



Montana Association of Counties

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MEETING MINUTES

MACo ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Co-chairs Roe and Martens called the meeting to order, and roll call was conducted. A quorum was present (see last page). Also present were various members and representatives of the Federal delegation and other assorted offices and elected officials. Some of the representatives addressed numerous issues and challenges currently in energy.

2. MACo President Jason Strouf

President Strouf addressed the members of the energy committee. He stated that those with interest in any of the committees would be welcome to join just let him or the co-chairs know. He also updated the committee on the new format of co-chairs, the reason being to attract new folks into leadership roles.

3. Energy in Montana – An Update Provided by MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Dan Lloyd, Bureau Chief of the Energy Bureau within DEQ, gave a brief presentation regarding energy in Montana. He outlined that the State Energy Program's purpose is energy security, affordability, building energy (through conservation and evaluation of energy usage), energy procurement contraction, the Smart Schools Energy Program, de-commissioning and bonding programs, the Radon Control Program, and small business compliance programs.

Bureau Chief Lloyd also touched briefly on the infrastructure bill and which areas are being looked at including electric vehicle corridor highways: I-90, I-94, I-15, US-2, and US 93. On a final note, he discussed the need for funding and investment in the grid. He also mentioned the constrictions in the grid between the Western, Eastern, and Texas segments.

4. Review/Update Committee Policy Statements

Co-chair Martens presented suggestions for updates to the committee's policy statements. He emphasized the importance of giving clear direction to MACo's lobbying team through the statements, which would be approved by the full membership at MACo's Annual Conference in September.

Updates to the committee's policy statements included:

- Adding a statement supporting infrastructure development for alternative fuel vehicles.
- Adding a statement, or addition to an already existing statement, that would support a method of receiving road usage taxes on electric vehicles.
- MACo supports efforts to ensure the health and longevity of the Montana Coal Endowment Program (formerly known as TSEP) as a source of revenue for county government.

→ MACo supports efforts to encourage development and expansion of Montana’s diverse energy sector when done in collaboration with—and not to the detriment of—county governments.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MACO ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Martens, Co-chair, Rosebud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert (Bob) Lee, Rosebud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Stempel, McCone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melanie Roe, Co-chair, Sweet Grass | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin Miske, Wibaux | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Tomscheck, Toole |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Armstrong, Valley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Oelkers, Roosevelt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Turley, Musselshell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Giacometto, Powder River | <input type="checkbox"/> Denis Pitman, Yellowstone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William (Bill) Wallace, Sweet Grass |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shane Gorder, Richland | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Rosencranz, Carter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Westergard, Sheridan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Hajenga, Judith Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Dale Seifert, Pondera | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Zander, Dawson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Hartwell, Toole | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Snellman, Teton | |