



Montana Association of Counties

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DISTRICTS 4 & 5 MEETING MINUTES

Great Falls, MT – Paddock Club

May 15, 2014

District 4

Blaine
 Chouteau
 Hill
 Liberty

District 5

Cascade
 Glacier
 Pondera
 Teton
 Toole

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

MACo President & Officers: Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner, MACo President

Guests: Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT); Representative Jesse O'Hara, House District 18; Representative Rob Cooke, House District 27

Pledge to Flag

Welcome & Introductions: Ben Ober, Toole County, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2013 Minutes

- MOTION: Mark Peterson, Hill County, moved to accept the June 6, 2013 minutes. Mike Wendland, Hill County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

District Chair/Vice Chair Nominations: Current terms are not yet expired—elections will be held in 2015.

- NOTE: Ben Ober is retiring, so the District 5 Chair position will be vacant as of January 1, 2015. Can do election now or wait until the Spring 2015 meeting, and Vice Chair Tony Sitzmann, Glacier County, will complete the Chair's term during the interim.

Next District Meeting Host: August 2014

- Teton County volunteered to host in Chouteau (District 5).

MACo Officer Nominations: 2nd Vice President & Fiscal Officer

Harold Blattie: At the previous district meetings, Todd Devlin, Prairie County, Ron Stoltz, Ravalli County, and Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark County, were nominated for MACo 2nd Vice President, and Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County, was nominated for MACo Fiscal Officer.

- NOMINATION: Janice Hoppes, Pondera County, nominated Todd Devlin for MACo 2nd Vice President.
- NOMINATION: Joe Briggs, Cascade County, nominated Andy Hunthausen for MACo 2nd Vice President.
- NOMINATION: Jim Hodgskiss, Teton County, nominated Mike McGinley for MACo Fiscal Officer.
- There were no further nominations from the Districts 4 & 5 meeting; nominations remain open until the elections at the 2014 Annual Conference in September.

MACo FY 2015 Preliminary Budget: Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood

- Projected Revenues
 - Higher Than Anticipated Revenues: Conferences, Total Pool Investment Fee (Health Care Trust, Workers Compensation Trust, Property & Casualty Trust)
 - Dues
 - Tax, Finance & Budget Committee recommendation 1.5 % COLA/CPI
 - NACo – Caremark Prescription Discount Card, Inmate Medical Royalty, Nationwide Retirement Deferred Compensation, US Community Commissions
 - CRS Inmate Medical
- Expenses
 - Administration Costs
 - Contracted Services: *Commissioners, Clerk & Recorders and Treasurers Handbook*
 - Working with Local Government Center (LGC)
 - Convention & Workshop Expense
 - Dues Expense
 - Health Insurance: MACo pays 100% of employee portion of plan (Lewis & Clark County plan)—\$25 increase per employee per month
 - Member & Committee Travel: Board and Committee meetings
 - NACo Expense – Travel for NACo Delegation
 - Payroll Expense – No increase for staff built into budget
 - Termination Liability
 - Printing: Cost of printing the MACo Directory and *Counties on the Move*, LGC (final draft)
 - Professional Services – Auditors
 - Staff Travel
 - Looking to Underspend – \$114,000, less travel, vacancy savings
 - Legislative Costs
 - Officers often at Capitol
 - Miscellaneous Expense – MACo’s sack lunch at the Capitol for legislators
 - Staff Travel – To Capitol
 - Annual Conference & Midwinter Conference
 - Haven’t increased registration costs
 - Overspent at Midwinter – Had Department of Emergency Services there; balanced out with Annual
 - Building I
 - Didn’t do the deck or seal the parking lot last year, so it’s still budgeted
 - Did do the other building’s deck – safety issue
 - Building Appraisals
 - Land Lease Expense
 - Maintenance – Service agreements and phone
 - Telephone – Issue with T1 line and internet; found out the T1 line was installed as a failsafe; looking at alternatives
 - Remodel front desk area – Better services and security
 - Board of Directors meet June 25 to adopt the budget: Questions should be directed to District Chairs, Harold Blattie, or Sheryl Wood

MACo Updates from Staff: Sheryl Wood

- Health Care Trust Workshops
 - ACA Workshops on Compliance – notification in next month or two
 - Open to all members, not just Trust members

Succession Planning Report

Joe Briggs, MACo President, Cascade County Commissioner

- Reviewed Operation (including Trusts being under MACo's umbrella) – Better off keeping entities under MACo
- MACo used to be primarily legislative, but not anymore – Growth
- Harold & Sheryl's Time – Segmented, during the Legislative Session, they are both at the Capitol; no direct management of staff
- Two Divisions: Office Management and Policy Management
- Legislative Position – Open, asked not to fill; split into operations side and policy side (Executive Director oversees both)
 - Funding – Not using any additional funds; use extra legislative position and move Sheryl into the operations side
- Harold agreeable to consulting
- Documenting Process – Future guidance and history

MACo President's & Officers' Report

- Joe Briggs, MACo President, Cascade County Commissioner
 - Jail Advisory Group (JAG) Update
 - Jail Standards
 - Make Commissions aware of true costs of jail
 - Suicides
 - Intake questions
 - Will likely come up during the 2015 Legislative Session – Can show the work from the group of stakeholders' taskforce (about 30 as of now)
 - Standards adopted by MACo & list of counties
 - Peer Review Process
 - Board of Crime Control Grant
 - State Interoperability Governance Board (SIGB) & 9-1-1 Advisory Council
 - SIGB
 - No funding source—last of money allocated last month
 - Montana Highway Patrol has been funding majority of transport system—don't want to be the ones to maintain
 - MDT never converted to it
 - SIGB also responsible for FirstNet (data network for first responders)
 - 9-1-1 Advisory Council
 - Asked via email if they wanted to merge with SIGB (Governor asked SIGB for recommendation on putting 9-1-1 under SIGB)

Lunch Break: Representatives Rob Cook and Jesse O'Hara

Legislative Report: Harold Blattie, Sheryl Wood, Shantil Siaperas

- SJR 14, Resolution Requesting an Interim Study of Local Government Election Procedures
 - Assigned to State Administration & Veterans Affairs Interim Committee
 - Focus on cleaning up election statutes
- HJR 2, Interim Study Investigating State/Local Government Electronic Records Management
 - Assigned to Education & Local Government Interim Committee
 - Two potential bills: 1.) Revise & reorganize Montana's open record laws (Title 2 Chapter 6); 2.) Montana Historical Society Digital Archives Consultant
 - Committee Report – State enterprise system recommendation
 - SITSD is working on this already and welcomes local governments to participate
- SJ 15, Study of Public Land Management
 - Assigned to Environmental Quality Council
 - Meet via conference call other week

- Counties and some Commissions divided – MACO hasn't taken a position
 - NACo has a "state's right" resolution
- Infrastructure Funding
 - Mainly municipalities, water & sewer
- Legislative Council – Looking at shortening legislative session
- Economic Affairs – Looking at restructuring State Fund, put under Insurance Commissioner
- Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee – Prepaid wireless; Oregon passed statute where prepaids are helping pay
- IT Council – System to replace LAWS, current system is antiquated
- Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee – Tax Increment Financing Districts, State Tax Appeal Board
- Water Policy Interim Committee – Rejected proposed Administrative Rules for exempt wells
 - Water Compact – Not a MACo issue—neutral; limited number of counties impacted
- Pensions – Recovering, not sound yet; rates will go up 0.1%
 - MPERA – New Executive Director, Dore Schwinden
 - Looking for two new Board Members
 - Sheriffs' Retirement System (SRS) – Not actuarially sound; potential 1% employer/employee contribution increase and looking for possible 3rd source of funding (only system without the 3rd source)
 - Dispatchers
 - GASB 68 Implementation
- Mental Health
 - MACo Subcommittee on Mental Health
 - Stakeholders Meeting in February
 - Children, Families, Health & Human Service Interim Committee: Studying health centers
 - Bill to expand HB 130 grants
 - Bill to expand HB 131 dollars (empty bed/full bed reallocation)
 - Emergency crisis response team: expand from 5 to 10 or 15
 - Possible 16-bed facility
 - Comment: Carl Seilstad – South Central Mental Health (SCMH) voted to expand Medicaid
- Inmate Medical
 - Oregon law (just passed): Incarcerated individuals won't lose medical coverage
 - Affordable Care Act & Medicaid Expansion
- Satellite Voting
 - Upcoming Federal District Court: June 30
 - Possible Impact: Sequential ballots, need at least two machines, personnel costs, training
- E-911: Extend the sunset on the 84-16 split on the county's share of 911 funds
- MT Votes Database Funding: Secretary of State funded it over the Interim and wanted to work local governments on future funding – it's a state function and federally required
- Notice by Posting: Municipalities have "notice by posting" and counties should have the same ability (language for counties is needed)
- Historic Rights-of-Way: Sunsets in 2015
- Local Government Center Funding: Lost half last session—was made clear that local governments and schools need to come up with the funding
- Special District Minutes: Require that they file with Clerk & Recorder
- Audit Threshold for Public Entities: Decouple from Federal Level—put hard number into statute (\$500,000)
- Antiquated Statute: 7-14-2606
- Illegal Dumping of Salt Water on County Roads
- Presumptive Eligibility for Firefighters – Will be an upcoming bill
- Opencut Mining Program – Audits
- Board of County Printing Administrative Rules: No one commented—increase of \$1 per folio as of July 1
- Council of County Officials (CCO): Looking at elected officials' salaries
- Department of Revenue (DOR) Meeting: June 17 – "specials" assessments done by counties

- Unintroduced Bills List: Preliminary, will continue to grow
- Ballot Initiatives
 - “Top Two”: The top two vote-getters, irrespective of party affiliation, would go to the general election—Supreme Court removed
 - Reclassify Cable Companies’ Property Tax Valuations: Charter/Bresnan
- Discussion: Satellite Voting – Problem recruiting election judges, aging population
- Discussion: Mail Ballots – MACo to pursue possibility
- Discussion: Workers’ Compensation for Volunteer Firefighters – Lots of counties paying for work comp; disability insurance is not a replacement for work comp
- Discussion: Disaster & Emergency Services (DEQ) Grant Applications; Teton County – meeting in 6 months, pre-disaster mitigation plan

Clean Water Act “Waters of the US”: Harold Blattie

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has draft rules out
- Todd Devlin says to request cooperating agency status
- Comments due July 21; no standing if counties don’t comment – everyone is asking for additional time
- Draft comments will be made available on NACo’s website
- NACo is engaged – Joint meeting of NACo Public Lands and Environment, Energy & Land Use Steering Committees at the Western Interstate Region (WIR) meeting in two weeks – afternoon dedicated to the issue

Resolutions

- Proposed Resolutions from Midwinter
 - Access Conveyance Fees for Easements Across State Trust Lands, MACo Land Use & Development Committee, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
 - Establish Development Agreements Under Montana Law, MACo Land Use & Development Committee
 - Endangered Species Act, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
 - Equal Access to Justice, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
 - Public Lands Management, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
- Proposed Resolutions from Previous District Meetings
 - Collection of Wind Generation Impact Fees, Richard Moe, Wheatland County, District 6
 - Tax Increment Financing Districts, Jim Reno, Yellowstone County, District 7 (not adopted by county as of yet, but presented preliminarily)
 - Livestock Loss, Dave Schulz, Madison County, District 12
- Resolution Guidelines and Model Resolution
 - On MACo website, please utilize

Federal Lands Access Program Status Report: Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation, and Harold Blattie

- President’s Proposal: Local match reduction from 13.2% to 5%
- Surface Preservation Projects
- Capitol Enhancement Projects

STIP & Secondary Roads: Wayne Noem

- Secondary Roads
- STIP
- Off-system Bridges

Meeting Adjourned