of the portfolio value—our CFO will figure out what this will be)
    - Anticipating \$6,000 increase, primarily in WCT
  - Rent Income: Going to be \$2,500 from renting the conference room in Building I, quite popular; PCT/WCT own Building II; HCT pays rent to the PCT/WCT for the space they use in Building II—change in accounting methodology, so appears as an increase, but it's just a change for which it's accounted
  - Scholarships: Money generated from 50/50 tickets purchased during Annual Conference
- This year we had projected \$658,841; next year we are projecting \$640,739; we are conservative in our estimates

## Expenditures

- 100-Admin: MACo admin costs (only 13% of the entire budget); split four ways—our salaries are paid four ways by MACo and the four Trusts, as we wear four different hats
  - Auto Expenses: MACo van and one pooled vehicle—maintenance, repairs, and gas
    - May retain another vehicle that is currently being used by the trust which needs replacing
  - Contracted Services: Commissioners' Handbook (last updated in 2002); compilation of all the laws; interpretations and how to apply them; Harold's project—has the institutional knowledge to update it
  - Conventions & Workshops
    - Elected Official Workshop—small this year—off cycle
    - Summer workshops not budgeted this year
  - Dues: WIR—collect PILT dues and pay to NACo (Approximately \$10,000 goes to WIR)
  - Training: Bring in people for professional training for staff
  - Equipment Repairs: Outsource our IT and sometimes they come onsite
  - Equipment Purchase: Replacement of computers; 5 year replacement cycle as some machines are out of warranty, so we will be replacing/upgrading them
  - Grant: Board of Crime Control Grant is fully expended—didn't obtain it again this year; MSPOA did
  - Health insurance: Lewis & Clark County health plan; \$25 increase per employee; also added an EAP (employee assistance program, implemented last year)
  - Insurance & Bonds: Included insurance for vehicles, and also for our directors, officers, and employees we have attained an Errors & Omissions Plan
  - Maintenance & Service Agreements: Networking for IT
  - Member Travel: For BOD travel, committee travel
  - Miscellaneous: Investment fees, bank charges, credit card fees
  - NACo: Travel for our delegates
  - Office Supplies
  - Payroll: Built with 0% increase for salaries, board will decide in June
  - Postage: Stays the same
  - President's Scholarship: Executive Committee gathered the applications from the President's county, made selections, and awarded the two scholarships; President Davey will be distributing to the winners (one is \$1000 and one is \$500)
  - Printing: Land Use books; Directory (*Counties on the Move* was completed)
  - Server System: Changes this year; in prior years we were considered charity nonprofit by Microsoft and could buy licenses for \$69, but they decided we are now a member services organization; we need to upgrade this year and it's about \$15,000—did some research and going to move our email to the cloud at \$22.50 per month per employee—can be downloaded onto 5 different devices per employee—cloud will do archiving and backup of email system; next year our servers and software reach end of life and the cost would be \$40,000-\$50,000, so we are avoiding this cost
  - Staff travel: For us to travel (example: district meetings)
  - Subscriptions: Minor
  - Telephone: Minor
  - Training & Marketing Materials
  - Synopsis of MACo Side: Reduction 1.5% of last year
- 200-Legislative
  - Last year budgeted small amount because it was an off year; this year more because it's legislative
  - Member Travel: Bringing in members for hearings
  - Miscellaneous: Brown bag lunch at Capitol during Midwinter Conference

- Telephone: Monday conference calls for guidance on legislation
- 300-Annual Conference & 400-Midwinter Conference
  - Annual will be in Billings—rotation cycle—can't negotiate specifics until meeting grows closer
  - Midwinter will be in Helena; Red Lion Colonial Hotel was repurchased and turned into a Raddison Colonial Hotel, so we don't know what they will be offering as of now in terms cost—we will have more details as the conference draws closer
- 950-MACO Building I: Parking lot is done; back stairs are disintegrating—contractor and architect have looked at them, and we are waiting on a bid
  - Land Lease—From airport
  - Maintenance & Service Agreements: Maintaining telephone system
  - Payroll: Maintenance, part-time, 10 hours a week
  - Maintenance Purchase—Looking at buying a riding lawnmower with blade on the front for our maintenance guy; he's a retired guy—really good—want to keep him around
- Overall we are estimating a reduction in last year's budget—the major expenditures are for the maintenance of the building
- Board will meet June 23<sup>rd</sup> to adopt. If you have any questions, give us a call; if you have any concerns, talk to your District Chairs to bring forward at the board meeting.

**MACo Updates from MACo Staff:** Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood

- Work Comp Rates: Trustees met and set for ensuing year
  - Some class codes went up and some went down depending on the class in which the employees are located; based on history
  - Mod factor still has to be applied; can be as much as a 25% reduction or a 25% increase based on your county's loss history
  - Greg Jackson and Shannon Shanholtzer have been meeting with counties around the state for renewal meetings
- Staffing/Operations
  - Greg Jackson, PCT/WCT Trust Administrator, is retiring at end of June
    - Harold and Sheryl have been dedicating much time to the trusts, which takes them away from MACo policy and work
      - Developed the Trust Operations Director position who will take on the day-to-day activities of the trusts
      - Hired a national recruiting office that is currently gathering applications; we will be doing interviews in June
  - Kim O'Brian, Claims Specialist: Her husband got a really good job, so she got the opportunity to be a stay at home to her 9 children
  - Dennis Jupka, Claims Administrator, announced his retirement as of May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - We posted the jobs for adjusters, have gotten applications and will fill
  - Liz Krzan, Senior Claims Representative, took a job with Butte Silver Bow County Health Department—she's been commuting from Butte for 9 years, so this gives her the opportunity for remaining in Butte (no more commuting)
  - Our Workers' Compensation Claims Supervisor will be on medical leave in June
  - Staff have stepped up and taken on more work
  - We have advertised for two work comp adjusters and received applications; however we are out of the market, so it is difficult to find people with experience

- If you have any service issues, with trusts or MACo, let us know; we don't want any balls to get dropped
- Cyber Security
  - We did some training at the 2015 Annual Conference
  - \$19,000 Homeland Security Grant
    - Partnered with MT ITSD and Lewis & Clark County IT to apply and received the grant
    - We will providing cyber security training webinars
  - Phishing Scams: Recent scam targeting county treasurers; one of our counties got hit and lost money—following protocol is very important
  - Ransomware: Have good backups, because you can restore a back up to get out of it
    - Roosevelt County got an email, desktop froze, data was encrypted, and the county had to pay to release their data
    - Pondera County got hit as well; they had a backup, restored it and only lost one day
  - Times are changing, you need professionals to manage your IT/network
    - Number of contractors and vendors: Morrison-Maierle, FirstCall, DIS out of Billings
    - They will often do a free assessment of your systems and let you know what is needed
  - There is a new cybersecurity section on our website where we post security releases, best practices, etc.
  - Your policies for staff/users are important, as is blocking certain websites

**MACo President's & Officers' Report:** Maureen Davey, Stillwater County, MACo President

- This year has been fast, furious, rewarding, gratifying
- Because of you and staff; can't thank you enough
- Commissioners in the news:
  - Senator Conrad Burns, recently passed away, was also a former Yellowstone County Commissioner
  - Lesley Robinson, Phillips County Commissioner, running for Lt. Governor
  - Bill Kennedy, MACo Past President, Yellowstone County Commissioner retiring after 24 years
- MACo Committees: Set MACo Policy; these committees are the backbone of our organization; your interest in these committees and your input is important, and we appreciate it
  - Our Ag Committee wrote a letter regarding the bison quarantine and sent it in based on our policies; this is just one of things our committees do—and only one letter out of many that come from MACo.
- NACo: Steering Committees aid in setting policy on the national level; very worthwhile for MACo to participate; we have a strong voice; MACo is 100% county membership; our delegates speak up and have a respected voice; we are well-liked by our national organization
- Legislative Year coming up; going to be asking you to participate and contact your legislators
  - Legislative year is becoming longer with the interim committees being more active
- Montana Energy 2016: Lots of talk about coal, wind, railroads; very impressed with presence from our two tech schools (Montana Tech and Montanan State); CEO of Conoco Phillips is from Montana Tech
- Annual Conference in Yellowstone County: Hope you can all attend
- By-Law Change Proposal: Voting members—allow affiliate elected official organizations a vote on the board of directors—they are currently invited to come to the table but not to vote
  - This came up in 2008 and was voted down by the membership, and I voted against it and don't remember why
  - MACo is over 100 years old

**MACo Legislative Report:** Harold Blattie, Sheryl Wood, and Shantil Siaperas  
Interim Committee Updates:

- Economic Affairs Interim Committee
  - Broadband in Montana: Studying Broadband in Montana and along the way requested info on money being accumulated in various 9-1-1 accounts, and the committee learned that the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee is likely to consider a bill regarding the 9-1-1 funds.
  - Air Ambulances: Air Ambulance Services consider airlines under FAA—determines “air worthiness” (not a medical service)—can’t regulate
    - Limited to certain areas
    - They offer memberships
    - Balance Billing: People filing medical bankruptcies
    - This issue has been on Dateline and 60 minutes
    - We’re submitting a resolution to NACo to get them involved on the national level—these are not airlines; they are a medical service
- Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee
  - House Joint Resolution 7: Next Generation 9-1-1 Study
    - Next Gen Working Group: MACo Representative was Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner
    - 9-1-1 Advisory Council: MACo Representative is Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt County Commissioner
    - At next meeting, committee will review a draft report on the study and three pieces of proposed legislation and (one big piece that contains the three smaller ones) aimed at updating Montana’s 9-1-1 laws and incorporating NG911:
      - “Stranded” Fund: \$5 million for ESINet, \$80,000 for assessment of GIS operations, \$350,000 for 9-1-1 systems plan
        - This bill also put in place the infrastructure account and grants account
      - DOA & Advisory Council duties and powers; funding eligibility for grants
      - Funding collection and allocation
      - All three bills combined into one
    - Need feedback for July Advisory Council Meeting
- Environmental Quality Council
  - Looking at federal proposal to remove grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone area from the list of threatened and endangered species.
  - Bison management around Yellowstone National Park
  - 2015 Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Report
  - Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program
  - Looking at forest health, upcoming fire season, and an update on a forestry program aimed at management activities on federal, state, private, and tribal lands.
- Judicial Redistricting Commission
  - Dave Schulz, Madison County Commissioner, is the county representative on the commission
  - No redistricting recommendations except maybe for Yellowstone County—2 judges; maybe a one-time appropriation
  - Agreed to meet again before the fall to consider draft language for a final report.
  - Recognized rural element importance (rural judges know rural issues)
- Legislative Council
  - 2017 Session Dates for Preparation:
    - Caucus – November 16, 2016
    - Training & Orientation – November 16, 2016
    - Rules Committees – December 7, 2016
    - Presiding Officer Training – December 7, 2016
    - Budget Training, 2019 Biennium Budget Review, and Other Topics – December 8, 2016
  - First day of 2017 Session: Monday, January 2
- State Administration & Veterans’ Affairs
  - HJR 21: Study of Personal Information Ownership

- Governmental websites and privacy policies came up, and found that most counties don't have a privacy policy for their websites posted on their websites
    - Committee asked that MACo help counties regarding these policies
    - Look at MCA 2-17-550—2-17-553
    - Can contact Lynn Pizzini for additional help: [lpizzini@mt.gov](mailto:lpizzini@mt.gov)
  - Election Law Cleanup: HB 84 from 2015 session—more cleanup
- Children, Families, Health & Human Services
  - Mental Health Funding: Monitoring the money the legislature appropriated in 2015 (almost \$15 million)
  - Provider shortage for providers that can provide meds
  - Dementia/Alzheimer's: Aging Population, more and more in Montana; their families are acting as caregivers; dementia services facilitators
    - Want to appropriate \$1.5 million to agencies on aging for helping programs
  - Caregiver Grant Program: \$120,000 each year
  - Closure of the Montana Developmental Center in Boulder
- Education & Local Government – Local Fire & Emergency Services (bill draft); County Road
  - Workers' Compensation for Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs
    - Proposed bill has funding component; divert some of the fire insurance premium tax money for grant program for local governments providing work comp for them already; will likely be similar to what it was two sessions ago
  - Easements for County Roads on State Trust Land
    - No way to divert money out of the trust—it would be unconstitutional
    - County road easements on state lands: Don't see them coming up with any kind of reimbursement method at this point (takes new revenue or diversion of money from the general fund, neither of which is likely)—may try to provide some assistance to find out how big the inventory is
    - Best thing to do is just continue on with the process; deadline is still in effect
- Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee – Tax Liens & Tax Deeds Study
  - Tax lien and tax deed process: there have been couple of situations where a couple of elderly people have lost their homes due to not paying attention to notices
    - Been attempts to have County Treasurers and Sheriffs go and examine the mental health of an individual and many other bad bills
    - Bills come up every session and die
  - There is an ad hoc working group that has been created comprised of stakeholders including us and the treasurers association as well as some legislators and Megan Moore, RTIC Staffer, and more; coming up with a bill
  - Tax deed process is the only means of tax collection there is; if this process didn't exist, people wouldn't pay their taxes
    - Problem is that tax lien companies come in try to buy them all
    - To try and mitigate this the county would be default purchaser (the holder on the first lien) on everything at first tax lien sale
    - This interim stakeholder meetings; identified some areas that could be improved to end some confusion
    - Trying to streamline process and uniformity in communications as well as make some clarifications
    - Next meeting will be with ad hoc working group members in the morning and legislators in the afternoon
  - Side Bar: Different processes for disposal of land—often the cost of disposal is greater than value of property, so often nothing is done, the committee is letting us have some of their staff's time to draft a bill to provide as much clarification and uniformity as possible (See resolution for correct title)
    - Mike Harris, Gallatin County Staff Administrator (Manages the Open Space Program in Gallatin County) has been helping; he went to the interim committee to present
- Asbestos Advisory Committee

- DEQ decided to take a different look at the Clean Air Act, and in that decided you needed a certified asbestos inspection for demolition of a wooden bridge:
  - Used to use asphalt shingles (in which case it is encased in tar and wouldn't become airborne) or maybe in the masting used to glue something to the side of the bridge
  - We're pushing to have an exemption for wooden bridges; unfortunately, they fall under the federal definition of a bridge as a structure, so they have to deal with it
- There is some naturally occurring asbestos in some concrete, so in the demo of a concrete bridge, it is reasonable to think that asbestos could become airborne; it won't be exempt and will need inspection (about \$500)
- A Group is Looking at One-Call Law (?)
  - Pipeline Safety Act—Group that would like to see MT law expanded for other underground infrastructure (telecommunications lines, etc.)
  - Group with Northwestern Energy pushing it
  - John Ostlund, Yellowstone County Commissioner, and Harold working on making Montana Law compliant with Federal Law regarding pipelines
  - Trying to protect your routine grating without having to do a locate
  - Some utilities would like to have imposed penalties
  - Try to stick to basic pipelines – over regulation is not a good idea
  - MDU is basically on same page as us
  - There are some federal requirements regarding pipelines that we need to be aware of
  - Advocating that you be exempt from routine grating; less than 6 inches; if doing any major earth moving, should call—safety of employees
- Conservation Districts & Regulation of Bison
  - We have been following your lead regarding bison, sage grouse, grizzlies, etc.; however, something came up in paper (May 11) related to American Prairie Reserve
    - Billings Gazette said conservation districts in several counties in that area have passed land use ordinances regulating relocation of bison
  - Our concern is that our trusts could be affected; we have gotten assurances that those that have enacted the ordinances have followed the process correctly—very important to follow the very specific process
  - 7-4-2711 (2)(b)
- Montana Infrastructure Coalition
  - 2015 failed to pass a bill—lots of frustrated people
  - The coalition sprouted after the last session: Business community rounded up stakeholders to see if we could all get behind something to take to the legislature in a unified voice.
  - Coalition was meeting off and on for months since the session; decided it needed some organization help; Daryl James Consulting (?) is that organizer and what they're calling the executive director; filed a 501cf for lobbying: Montana Infrastructure Coalition
    - Has a diverse board (put board members here):
  - Membership tiers:
    - \$5000 membership gets a vote on policy decisions
    - \$500 nonvoting membership
  - Executive Committee approved MACo to join at the \$500 level—keeps us at the table participating in the coalition—don't know if any consensus will be reached with how to approach infrastructure funding—everyone has a different idea of what infrastructure is—going to be challenging
  - SIDE NOTE Regarding infrastructure: It has come across loud and clear to leave the existing successful programs alone, such as TSEP
    - One proposal is an increase in the state-wide gas tax—if used for transportation infrastructure, makes sense
- Local Government Study Commissions
  - Dan Clark, Local Government Center, and Harold would like extend the invitation to review anything that would go on the ballot—many things are in need of fixing



- Commission on Sentencing
  - There was an idea of increasing misdemeanor threshold from \$500 to \$1000; you house misdemeanor convictions in your county jails
- Ballot Initiatives
  - Grapevine says one of the marijuana bills qualify for the ballot (there are several)
  - Qualified: CI-116 “Marcy’s Law” – Crime victims’ rights initiative – It’s a good soundbite, but it’s flawed; provisions are considered unconstitutional by many attorneys; conflict with an accused’s rights
  - AG’s office looks at initiatives only for if it fits compliance to be an initiative (not the time for it to be looked at in terms of its constitutionality)
    - Victim would be constitutionally afforded the right to not testify; cannot be forced to testify; sounds good; however, what if they are the only witness to a crime? Hamstrings prosecution
    - Our constitution is soundbites; philosophical statements; this goes into the weeds (very long)
    - It is being presented at the County Attorneys’ Association Meeting
    - Encourage you to talk to them; let them make their mind up on how it will affect their office—Lewis & Clark County said it would take an additional 3 attorneys to deal with this
  - The Idaho one is good, and we could get on board with it.
  - MACo AG Letter of Advice says that MACo can be involved in ballot initiatives—you cannot—you can only educate—don’t say whether or not to vote for it, just say how it will affect your county
    - County attorney could write a letter, alert, press release, educational ad, etc. educating in the paper; hoping they do—can educate not advocate
- Pension System
  - Market return last year 4.5% instead of 7.75%; coal trust money wasn’t there, so your contributions will go up 0.10%
  - Sheriffs’ System: Doesn’t have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party payer (the other systems do)
    - 3.5% short and getting worse
    - Are you willing to put 1-2% in to help make it sound?
    - Administration is not enthused about contributing

**Resolutions:** Harold Blattie, Sheryl Wood, and Shantil Siaperas

- Process: MACo Legislative Guidelines & Model Resolution
- Current (Alive) Resolution
  - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory: Todd Devlin, Prairie County—Passed at the 2015 Annual Conference  
Letter to the Editor—concerns of continuing wilderness characteristic inventory—will not be a bill at the session—was just something to give consent during the interim
- MACo Committee Proposed Resolutions
  - Immunization Record Disclosure: MACo Health & Human Services Committee – Difference between opt in and opt out (MT only has opt in); Department brought last session; would like to bring with department this session
- MACo Staff Proposed Resolutions
  - MACo Omnibus
  - Uniform Process for the Disposal of Surplus County Real Property: Tax Lien Working Group—Mike Harris, Gallatin County, Staff Coordinator
  - Tax Liens/Deeds: Tax Lien Working Group Bill
  - Mail Ballots: Brought up by Districts 1, 2 & 3 (Gary Macdonald)  
We will be working with the Clerk & Records and Linda Stoll
- Spring District Meetings, Proposed Resolutions
  - Resolution Concept: 76-6-309, Minor Subdivision Review – Gallatin County (District 9); agency “may not” hold a hearing
  - Authority to Place Change of Form of Government on the Ballot by Ordinance – Lewis & Clark County (District 8); in HB 84 the language for a county commission to even put an amended form of

government got stricken; this will give new authority and restore old authority (Contact: Susan Good Geise)

- Resolution Concept: Utility Relocation Right-of-Way – Carbon County (District 7); Need to visit with MT Contractors' Association

#### **Local Government Services Bureau:** Harold Blattie

- Tim Burton, League of Cities & Towns, Alan Hulse, MMIA, MACo, and the Local Government Center made commitments to legislators that we would make efforts to work together.
- Had meetings with the Local Government Services Bureau—frustrations with their lack of services. When Norm Cline worked for them he did budget training, and when he retired they dropped it, and Harold picked it up, but he's not going to be around forever.
- Think they should pick it up again; they looked at things they were doing and things they feel they can.
- Director Hogan met with her staff, and the bureau decided they could do more in the accounting and technical assistance arena.
- Kim Smith is the acting bureau chief currently.
- Met with Tim, Alan, and Kim, and the bureau asked to come to our district meetings and have some of your time to tell you about their services.

#### **Other District Business**

- No further business

#### **Secondary Roads Program, FLAP & STIP:** Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation

- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
  - Western Federal Lands: Often is needing more match money after original match, and not all counties have extra match money; so they need to get with the county; if they can't come up with more match, need to cut it back (make the project fit the dollars; trying to get them to look at the project in a different way)—not every county has unlimited supply of money (Harold and Wayne would like to take this back to Western Federal Lands)
    - These are the projects that are in process; not the new ones
    - If they try to force it, get ahold of Harold or Wayne
  - Harold: FLAP Council approves projects not project amounts; once it's approved, it's a go
    - Don't think we were given good numbers to start with
    - We need to have better information and more realistic cost estimates
  - Currently 38 proposals worth \$73.5 million and have \$30 million to work with
    - Only 5 projects are state-matched
    - Reviews have to be done by end of June
    - First and third week of August, go out for reviews
    - Quality of applications increased exponentially
  - Previously for Forest Highway Program, specs were whatever the local jurisdiction had—they'd match the standards; now they have to use federal standards

#### **Meeting Adjourned**