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# Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

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## MACo COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LABOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Midwinter Conference, Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT: February 12, 2018

### Members

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Briggs, Chair, Cascade             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Borner, Vice Chair, Musselshell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim McCormick, Lewis & Clark       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Allhands, Madison                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Ostberg, Teton                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Carnahan, Phillips                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teddy Robertson, Garfield          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Crago, Stillwater                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don Seifert, Gallatin                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Everett, Anaconda-Deer Lodge                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darold Zimmer, Powder River        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Ann Harwood, Toole                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Converse, MEDA Rep., Cascade |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pam Holmquist, Flathead                |  |

### Guests

Mike DeRosier-Glacier County, Duane Mitchell-Richland, Jason Rittal-Fallon County, Mary Lou Affleck-Neighborworks, Kevin Krause-Custer, Sean Becker and Pam Haxby-Cote

#### 1. Appointment of Temporary Secretary

Sarah Converse was appointed temporary secretary.

#### 2. Review & Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ron Ostberg and seconded by Nicole Borner to approve the Annual Conference minutes, motion passed

#### 3. Speakers/Presentations

- **Pam Haxby-Cote, Director, Department of Commerce**  
Director Haxby-Cote gave a presentation regarding services offered by Commerce, how the state budget cuts affected Commerce. She touched on the president's proposed budget and how it affects Montana and spoke of the programs that will sunset in 2019. Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming census and how military and reservations will be counted. A discussion ensued regarding tourism funding and jobs associated. A question was posed regarding TSEP and the decrease in coal revenues.
- **MEDA Proposed Legislative Changes for the 2019 Session**

#### 4. Review Committee Policy Statements

See attached document for amendments.

#### 5. Other Business

#### 6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

## COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LABOR

MACo is committed to assisting counties in the worldwide transition to a global economy by adapting to the changes in technology, infrastructure, workforce development, marketing, and business development.

1. MACo supports and assists in both establishing and strengthening partnerships between our governments at all levels, our schools and universities, both public and private, and the private sector to achieve the common goal of a healthy economy and future development opportunities.
2. MACo believes that telecommunications, transportation, rural water and wastewater systems, as well as workforce transformation and development needs must be addressed to allow counties and their citizens to compete and share in our nation's prosperity.
3. MACo believes that telecommunications infrastructure, particularly broadband data communications, can neutralize both major barriers to rural economic growth (distance and lack of economies of scale—smaller market sizes) and level the competitive playing field. **(Amended by CEDL Committee, 2018 Midwinter)**
4. MACo is committed to assisting counties in their efforts to provide **inexpensive COMPETITIVE** and available transportation for moving products **from the farm** to **the** market, located in or out of state. **(Amended by CEDL Committee, 2018 Midwinter)**
5. MACo is committed to the expansion of a variety of tools, which are currently provided by state law to municipal governments, to include use by the county governments of Montana. These tools assist in the development of infrastructure that is essential to economic development opportunities. Of particular importance to MACo is the simplification and expansion of Tax Increment Financing opportunities for counties.
6. MACo believes that Montana's tax structure must not be allowed to serve as an obstacle to economic growth by placing unfair burdens on any one sector of taxpayers.
7. MACo believes that economic development must begin at the local level and involve the entire community. Local governments need to continue to support existing businesses' efforts to compete in the new economy and encourage new business development. This can be done by:
  - a. Supporting existing or new economic development corporations, either on a local or regional basis; and
  - b. Supporting efforts to stimulate the growth of venture capital and venture capital undertakings,

specifically as they relate to value-added businesses and increasing the use of tax increment financing, industrial development bonds and state funded economic development programs at the county level.

8. MACo is committed to the exploration, development and responsible use of Montana's natural resources for economic development.
9. MACo believes that our schools and universities are important to economic growth and development and will continue to assist counties in their efforts to be a part of the public discussion to determine funding levels for education. The goal must be to arrive at a funding level that maintains a strong educational program that supports not only K-12 but also learning for life opportunities without requiring service cuts in other essential government services. We place particular value on training programs designed for the available job market and on efforts to remove the remaining obstacles to the transfer of post-secondary credits between the full range of Montana's post-secondary educational facilities.
10. MACo endorses a partnership between local elected officials and the various state and federal programs, which provide workforce training and affordable workforce housing.
11. MACo is committed to assisting counties with their land-use planning activities that include community growth plans, which address maintaining and preserving a healthy downtown and main street, the historic character of the community, open space, outdoor recreational activities such as hunting and fishing, and growth development plans. **(Amended by CEDL Committee, 2018 Midwinter)**
12. MACo supports the ~~restoration of the~~ exemption of ~~"Earmarked"~~ Federal Funds that flow through state agencies from any Statewide Cost Allocation Plan. **(Amended by CEDL Committee, 2018 Midwinter)**
13. MACo supports continued long-term operations of existing U.S. Post Office and sorting facilities in communities across America.
14. MACo supports legislation that will provide counties and municipalities with adequate, up-front, impact funding to alleviate the demands on county and municipal services intensified by ~~oil-~~**NATURAL RESOURCES** activity, so already stressed taxpayers will not suffer loss of services. MACo believes that the source of funding for this effort should not affect the current severance payments made to producing counties. **(Amended by CEDL Committee, 2018 Midwinter)**