



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

2715 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, HELENA, MT 59602
(406) 449-4360 Fax (406) 442-5238
www.mtcounties.org

MEETING MINUTES

MACo AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Billings, MT | Billings Hotel & Convention Center | February 28, 2022

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Co-chair Rice called the meeting to order, and roll call was conducted. A quorum was present (see last page). Co-chair Hendrickson was appointed to take the meeting minutes.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28th meeting as presented, and Commissioner Seifert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Department of Livestock – Predator Control

Co-chair Rice introduced the speakers from the Montana Department of Livestock: Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer; Brain Simonson, Deputy Executive Officer; and Ethan Wilfore, Brands Enforcement Division Administrator.

Executive Officer Honeycutt explained the make-up of the Board of Livestock and the role played by members. The Red Tape Relief Project has been a priority for the department. Some of the statutes are still from the beginning of Montana. Deputy Executive Officer Simonson talked about predator control issues, and BED Administrator Wilfore discussed compiling a statewide herd district map, abandoned horses, and feral pigs. He also announced that there are 48,000 active Montana brands of which 1,000 were new in 2021.

4. Congressional Delegation

Representatives from Montana's congressional delegation updated the committee on federal issues.

5. MACo President Jason Strouf

President Strouf updated the committee on the new format of co-chairs, the reason being to attract new folks into leadership roles.

6. Montana Weed Control Association Update

Ms. Adler updated the committee on weed issues and the ongoing battle for more funding.

7. Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (H.R. 1775)

The Agriculture Committee was asked to write a letter to oppose H.R. 1775. After some discussion Commissioner Hutton made a motion to write the letter, and Commissioner Lee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee reviewed the Ag Committee policy statements. A motion by Commissioner Seifert to revises Policy Statement to include the language to allow MACO to discuss policy with Mt. Dept of Livestock, Commissioner Peterson 2nd all in favor.

8. Review/Update Committee Policy Statements

The Committee reviewed their policy statements. Commissioner Seifert motioned to add a statement allowing MACo to discuss policy with the Montana Department of Livestock. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MACO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u> X </u> Larry Hendrickson, Co-chair, Liberty | <u> </u> Tom Kuka, Pondera | <u> X </u> George Real Bird III, Big Horn |
| <u> X </u> Tom Rice, Co-chair, Beaverhead | <u> X </u> Jim Larson, Cascade | <u> X </u> Roy Rost, Fallon |
| <u> X </u> Scott Blain, Carbon | <u> X </u> Robert Lee, Rosebud | <u> X </u> Dan Sager, Powell |
| <u> X </u> Jonathan Bolstad, Sheridan | <u> X </u> Mikel Lund, Daniels | <u> X </u> Dale Seifert, Pondera |
| <u> X </u> Bruce Christofferson, Phillips | <u> X </u> Rem Mannix, Powell | <u> </u> Jessica Shackelford, Sheridan |
| <u> X </u> Jerry Collins, Garfield | <u> X </u> Scott Miller, Carbon | <u> X </u> Rodney Tauck, Carter |
| <u> X </u> Donna Giacometto, Powder River | <u> X </u> Darin Miske, Wibaux | <u> X </u> Terry Tomsheck, Toole |
| <u> X </u> Don Hartwell, Toole | <u> X </u> Jim Moore, Judith Basin | <u> X </u> William Wallace, Sweet Grass |
| <u> X </u> Keith Holmlund, Custer | <u> </u> James Moos, McCone | <u> </u> Chris Westergard, Sheridan |
| <u> X </u> Dan Huls, Ravalli | <u> X </u> Jim Morren, Pondera | <u> X </u> Sandy Youngbauer, Fergus |
| <u> X </u> Miles Hutton, Blaine | <u> X </u> Mark Peterson, Hill | <u> X </u> Amy Adler, MWCA Rep., Rosebud |
| <u> X </u> John Jackson, Beaverhead | <u> </u> Sigrid Pugrud, Petroleum | |
| <u> </u> Christine Keltner, Prairie | <u> </u> Lee Randall, Powder River | |