

MACo District 6 & 7 Meeting
May 12, 2006
MetraPark Yellowstone Room, Billings, MT
Minutes

1. Roll Call: Counties in attendance were Fergus, Petroleum, Judith Basin, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Big Horn, Wheatland, Carbon and Sweet Grass.

2. Approval of Minutes – The minutes for the May 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

3. DPHHS – Public Health Modernization Project – Barbara Schneeman, Yellowstone County Health Department, reported on the Public Health Modernization Project and the proposed legislation to update the public health laws

4. MACo Resolutions –
 - a. Summer Youth Employment – A resolution was presented that would create a summer youth employment program, to be funded by the State. Following discussion – it was moved and seconded to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

5. Legislative Interim Committee Reports – Harold Blattie and Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director, gave reports on Interim Committee activities and upcoming legislative proposals for County Attorney Salaries, Entitlement Share adjustments for Public Defender costs, youth court costs, and identity theft.

6. Ballot Initiatives and Commissioner Involvement – Jack Holstrom, MACo JPIA Personnel Services Administrator, gave a presentation on the ethics of commissioner involvement in ballot initiative issues. He informed the group that commissioners can act as individuals and use their name, however cannot use county facilities or time to draft articles, letters to the editor, etc.

7. MACo Budget - Executive Director Harold Blattie reviewed the proposed FY2007 revenue and expenditure budget for MACO and the Insurance Trusts with the attendees. He noted that the expenditure budget is slightly higher than the FY'06 budget due to the upcoming legislative year and increased costs for staff travel due to higher rates for lodging and increased gas prices. The estimated revenues also showed a slight increase from the previous year. Harold mentioned that the Tax, Budget & Finance Committee budgeted for a 3.4% cost of living allowance for the employees.

Also noted was the resignation of Administrative Assistant Oline Barta. Presently, MACO is advertising for this position.

Mr. Blattie discussed the transition of bringing the insurance claims processing under the MACO umbrella. He noted that the transition has been going smoothly and the claims department staff is anxiously awaiting the completion of the new building. Past President Bill Kennedy mentioned he would like to have this in-house claims report each year to assure the membership that there has been a cost savings by bringing the claims processing in-house or to alert them to any problems that are occurring.

8. Nominations/Elections of District Chairs and Vice Chairs – Chad Fenner, Big Horn County Commissioner, was nominated as Vice Chair of District 7. Motion was seconded and passed.
9. Other District Issues
 - a. Associate Director Sheryl Wood presented the “Paint the State Project” being sponsored by the Montana Meth Organization. PP&L and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana are funding this contest through donations. The prize awards for each county are \$3,000—1st, \$2,000—2nd, \$1,000—3rd with the statewide winner receiving a grand prize of \$10,000. Ms. Wood asked for names of the contact person in each county that will spearhead this project to get the word out concerning meth and its terrible impacts on the lives of all Montanans.
10. County Resolutions:
 - a. Musselshell County Water Resolution
 - b. Joint County Wolf Management Resolution
 - c. Stillwater County Methamphetamine Education Resolution
11. Nationwide Retirement Solutions – Executive Director Harold Blattie gave an overview of the Nationwide Program and reminded counties that this is a source of revenue for the Association. He proposed that counties consider when salary increases are given for the fiscal year, that the counties consider placing an amount in the plan for employees and having the employees match it.
12. DNRC - Pat Cross presented the fire restriction and closure processes for the 2006 fire season and reported on the interim committee work on HJR 10 – changes to fire laws.
13. Wayne Noem and Gary Larson, MDOT, gave a presentation on Secondary Roads and STIP issues.