



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, February 13, 2012
Billings Hotel & Convention Center
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions:** President Eissinger called the meeting to order and provided some words of wisdom. Roll call and introductions were conducted. The attendance sheet is attached.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:** Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Ostlund seconded to approve the minutes of December 5, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Financial Reports:**

a. **Financial Statements:** Finance Officer Swindle reviewed the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2011. Discussion was held regarding removing the SWIM grant from the budget, as MACo will no longer be administering the grant.

b. **Final FY 2011 Audit:** Finance Officer Swindle reported there were no changes to the audit following the management review.

c. **Preliminary FY 2013 Budget:** Director Blattie reported that mid-year budget reviews had been conducted with all department heads and all budgets are in line. Director Blattie reported on the FY 11 CPI of 3.2% compared to the State's average weekly wage, and noted that the CPI has fallen behind by 13% over the last 10 years.

Director Blattie requested authority to build a 5% across the board salary increase into the budget for all staff. Extensive discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of the request, including staff retention, recruitment, funding sources and sustainability.

Commissioner Briggs moved and Commissioner Davey seconded to build a 3.5% across the board salary for all staff into the preliminary FY 2013 budget. Motion passed.

Commissioner Barron moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded to amend the previous motion to 5%. Motion failed.

4. **NACo - CVS/Caremark Marketing Agreement:** Director Blattie reported the NACo Board of Directors had approved the NACo-CVS/Caremark Agreement and requested the Board approve the State Association entering into the marketing agreement. Discussion was also held regarding the solicitation from Coast2Coast Rx, and the information provided from the State Insurance Commissioners office that Caremark is registered to do business in the state, and Coast2Coast Rx is not.

Commissioner Chilcott moved and Commissioner Hunthausen seconded to approve the State Association entering into the NACo - CVS/Caremark Marketing Agreement and authorize Director Blattie to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Executive and Associate Director Position Descriptions:** Director Blattie reported that these were provided as informational and proposed amendments would be presented at the June, 2012 meeting.

6. **Succession Planning:**

a. **Emergency Succession Plan:** President Eissinger reported that Director Blattie had drafted the plan and it had been reviewed and amended by the Committee members. Commissioner Davey noted that she would like to offer some suggestions to the language that would provide consistency, but would not affect the overall intent of the document.

Commissioner Ronish moved and Commissioner Vennes seconded to approve the Emergency Succession Plan with the amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Defined Departure Plan:** Director Blattie reported that a meeting will need to be scheduled with Dan Clark, of the MSU Local Government Center to begin working on the Defined Departure Plan.

7. **Informational Reports:**

a. **Public Lands Renewable Energy Act – Letter of Support:** Commissioner Johnson noted that this Act is not going to be acted on anytime soon, and recommended that action be postponed until the Congressional Delegation is contacted for their thoughts on the bill. Commissioner McGinley questioned why this Act only refers to renewable energy and doesn't include transmission lines. Commissioner Briggs commented that he has reviewed the bill and sees no reason not to support it.

Commissioner Kennedy moved and Commissioner Hunthausen seconded to provide a letter of support for S.1775 – The Public Lands Renewable Energy Act. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Implementation of Excess Annual Leave Policy:** Director Blattie reviewed the status of excess annual leave as of December 31, 2011, and noted that the policy may need to be amended as there were issues discovered with the implementation of the policy as written.

c. **HB 351- TSEP Funding Litigation:** Director Blattie reported that the court had ruled in favor of the affected cities and counties on February 6. The Governor has 60 days to file an appeal. Director Blattie reported on the contributions and expenses to date in the litigation fund.

d. **Statewide Interoperability Governing Board:** Commissioner McGinley reported that he attends all meetings and will continue to keep the Board and membership informed of the work of the SIGB.

e. **NACo County Leadership Institute Nomination:** President Eissinger reported that five Commissioners had requested nomination; however none met the NACo criteria for eligibility. Therefore, the MACo Executive Committee would not be nominating anyone to the NACo CLI this year.

f. Public Lands/Natural Resources Litigation Fund Committee: President Eissinger is working to find a date for a full-day meeting. Director Blattie will send proposed dates to Committee members.

g. 2012 President's Scholarships: President Eissinger reported that there are 8 students in Circle with grade point averages of 4.0.

8. Legislative Report: Director Blattie reported that massive staff changes at Legislative Services have resulted in a significant loss of institutional knowledge and history. As a result, a large amount of time is being spent educating the staff. Director Blattie added that he has taken on the responsibility for drafting legislation, such as Interoperability and firefighter's workers compensation, to ensure the appropriate statutes and intent are incorporated into the bills.

9. Other Business:

a. 2012 District Meetings: Director Blattie reported that District meetings will be held May 20-25 and the second week in August. He asked District Chairs to help accommodate scheduling so all meetings can be conducted in one week.

Commissioner Dunbar reported that District 1 recently met and he would forward the notes and sign in sheets.

b. MACoHCT Pool Party: Commissioner McGinley invited everyone to attend the MACoHCT Pool Party being held on Wednesday.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8: 54 p.m.

Approved this 27th day of June, 2012.



Connie Eissinger, President



L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Executive Committee

- Connie Eissinger, President
- Greg Chilcott, 1st Vice President
- Joe Briggs, 2nd Vice President
- John Ostlund, Past President
- Cynthia Johnson, Fiscal Officer
- Andy Hunthausen, Urban Representative

Past Presidents

- Carl Seilstad
- Mike McGinley
- John Prinkki
- Bill Kennedy
- Carol Brooker
- Vic Miller

District Chairs

- Richard Dunbar, District #1
- Doug Buxbaum, District #2
- Donald Rieger, District #3
- Russ Tempel, District #4
- Ben Ober, District #5
- Ken Ronish, District #6
- Maureen Davey, District #7
- Gail Vennes, District #8
- Randy Taylor, District #9
- Bill Barron, District #10
- Suzy Foss, District #11
- Tom Rice, District #12

Association Representatives

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Blanche McLure, Clerk and Recorders
- Marilyn Craft, Clerks of Court
- Steve Immenschuh, Coroners
- Jean Kerr, Magistrates
- Chris Hoffman, Sheriffs' & Peace Officers
- Jane Swanson-Webb, Treasurers
- Diane Inbody, School Superintendents

Others present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Tom Swindle, MACo Finance Officer, Mike Sehestedt, MACo JPIA/JPA Chief Counsel; Mike Murray, Chair, JPIA Board of Trustees.