

Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 1, 2008

8:30 a.m.

MACo Conference Room
2715 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT

MINUTES

1. Roll Call and Introductions: President McGinley called the meeting to order. Roll call and introductions were conducted. The attendance sheet is attached.

2. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Davey noted corrections in the September 21, 2008 and September 25, 2008 minutes. Commissioner Chilcott moved and Commissioner Ostlund seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

3. Finance Report: Tom Swindle reviewed the financial statements as of September 30, 2008. Commissioner White moved and Commissioner Worrall seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried.

4. Local Option Tax Proposal: Director Blattie provided the Board with a brief history of local option tax proposals. He informed the Board that MACo has supported a statewide sales tax and/or a broad local option tax for many years. MACo has been very involved in a number of bills to authorize local option sales taxes; however none have passed the legislature. A key component is the mechanism for revenue distribution.

Alec Hansen, Executive Director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns thanked the Board for the invitation to present the proposal. Mr. Hansen noted that local governments are better suited than the legislature to determine the need for a local option tax. Senator Essman has agreed to sponsor a bill. The main components of the proposal are:

- Requires a vote within the city, town or county
- The vote must be held during a general, primary or mail ballot election
- The amount of the tax cannot exceed 4%
- The proposal contains a 2% vendor allowance for administrative fees
- The tax will sunset in 10 years.

Mr. Hansen then provided some examples of the revenue sharing and distribution proposals, and clarified that the county would have the first option of either placing it on a county-wide ballot or opting out. If the city and the county approve, it would be a 50/50 revenue split. If the county opts out, and the city adopts the local option tax, the county would receive 20% of the revenue share.

The Board thanked Mr. Hansen for attending and providing the information.

5. **MACo Committee Appointments:** President McGinley reported that he had completed Committee appointments, and the list is in the Board packets, as well as on the MACo website. President McGinley thanked all of the Committee chairs for their work and assistance. He also noted that if a need arises, he may be contacting Committee chairs to ask for help with the Legislature.
6. **Council of County Officials Meeting:** Associate Director Wood provided a recap of the Council of County Officials meeting held on November 25, and provided a list of the legislative proposals being considered by elected officials associations.
7. **Legislative Update:** Director Blattie distributed and reviewed the upcoming Legislative calendar, along with the MACo internal bill tracking process and the House and Senate Committee Assignments. He also distributed and reviewed the MACo resolutions list and the progress on obtaining bill sponsors. Director Blattie noted that there are over 20 gravel pit bill drafts to date.

Discussion was held on the local option sales tax proposal. Commissioner Brooker recommended that Commissioners meet with their Mayors. Commissioner Tempel expressed concern that the regional proposal will not help eastern counties.

Director Blattie informed the Board that the new language included in Reauthorization of PILT payments will require a statutory change for the distribution of the funds from the state. He requested permission from the board to pursue legislation. Commissioner Brooker moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded to authorize Director Blattie to pursue the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

8. **Strategic Planning Session:** President McGinley informed the Board that the MACo Board of Directors had conducted a strategic planning session in January of 2006, where they established goals and objectives for the Association. In reviewing those goals, it was found that they had either been met, or it had been determined they were not achievable. The purpose of today's session is to review the goals of the Association and develop new objectives. President McGinley introduced Dan Clark, who will be facilitating the planning session.

The Board reviewed the Association by-laws, and the mission statement and objectives contained in the bylaws. They then reviewed the 2006 Strategic Planning Summary and reviewed the service definitions, goals and objectives established at that time.

Mr. Clark then had the Board break into groups to answer a series of questions regarding MACo's purpose and an evaluation of its services, and to develop future goals and objectives. Director Blattie and Associate Director Wood were excused for this portion of the meeting.

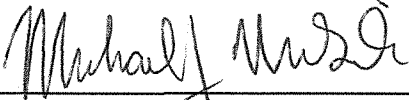
Directors Blattie and Wood rejoined the meeting following the work session. The Board was provided a breakdown of MACo staff FTE allocations. Mr. Clark then had each group present their proposed goals and objectives. Mr. Clark will compile the responses and forward them to Director Blattie for distribution to the Board.

9. Other Business:

- a. **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:** Director Blattie reviewed the Elected Officials Training, Loss Control and Midwinter conferences. He distributed an email as an example of the number of requests we get from state and outside agencies to present to our members at conferences.
- b. **Part Time Maintenance Position Proposal:** Director Blattie noted that he may be presenting a proposal to the Board at the February meeting for a part-time maintenance position. There may be some cost savings with hiring someone rather than paying for the janitorial, snow removal, electrical, plumbing, etc. through outside contractors.
- c. **Northwestern Energy Protested Taxes:** It was discussed that information had been received that a settlement agreement had been reached between Northwestern Energy and the Department of Revenue on their protested taxes.
- d. **NACo Clean Water Restoration Act:** Commissioner Davey informed the Board that their county would be sending a letter to support NACo's position on the Clean Water Restoration Act, and urged all other counties to do the same.

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

Approved this 9th day of February, 2009



Michael J. McGinley, President



L. Harold Blattie, Secretary

Attendance Log

Officers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike McGinley, President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve White, District #9 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl Seilstad, 1 st Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Brooker, District #10 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Ostlund, 2 nd Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carlotta Grandstaff, District #11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allan Underdal, Fiscal Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rice, District #12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Chilcott, Urban Representative | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyndi Johnson, Past President | |

District Chairs

- 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
- Andy Hunthausen, District #8

Association Representatives

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Amanda Kelly, Clerk and Recorders
- Marilyn Craft, Clerks of Court
- Steve Immenschuh, Coroners
- Gary A. Olsen, Magistrates
- T. Gregory Hintz,
Sheriff & Peace Officers
- Pam Shelton, Treasurers
- Diane Inbody,
School Superintendents

Others Present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Tom Swindle, MACo Finance Officer; Russ Tempel, Vice-Chair, District #4; Dan Clark, Executive Director, MSU Local Government Center; Alec Hansen, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns.