



# Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

**Tamarack/Aspen Rooms**

**Bozeman, MT**

**7:30 A.M.**

## **MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call – Introductions:** Introductions and roll call were conducted. Commissioner Hart read the resolution proclaiming and ordering that today, this 21st day of September, the Montana Association of Counties shall be recognized as the Montana Association of Counties. in honor of Stillwater County Commissioner and MACo Past President Maureen Davey.
2. **President's Welcome:** President Barron welcomed all to the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Barron stated he is proud to be President of the strongest organization in Montana. Without MACo, counties would not have a voice or input at the legislature. He encouraged Board members to motivate their fellow Commissioners and elected officials to get engaged, and to help the public understand the importance of the organization. He stated he would work hard as the new President and that we are a team and everyone plays an important role as part of the team.
3. **Board Member Duties & Responsibilities:** General Counsel Hopkins provided an overview of the organizational structure and Board member duties and responsibilities, which include confidentiality and standards of care. Board members were provided with Conflict of Interest Statements and were asked to complete and return them.
4. **Overview of MACo Organization & Structure:** Director Blattie provided an overview of the organizational structure, noting that MACo is a nonprofit organization and the Trusts are instrumentalities of government.
5. **Board of Directors' Binders:** Associate Director Wood reviewed the contents of the Board binder, and noted several documents will be distributed at the next meeting after they are updated to include the decisions made by the members at their business meeting.
6. **District Chair Duties & Responsibilities:** Director Blattie reviewed the Board Handbook and the responsibilities of District Chairs, noting the importance of attendance at Board meetings, or having the Vice Chair attend. Board meeting dates were provided as well as the 2018 District Meeting schedule for a pre-legislative year. It was requested that all elected officials be invited to District Meetings, conferences and trainings.

7. **Overview of MACo Legislative Process:** Director Blattie provided an overview of the resolutions process, and how resolutions move from District Meetings to the Resolutions Committee, to Committees, and then to the membership. Following the Annual Meeting, the authority for legislative decisions is shifted to the Executive Committee. The updated policies and resolutions adopted at the business meeting will be printed in the MACo Policy booklet.
8. **2017-2018 Committee Appointments:** President Barron reported that he intends to maintain the existing Chairs, and will not be appointing any members of the Executive Committee as Chair of a Committee. He urged all members to submit their biographies and send additional information to him and to encourage their fellow Commissioners to send in the forms. Commissioner Ostlund noted also that Commissioners are encouraged to apply for Chair and/or multiple Vice-Chair positions.
9. **Staff Policy and Procedures Handbook:**
  - a. **Proposed Amendments:** Deputy Director Bryson reported that the Board was provided a sample of the changes being considered. More work is needed including input from staff and department heads, so a proposal for amendments will be brought to the Board later.
  - b. **Adoption:** Associate Director Wood reported that per the MACo Bylaws, the Board of Directors has the responsibility to annually approve the MACo Staff Policies and Procedures Handbook and requested approval of the Handbook as written, with only the cover page updated to reflect the new President and today's date.

Commissioner Ostlund moved and Commissioner Lee seconded to approve the MACo Staff Policies and Procedures Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Upcoming Events/Meetings:**

- a. **Board Meetings:** Director Blattie reviewed the calendar noting the Board meetings would be on December 4, 2017 in Helena, February 12, 2018 in Billings, and June 20, 2018 in Helena.
- b. **Council of County Officials Meeting:** Director Blattie reported that a Council of County Officials meeting would be held on Monday, December 4, 2017 before the Board meeting, to discuss the possibility of sharing services such as lobbying and meeting planning.
- c. **Succession Planning:** Director Blattie reported that with the announcement of his retirement, the Executive Director Transition Guidelines have been triggered. Director Blattie reviewed the steps in the Guidelines and noted a joint meeting of the

MACo Board of Directors and Trustees needs to be convened. Staff was asked to update the Succession Plan with this week's actions, email it out to Board members and Trustees, and schedule a joint conference call on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.


11. **MACo Health Care Trustee Appointment:** Commissioner McGinley reviewed the makeup of the Board of Trustees which consists of four members elected by the membership and two members appointed by the Board of Directors.

Following a review of eligible Board members who are from MACoHCT member counties, Commissioner Briggs, Commissioner Seilstad and Commissioner Ostberg were nominated. Commissioner Briggs was elected by a ballot vote.

12. **Immediate Past President Todd Devlin:** Past President Devlin thanked everyone for allowing him to have Mia Fontaine present on Sunday night on the topic of sexual abuse in families. Commissioners Youngbauer and Brooker thanked Commissioner Devlin for bringing the subject to the forefront, reported that their counties have Sexual Abuse Response Teams (SART), and urged every county to put one in place. President Barron thanked Commissioner Devlin for shedding light on the issue of sexual abuse in families at the local, national, and state levels.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

  
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Bill Barron, MACo President

  
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L. Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

**Executive Committee**

- Bill Barron, President
- Jim Hart, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Shane Gorder, 2nd Vice President
- Todd Devlin, Immed. Past President
- Mike McGinley, Fiscal Officer
- Andy Hunthausen, Urban Representative

**Past Presidents**

- Maureen Davey
- Joe Briggs
- Greg Chilcott
- John Ostlund
- Carl Seilstad
- Carol Brooker
- Bob Mullen

**District Chairs**

- Richard Dunbar, District #1
- Janet Wolff, District #2
- Doug Martens, District #3
- Larry Hendrickson, District #4
- Ron Ostberg, District #5
- Sandy Youngbauer, District #6
- Susie Mosness, District #7
- Susan Good Geise, District #8
- Steve White, District #9
- Dave Stipe, District #10
- Laurie Johnston, District #11
- Tom Rice, District #12

**Association Representatives**

- Leo Gallagher, County Attorneys
- Ruth Baker, Clerk & Recorders
- Elizabeth Ball, Clerks of Court
- Valerie Hornsveld, Clerks of Court
- Vacant, Coroners
- Linda Cantin, Magistrates
- Brian Gootkin, Sheriffs & Peace Officers
- Jamie Bailey, Treasurers
- Susan Beley, School Superintendents

Others present: Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director; Eric Bryson, MACo Deputy Director; Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director; Brian Hopkins, MACo General Counsel; McKenzie McCarthy, MACo Associate General Counsel; Jerry Spears, MACo Trust Operations Director; Jason Strouf, Custer County Commissioner.