

MONTANA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTIES

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Monday, February 11, 2008**  
**Holiday Inn Grand Montana**  
**Billings, MT**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

**Officers**

- Cynthia Johnson, President
- Mike McGinley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Carl Seilstad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Allan Underdal, Fiscal Officer
- Greg Chilcott, Urban Representative
- John Prinkki, Past President

**District Chairs/Representatives**

- Richard Dunbar, District #1
- Mark Rehbein, District #2
- Donald Reiger, District #3
- Harvey Worrall, District #4
- Arnie Gettel, District #5
- Jerome Kolar, District #6
- Maureen Davey, District #7
- Mike Murray, District #8

- Jim Durgan, District #9
- Gary Hall, District #10
- Judy Stang, District #11
- Tom Rice, District #12

**Association Representatives**

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Cyndy Maxwell, Clerk and Recorders
- Marilyn Hollister, Clerks of Court
- Richard Brown, Coroners
- Mary Jane Knisely, Magistrates
- T. Gregory Hintz,  
Sheriff & Peace Officers
- Jo Anne Johnson, Treasurers
- Diane Inbody,  
School Superintendents

Others present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Tom Swindle, MACo Finance Officer; Kathleen Driscoll, Ravalli County Commissioner; Bill Nyby, Sheridan County Commissioner; Eric Griffin, Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (MACRS).

**1. Roll Call – Introductions**

President Johnson called the meeting to order. Roll call and introductions were conducted.

**2. Approval of the Minutes: December 10, 2007**

**Commissioner Rehbein moved and Commissioner Stang seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

**3. Finance Report**

Fiscal Officer Underdal reviewed the financial statements as of December 31, 2007. 58% of revenues have been collected and 50.2% of budget authority has been expended. Director Blattie noted that the land lease expense is higher due to a renegotiation of the lease and the payment of a partial year to bring the lease to a fiscal year term. Director Blattie also noted the interest being gained on our repurchase accounts.

**Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Seilstad seconded to approve the finance report. Motion Carried.**

Director Blattie informed the Board that the Tax, Finance and Budget committee will be meeting to review the proposed FY 09 budget and will also be making a recommendation to the Board in June regarding the dues schedule.

He further informed the Board that counties had been refunded their NACo dues overpayments. All 56 counties paid their NACo dues.

Director Blattie reported that he had received the revised FY 2007 MACo audit. The auditors addressed the concerns and made the corrections requested, and apologized for the inaccuracies.

Director Blattie requested the Board's consideration of paying the tuition for a Commissioner to attend the NACo County Leadership Institute (CLI). NACo selects attendees from applications. He noted that the Board had reimbursed a portion of President Johnson's tuition, with the provision that she report on her experience to the membership at the Annual Meeting. President Johnson noted that the CLI consists of five intense days of leadership training and is well worth the time.

**Commissioner Murray moved and Commissioner Chilcott seconded for MACo to pay the tuition for one Commissioner to attend the NACo County Leadership Institute. Motion carried.**

**4. FY 2009 Budget**

Director Blattie reminded the Board that FY 08 salary ranges were set at 90% of the mean, or a COLA increase, whichever was greater. He requested that he be authorized to establish the proposed FY 09 budget with salaries at 95% of the mean, or 2.8% COLA, whichever is greater. He explained that the ranges are set based on an extensive market survey of Association and Insurance Pool salaries, both in and out of state. The Board requested the FY 09 budget be prepared and they be provided projections at both 95% of the mean and with the 2.8% COLA.

Director Blattie discussed the budgeting process. The Tax, Finance and Budget Committee meet and approves the preliminary budget that is distributed at district meetings. The Trustees meet in April for preliminary budget review for the insurance pools. The MACo Board is not provided an opportunity to review and/or comment on the budget until the June meeting, where it is adopted. It was suggested that President Johnson, Fiscal Officer Underdal and Finance Officer Swindle arrange a conference call with the Board to review the budget prior to district meetings.

Director Blattie requested preliminary approval to include the cost of two legislative interns in the budget. This would greatly assist with the tracking, research and communication for the upcoming Legislative session. Commissioner Murray noted that MACo could consider offering a scholarship in lieu of wages. The Board granted verbal permission to have the cost of two legislative interns included in the proposed FY 09 budget.

#### **5. MACo/NACo Committee Appointments and Policies**

Director Blattie presented the amended policy on MACo Committee appointments that was adopted at the December 10, 2007 Board meeting.

The revised policy on NACo appointments was presented for approval. The amendment clarified that the MACo Executive Committee would approve appointments at the request of individual counties, groups or organizations.

**Commissioner Underdal moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded to approve the Policy on NACo Committee and Board Appointments and Travel Costs. Motion carried.**

#### **6. MACo Bylaws - Affiliate Board Member Voting**

Eric Griffin, MACRS, requested that the Board consider allowing MACRS to designate a member to serve as their representative on the MACo Board. Mr. Griffin noted that in prior years, there was not a lot of interaction between MACRS and MACo; however, that situation has changed as both organizations have significant interaction, specifically legislatively.

Following extensive discussion among the Board, it was agreed that an invitation to attend the Board meetings would be sent to the MACRS representative. It was noted that all county groups and organizations, such as Health Officers, DES Coordinators, Planners, etc were welcome to have a representative attend Board meetings.

Director Blattie informed the Board that he had researched the issue of Board voting privileges for County Elected Officials Associations (CEOA) and found a discrepancy in the by-laws related to the issue. A by-law proposal was presented to the membership at the 1997 Annual Meeting to authorize county elected official associations to designate a member to serve as a voting representative on the MACo Board of Directors. The by-law proposal failed. Therefore, the 1997 adopted by-laws stated they were a "non-voting representative on the Board". The issue has not been addressed since that time. However, somehow the 1999 bylaws were inadvertently amended and the "non-voting" language was removed. Director Blattie advised that since this was not a bylaw change authorized by the membership, the "non-voting" language would be restored in its original and adopted form.

The Board requested clarification on "members" per the by-laws. Director Blattie reviewed Article II, sections 2 & 3 of the bylaws, which state that Associate and Affiliate members do not have floor voting privileges. This Article is used the basis for sponsorship recruitment. Article IV, Section 1 (b) authorizes other county elected official associations with no fewer than 29 county members to designate a member to serve as a non-voting representative on the Board of Directors.

Director Blattie reminded the Board that they had passed a motion at the last meeting to present the proposed bylaw amendment to the membership at the September Annual meeting.

**Commissioner Rehbein moved and Commissioner Reiger seconded to reconsider the actions of the last meeting regarding the proposed bylaw amendment.**

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the decision. Topics included policy development issues, budget decision issues, travel costs, etc.

**Commissioner Underdal presented a substitute motion to reconsider the motion approved on December 10, 2007. Commissioner's Rehbein and Regier accepted the substitute motion. Commissioner McGinley seconded.**

**MOTION: It is moved by the MACo Board of Directors to present a bylaw amendment to the MACo membership to allow MACo Board voting privileges to county elected official association representatives, as defined in Article IV, section (1)(b) of the MACo bylaws. Motion carried.**

#### **7. Local Government Center Services**

Director Blattie reviewed the services both provided and proposed by MSU Local Government Center.

- a. Counties on the Move: MACo has received a quote of \$4,037 from LGC for printing of the updated book. It was noted that \$5,000 has been granted in budget authority to pay this cost.
- b. Commissioners/Treasurers and Clerk & Recorder Handbooks: Director Blattie informed the Board that the handbooks have not been updated and are significantly out of date due to legislative actions. It has been proposed to consolidate the three books, as there is quite a bit of duplication of statutes, etc. MACo had received a quote in the amount of approximately \$15,000 from Katrina Martin to do the updates. LGC has approached a legislative analyst to see if they would be interested in the project. Commissioner Prinkki noted that this is a very valuable tool and is well worth the money to have it updated. Commissioner's offices and staff rely on this information regularly, and it is a helpful tool for newly elected officials. Commissioners Rehbein and McGinley noted that this needs to be done during a non-legislative year. Director Blattie asked if the Board would be willing to grant budget authority for him to pursue the update. Commissioner Seilstad asked if a cost-share arrangement could be made with the Clerk and Recorder and Treasurer's Associations. Clerk and Recorder Maxwell and Treasurer Johnson stated they would need to take to their respective memberships for approval.

**Commissioner Hall moved and Commissioner Stang seconded to grant the MACo Executive Committee the authority to approve the budget authority necessary for the updates on the handbooks. Motion carried.**

#### **8. Other Business**

- a. Nationwide Marketing Representative: Director Blattie briefly reviewed the updated Marketing Plan.
- b. Election Night Reporting: A request has been received from the Secretary of States office for counties to designate someone to report the Primary returns to their office as soon as possible.
- c. June Board Meeting: The Board will meet in June to complete final budget adoption and to renew the agreements for services with the three insurance pools.

### **JOINT MEETING**

#### **MACo Board of Directors and MACo Resolutions and Legislative Committee**

The Board convened into a joint meeting with the MACo Resolutions Committee. Attendees included: Mike Murray, Chair; Dave Reinhardt, At Large member; Kathy Bessette and Maureen Davey, MACo Board of Directors

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Minutes

Agriculture Committee; Allan Underdal, Budget and Finance Committee; Mike McGinley, Community, Economic Development and Labor Committee; John Prinkki, Energy Committee; Carl Seilstad, Health and Human Services Committee; Sandra Broesder, Information Technology Committee; Mike Anderson, Justice & Public Safety Committee; Carol Brooker, Land Use and Development Committee; Alan Thompson, Public Lands Committee; and Richard Dunbar, Transportation Committee.

### 1. MACo Resolutions Process and Policy Review

Members were provided with the section of the MACo bylaws regarding the resolution process, along with the legislative guidelines. In the interest of time, Committee chairs and members were asked to review the guidelines for the resolution process, and to also update their policy statements during their meetings. If they have any suggestions for modification or changes, please let MACo staff know.

### 2. Upcoming Legislative Issues

Director Blattie reviewed the status of the following legislative issues/items:

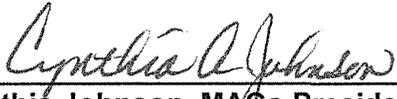
- a. CI-99 – Limit Residential Property Tax Increases
- b. Secure Rural Schools and PILT Funding
- c. Interim Committees Proposed Legislation
- d. Montana State Agency Proposed Legislation
- e. MACo Proposed Resolutions/Legislation

### 3. Constitutional Convention

Director Blattie reviewed the history of the Constitutional Convention. The question is placed on the ballot every twenty years, and is scheduled for 2010. MACo opposed the question on the ballot twenty years ago. The MACo membership will need to consider their position on this issue.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008.

  
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Cynthia Johnson, MACo President

  
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L. Harold Blattie, Secretary