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# Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

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[www.mtcounties.org](http://www.mtcounties.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sunday, September 20, 2015**

**Holiday Inn Downtown**

**Missoula, MT**

**3:00 P.M.**

## MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions:** President Schulz called the meeting to order. Roll call and introductions were conducted.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Hendrickson moved and Commissioner Malone seconded to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2015 - Board and Joint Budget Meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Investment Presentation:** Paul Roland provided an overview of the MACo investment portfolio and also provided information on the national interest rates and impacts to them based on international issues.
- 4. 2015-2016 CRS Inmate Medical Program Renewal:** Associate Director Wood presented the proposed renewal rates, and an overview of the membership and coverages. Commissioner Ostberg moved and Commissioner Macdonald seconded to approve the 2015-2016 CRS Inmate Medical Program Renewal at the proposed rates. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Acknowledgements:** President Schulz announced that Doug Martens, Rosebud County would be stepping down as Chair of District 3 and thanked him for his service on the Board and to the members. President Schulz also acknowledged Sheriff Dutton for his department's work in capturing the fugitive that was wanted for murder and kidnapping, and his department's great work in keeping the community safe.
- 6. Nominations Report:** President Schulz convened the Board as a Committee of the Whole for the purposes of nominations.

Director Blattie reviewed the nominations:

President: Maureen Davey, Stillwater County

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Todd Devlin, Prairie County

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Bill Barron, Lake County

Immediate Past President: Dave Schulz, Madison County

It was noted the Fiscal Officer position is a two year elected position and is not up for election this year. The Urban County Representative will be elected at the Tuesday, September 22, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Seilstad moved and Commissioner Ostlund seconded to forward the nominations to the membership. Motion carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole was adjourned.

**7. MACo Annual Performance Evaluation:** Director Blattie reviewed the results of the evaluation, noting the responses were typical of past evaluations. It was noted the other organizations still don't feel that MACo provides adequate services to them. Staff tries to attend all of their Association annual meetings.

It was realized that more activities need to be held in the Eastern part of the state. Also, the summer workshops went well, but scheduling them in July is a challenge. Commissioner McGinley noted that the upcoming workshop on the Affordable Care Act is very important and all counties need to attend.

Commissioner Davey noted that all of MACo's trainings and conferences are important to all elected officials, and urged Commissioners to invite and encourage them to attend all MACo meetings.

**8. Operations Updates:** Associate Director Wood reported that a Defense Services legal secretary had resigned to move out of state, and the department had hired an Office Coordinator in the newly created position. Also, MACo has purchased an Employee Assistance Program for all staff effective August 1.

**9. MACoHCT Trustee Appointments:** Associate Director Wood reviewed the MACo Board members who are eligible to serve as the appointees to the MACo Health Care Trust. It was requested that Joe Briggs, Cascade County and Carl Seilstad, Fergus County, be appointed contingent upon the outcome of the MACo officer elections.

Commissioner Malone moved and Commissioner Barron seconded to appoint Joe Briggs and Carl Seilstad to serve in the MACo Board positions for one year on the MACoHCT, pending the outcome of the MACo officer elections. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Financials:** Finance Director Johnson reviewed the MACo FY 2015 budget versus actual expenses report, including capital asset expenditures.

**11. FY 2018 Audit Agreement:** Director Johnson reported that previously the Board and Trusts had approved entering into an agreement for JCCS to perform the FY 2016 and FY 2017 audits. JCCS has provided an estimate for FY 2018, and staff requested the MACo Board approve engaging with JCCS for the FY 2018 audits at the price proposed, contingent upon approval by all three Trusts.

Commissioner Malone moved and Commissioner Barron seconded to accept the JCCS proposal for the FY 2018 MACo Audit, contingent upon approval by the HCT, PCT and WCT Boards of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

**12. FY 2015 Audited Financial Statements:** Sonal Shah, JCCS, reviewed the MACo FY 2015 Audited Financial Statements, noting it was an unqualified audit with no material weaknesses on internal controls.

Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Devlin seconded to accept the MACo FY 2015 Audited Financial Statements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. FY 2016 Board Designated Funds:** Director Wood reported that the Board had not approved the FY 2016 Board Designated Funds at the June budget adoption meeting. Director Wood requested the Board approve designating \$2,625 for auto and \$12,500 for Succession Planning for a total of \$15,125.

Commissioner Briggs moved and Commissioner Devlin seconded to approve designating \$15,125 for FY 2016 for auto and succession planning. Motion carried unanimously.

**14. Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations:** Director Blattie reviewed the Cobell Settlement Agreement, which provided for a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to consolidate fractional land interests across Indian Country. As a result, non-tribal owners with holdings within reservations can sell their land back to the tribe. There is no reimbursement to the counties for the lost tax revenues.

Discussion was held regarding the purchases in Montana, and the fiscal impacts to counties. Director Blattie reported he would be presenting this issue to the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee, and it was suggested we get our congressional delegation involved.

**15. Waters of the US:** Director Blattie informed the Board that the Executive Committee had approved a budget of up to \$5,000 to engage Attorney Peter Scott to enter into the lawsuit on behalf of MACo regarding the EPA's Water of the US Rulemaking issue.

Recently the North Dakota Circuit court had issued an injunction to stop implementation of the rules, on behalf of the 13 western states involved, including Montana.

**16. MACo Litigation Fund Committee:** Discussion was held regarding re-establishing and continuing the work of the former MACo Litigation Fund Committee. Concerns discussed were how to determine the governance process, who decides when to engage and the resources to be utilized, and how to fund the committee.

Commissioner Barron moved and Commissioner Prinkki moved to have President Davey re-establish the Litigation Fund Committee and appoint the members. Motion carried unanimously.

**17. Resolution:** Commissioner Murray, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, reported that an emergency resolution has been received from Prairie County, and it will take a 2/3 vote of the Board to discuss it. Commissioner Curtiss issued concerns that the resolution is outside the normal process and was not on the agenda. Commissioner Devlin reported that the introduction of the resolution is considered an emergency as the wilderness characteristics inventory being conducted by federal land management agencies will be done by the end of 2016, before the current federal administration changes.

Commissioner Devlin moved and Commissioner Wortman seconded to allow the Board to consider the emergency resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Devlin moved and Commissioner Chilcott seconded to refer the resolution to the MACo Public Lands Committee for their review and recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

**18. Upcoming Meetings:** Director Blattie reviewed upcoming meetings. Commissioner Davey urged all to attend the Elected Officials/Commissioner Certification training and invite their elected officials.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Approved this 1st day of February, 2016.



Dave Schulz, President



L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director

**Executive Committee**

- Dave Schulz, President
- Maureen Davey, 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- 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
- Tom Rice, District #12

**Association Representatives**

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Regina Plettenburg, Clerk and Recorders
- Connie Mattfield, Clerks of Court
- Valerie Hornsveld, Clerks of Court
- Jennifer Brandon, Clerks of Court
- Vacant, Coroners
- Linda Budeski, Magistrates
- Leo Dutton, Sheriffs & Peace Officers
- Jane Stene, Treasurers
- Susan Beley, School Superintendents

Others present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Brian Hopkins, MACo General Counsel, Kathy Johnson, MACo Finance Director; Tony Cox, Sanders Co.; Bob Lee, Rosebud Co.; Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark Co.; Paul Roland, QCI Asset Management, Inc.