



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, December 1, 2014

10:00 A.M.

**MACo Conference Room
Helena, MT**

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call and Introductions:** President Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Schulz presented Immediate Past President Joe Briggs with a Montana Silversmith's name tag, and thanked him for his leadership. Roll call and introductions were conducted. President Schulz and the Board thanked McCone County Commissioner Connie Eissinger for her dedication and service to MACo for the past 24 years and wished her well in her retirement. Commissioner Eissinger thanked all for the opportunities given to her.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:** Commissioner Ostlund moved and Commissioner Malone seconded to approve the minutes of September 21 and September 25, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Finance Report:** Finance Director Johnson presented the financial statements as of September 30, 2014. Discussion was held regarding equipment purchases and telephone expenses. Commissioner Macdonald moved and Commissioner Mullen seconded to accept the financial report as presented.

Director Blattie reviewed a series of graphs showing the projected revenue and budgeted expenses for MACo and the insurance trusts.

- 4. NACo Travel Policy:** Director Blattie reported that MACo has received claims for travel to NACo that include upgrades for first class travel. The policy is silent as to paying these costs, and direction was requested. Following discussion, Commissioner Devlin moved and Commissioner Davey seconded to not pay for first class travel unless unusual circumstances exist that necessitates it. Motion carried unanimously. It was the consensus that payment of first class travel will be at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- 5. Payment of wages for MACo officers that are part time commissioners:** Director Blattie reported that a question had arisen regarding paying a daily salary per-diem rate for attending MACo meetings and/or functions for part-time commissioners serving as a MACo officer. Director Blattie recapped history, noting a former part-time Commissioner who was serving as a Board member and an appointee to an Interim Committee as a Commissioner representative had broached the subject. At that time, the Board decision was to not cover those expenses. Second Vice President Devlin commented that Commissioners know the time commitment upfront when they run for an officer position, and recommended that MACo continue to pay travel costs, but not salary per-diems.

Commissioner Chilcott moved and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded to direct staff to develop a Board policy based on the discussion that MACo officers will be compensated for travel but not salary. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **NACo Newly Elected Conference Recruitment Strategy:** Director Blattie reported that NACo has developed a Newly Elected Official Recruitment Strategy which includes offering each state Association the opportunity to nominate two newly elected officials to attend either the NACo Legislative or Annual Conference with complimentary registration. Discussion was held regarding NACo Committee appointments, MACo representation at NACo Committee meetings, and the MACo budget. Commissioner Briggs requested that the offer be extended to newly elected Commissioners, with the President and the Executive Director deciding who the Montana nominees would be.

Commissioner Briggs moved and Commissioner Wortman seconded to accept the NACo offer and notify members of the complimentary registration for two members to attend the NACo legislative or Annual Conference. It was added that the offer to members should make it inherently clear that this is a one-time offer from NACo, MACo will not pay travel costs, and if the offer is continued in future years, MACo will not necessarily put the member(s) on a NACo Committee or pay travel costs. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **NACo Unified Discount Program:** Director Blattie reported that NACo had created a Unified Discount Program by adding dental and health to the Prescription Drug Program. It was noted there are very few dentists in Montana who will participate, and information is still pending on medical providers in Montana for the health plan. The Board consensus was to postpone action on this item until more information is available.
8. **Multi Bank Securities, Inc.:** Director Blattie reported that NACo Financial Services had launched a new partnership with Multi-Bank Securities, Inc., to assist County Treasurers in managing county fixed-income investments by providing transparency regarding fees, etc., and allowing them to see where securities are placed. Director Blattie reported that he, Finance Director Johnson and Associate Director Wood had participated in a webinar regarding the new program. This is still evolving and there will be more discussion at the upcoming NACo Board meeting and Legislative Conference. Director Blattie added that he will need to do more due diligence is needed before he can provide a recommendation to the Board.
9. **MOU – U.S. Forest Service:** President Schulz reported that he had been working with a group over the past 6-8 months regarding Farm Bill Language. As a result of those meetings, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service is being proposed to encourage enhanced communication between the Forest Service, MACo and the members. Director Blattie reported that this has been in the works for some time, and the Oregon Association has executed the agreement.

Extensive discussion was held and suggestions made regarding the language in the MOU, including terminology, and boiler-plate language. Commissioner Malone moved and Commissioner Mosness seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the suggested changes and the removal of the boiler-plate language, and approve Director Blattie and President Schulz to continue working with the Forest Service on the language. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Vendor/Sponsor Non-Compete Policy:** Associate Director Wood reported that following the September meeting where the proposed Vendor/Sponsor Non-Compete Policy was denied by the Board, some board members had requested the item be brought back for reconsideration.

Discussion was held with Commissioners Hendrickson, Macdonald, Seilstad, Chilcott and Devlin stating their opposition; and Commissioners Briggs, Davey and Wortman stating their support. Commissioner Hendrickson moved and Commissioner Devlin seconded to deny approval of the proposed Vendor/Sponsor Non-Compete Policy. The motion passed on a majority voice vote.

11. Council of County Officials Meeting Report: President Schulz reported that the meeting held on November 20 had a good turnout with representatives from all elected officials associations. He reported that the consensus of the group was to not introduce any legislation related to the county compensation board, longevity and/or salaries for county elected officials, and decoupling deputies.

12. Association Reports:

a. County Attorneys: Leo Gallagher reported that they will have no Association bills this session, but still have concerns on how to address the inequities in salaries between deputy county attorneys and the public defenders. He added that longevity for deputy county attorneys has not been changed since 1983. He also noted that mental health will be a hot topic issue at the legislature.

b. Clerks of District Court: Valerie Hornsveld reported their Association will have mainly clean up bills, and may introduce a bill requesting a \$2,000 salary supplemental for Clerks of District Court and Justices of the Peace.

c. Clerks and Recorders: Paula Jaconetty reported they will be closely monitoring the election clean up bills.

13. Staffing Update: Director Blattie reported that in keeping with the Board's direction, Associate Director Wood has assumed responsibility for operations, while he is focused on policy. Associate Director Wood reported that the positions of Associate General Counsel/Personnel Services Administrator, Defense Counsel, HCT Administrative/Enrollment Assistant and two Claims Specialists positions are currently advertised.

Director Blattie added that a meeting was held with the Executive Committee regarding guidance on the vacant Legislative/Policy Analyst position. Based on that meeting, he is searching for a short-term FTE or contractor for this session. He is looking at lobbyists and other elected officials for the position.

14. MACo Staff Policies & Procedures Manual – Proposed Amendments: Associate Director Wood presented two proposed changes to the MACo Staff Policies and Procedures Manual:

a. Sick Leave Donation: The proposed change would require employees retain a minimum balance of 80 hours in their leave accrual following a donation. This is an increase from the previous balance requirement of 40 hours, which will avoid employees donating their sick leave and then needing a donation as they do not have enough leave accrued for their absence. The proposed also removes the requirement of how donations are process, as it was extremely difficult to administer, which will leave the decision on how to administer the requests for donations up to the finance department. The change would also clarify that donations will be applied in quarter hour increments, which is consistent with how time is recorded.

- b. **Termination Payout:** The proposed change clarifies that a final paycheck will be issued on the next regular pay day when employees separate from employment. The proposed change also clarifies that banked holiday hours are included in termination leave.

Commissioner Chilcott moved and Commissioner Ostlund seconded to approve the proposed changes to the MACo Staff Policies and Procedures Manual regarding Sick Leave Donation and Termination Payout. Motion carried unanimously.

- 15. **Committee Appointments:** President Schulz reported that he and Commissioner Davey had made the initial appointments based on the biographies received at the annual conference, and will finalize the appointments following receiving biographies from the newly elected officials at this week's training.

16. **Legislative Report:**

- a. **MSU-Local Government Center (LGC) Funding:** Director Blattie provided a history of legislative actions regarding LGC funding, and reported that it has been the consensus of the legislature and the Governor's office that cities and counties should help fund the LGC. He reported that the Budget Director had removed the proposed funding from the Governor's budget so currently there is no funding for the LGC within the University System budget. He added that he had met with representative from MMIA and the League of Cities and Towns, and they are not in favor of providing entitlement share dollars to fund the Center.

Extensive discussion was held regarding counties providing a portion of their entitlement share to assist in funding the LGC. Director Blattie provided information on the costs for counties to either fully or partially fund the LGC. Discussion was held regarding how training would be provided if the LGC no longer existed and utilization of LGC services by MACo, special districts, municipalities and other elected official associations.

Following discussion, Commissioner Briggs moved and Commissioner Malone seconded to authorize Director Blattie to engage in discussions with the Budget office and relay that counties are willing to fund a portion of the funding for the MSU Local Government Center. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **MACo Legislative Status Report:** Director Blattie and Legislative Analyst Siaperas reviewed the status of MACo Resolutions, bill drafts and sponsors, and the overall bill draft requests to date. Director Blattie provided an overview of the state revenue estimates.
- c. **Education - Legislative Process:** Director Blattie and Legislative Analyst Siaperas provided an overview of MACo's process during the legislative session.

- 17. **Upcoming Meetings:** Director Blattie reported that he and President Schulz would be hosting Northwest President's and Exec's Meeting from December 10-12 at Big Sky, and he would be on vacation from December 15 – 19.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this 9th day of February, 2015.



Dave Schulz, President



L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Executive Committee

- Dave Schulz, President
- Maureen Davey, 1st Vice President
- Todd Devlin, 2nd Vice President
- Joe Briggs, Immed. Past President
- Mike McGinley, Fiscal Officer
- Jim Reno, Urban Representative

Past President's

- Greg Chilcott
- Connie Eissinger
- John Ostlund
- Carl Seilstad
- John Prinkki
- Bill Kennedy
- Carol Brooker
- Bob Mullen

District Chairs

- Gary Macdonald, District #1
- Doug Buxbaum, District #2
- Doug Martens, District #3
- Larry Hendrickson, District #4
- Ron Ostberg, District #5
- Richard Moe, District #6
- Susie Mosness, District #7
- Leonard Wortman, District #8
- Marty Malone, District #9
- Bill Barron, District #10
- Jeff Burrows, District #11
- Donna Young, District #12

Association Representatives

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Paula Jaconetty, Clerk and Recorders
- Connie Mattfield, Clerks of Court
- Valerie Hornsveld, Clerks of Court
- Vacant, Coroners
- Linda Budeski, Magistrates
- Chris Hoffman, Sheriffs & Peace Officers
- Jane Stene, Treasurers
- Susan Beley, School Superintendents

Others present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Kathy Johnson, MACo Finance Director; Shantil Siaperas, MACo Legislative & Policy Analyst.