



# Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

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www.mtcounties.org

## DISTRICTS 1, 2 & 3 MEETING MINUTES

Miles City, MT – Town & Country Golf Club House

August 12, 2014

### District 1

- Daniels
- Phillips
- Roosevelt
- Sheridan
- Valley

### District 2

- Dawson
- Garfield
- McCone
- Prairie
- Richland
- Wibaux

### District 3

- Carter
- Custer
- Fallon
- Powder River
- Rosebud
- Treasure

**MACo Staff:** Harold Blattie, Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, Associate Director; and Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Analyst & Communications Specialist

**MACo President & Officers:** Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner, MACo President; Connie Eissinger, McCone County Commissioner, MACo Past President (2011-2012)

**Guests:** Brian Steffen, Action for Eastern Montana, CEO; Joan K. Duffield, Rosebud County Clerk & Recorder Elect; Deb Ranum, Fallon County Clerk & Recorder

### Pledge to Flag

**Welcome & Roll Call:** Doug Martens, Rosebud County welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County conducted roll call.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** May 9, 2014 Minutes

- MOTION: Bob Lee, Rosebud County, moved to accept the May 9, 2014 minutes. Keith Holmlund, Custer County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**District Chair/Vice Chair Elections:** District 2 Chair and Vice Chair

- District 2 met and re-elected Doug Buxbaum, Dawson County, as Chair for another 2-year term.
- District 2 met and elected Shane Gorder, Richland County, as Vice Chair for a 2-year term.

**Next MACo Districts 1, 2 & 3 Meeting:** June 2015

- District 1 will host the next meeting. Location to be determined.

**MACo Officer Nominations:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Fiscal Officer

Sheryl Wood announced that Ron Stoltz, Ravalli County, and Andy Hunthausen withdrew, leaving Todd Devlin as the remaining nomination for MACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County, was nominated for MACo Fiscal Officer. Nominations remain open up until the floor session at the Annual Conference. (No further nominations were made at the Districts 1, 2 & 3 meeting.)

### MACo Updates from Staff

- Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director
  - MACo Health Care Trust PPACA Pay or Play Workshop: September 3-4, Great Falls

- MACo Annual Member Survey
- MACo Biography Forms: Committee Appointments by President
- Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Analyst & Communications Specialist
  - Resolution Committee Meeting/Conference Call: August 29 at 10 a.m.
- Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director
  - Annual Conference
    - Two NACo Staff: Emilia Istrate, Research Director to present on NACo's new innovative research tools; and Julie Ufner, Association Legislative Director and staffer of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use Steering Committee, to raise awareness on EPA's rules for Waters of the U.S.
      - Deadline for comments extended to October 19; NACo has some draft comments on their website as well as a wealth of information.
    - Volunteer Firefighter Work Comp Coverage: Roster of Service--on record before the injury
      - INPUT: Joe Briggs, Cascade County, MACo President - Recent fire company accident/death
  - Additional FTE Positions Approved by Board for MACo: 1 legislative position, 1 Health Care Trust position, 1 claims adjuster, 1 assistant for legal—would likely replace Mike Sehestedt upon his retirement

#### **MACo President's & Officers' Report:** Joe Briggs, Cascade County, MACo President

- Succession Planning: Meeting next week to finalize; starting to put money aside for search and for a dual role to have successor work with Executive Director for a while (it's in the budget)
- SIGB: Talking about using E-9-1-1 "stranded funds" (no "excess funds" really--provider money not being claimed by some providers); we've been trying for six months to get information on who is using the system (Lewis & Clark and Flathead Counties so far); highway patrol would like counties to pay
  - INPUT: Harold Blattie - E-9-1-1 fee paid by cell user is then split between provider and PSAPs; providers need to apply and provide their subscriber base to get their money; smaller telcos are doing it, but the larger providers are not—growing pot of money. There was a bill passed to distribute some of the money, but it's still growing. The Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee is looking at this issue.
- FirstNet: Federally mandated first responder data network - real time data & medical records; SIGB put forward first version of survey responses to federal government (waiting for response); years away from deployment; we're in the last 5% to get it
- Bylaw Amendments
  - Conference Site Selection: Rotation based on who can handle the conference; if new facility built, it can be reviewed for inclusion in the rotation
  - Executive Director: Executive shall set the salary of the Executive Director—removing requirement that there be a survey done, as it's not effective for professional performance review; survey will still be distributed, but won't be the primary tool for the review of the Executive Director
  - Recent Performance Evaluation of Executive Director: 3% increase in salary

#### **Legislative Report**

- Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Analyst & Communications Specialist, Montana Association of Counties
  - Interim Committees
    - Legislative Council: Use of electronic devices
    - Education & Local Government: Oil & Gas Impacts and Electronic Records Management
    - Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee: 9-1-1 and impacts of oil & gas on local government
    - Environmental Quality Council: Federal Land Transfer
    - State Administration & Veterans' Affairs: Elections study—revising codes
  - Legislative Calendar
  - Legislative Orientation: November, caucus and leadership; December, rules and committees

- Legislative Council: House Local Government possibly being moved to Monday, Wednesday, Friday, which is when Senate Local Government meets—problem for MACo being in these two committees as well as other places on Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Bill Draft Requests
- Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties
  - Interim Committees
    - Law & Justice: POST and criminal justice status; Office of Public Defender—who determines “indigency,” what constitute a “household,” flat-fee contracts
    - Children, Families, Health & Human Services: Mental health funding; HB 130 grants \$2 million more a year; HB 131 \$600,000 for more crisis beds; forensic unit discussion
    - State Administration & Veterans Affairs: Pension trigger bill; MPERB televised meetings; GASB 68; Sheriffs’ Retirement System not sound
- Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties
  - Interim Committees
    - Education & Local Government and Revenue & Transportation: Oil and gas impacts and infrastructure
    - Revenue & Transportation: Entitlement Share growth and oversized loads/transportation corridor
      - COMMENT: Richard Dunbar – Maybe change the name “Entitlement Share;” doesn’t represent what it is.
      - RESPONSE: Harold Blattie – Question has been raised before.
    - Environmental Quality Council: SJ15, Study of Public Lands—regarding the transfer of public lands, NACo “states’ rights” policy and no MACo position; also there is no fiscal impact statement
    - Workers’ Compensation Study
    - Ballot Initiatives: All failed
    - Federal Lands Access Program: Hire professional for application
    - Montana Contractors Association, “Hegreblog;” Local governments and Public Works Specifications
  - State Budget
  - MACo Omnibus Resolution: Generally revise/cleanup bill
  - Sunset Bills: 9-1-1 and Historic Right-of-way
  - Council of County Officials: Reconvene to continue discussion on elected official compensation

### **MACo Resolutions**

- Resolutions Presented at Previous District Meetings, Shantil Siaperas
  - Proposed Resolutions from Midwinter
    - Access Conveyance Fees for Easements Across State Trust Lands, MACo Land Use & Development Committee, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
    - Establish Development Agreements Under Montana Law, MACo Land Use & Development Committee
    - Endangered Species Act, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
    - Equal Access to Justice, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
    - Public Lands Management, MACo Public Lands and Energy Committees, adopted at MACo Midwinter Conference
  - Proposed Resolutions from Spring District Meetings
    - Tax Increment Financing Districts, Jim Reno, Yellowstone County, District 7 (not adopted by county as of yet, but presented preliminarily)
    - Livestock Loss, Dave Schulz, Madison County, District 12
- Introduced Resolutions at the Districts 6 & 7 Meeting

- Contracting for the Confinement of Prisoners, Carbon County, John Prinkki
  - AG Opinion; Plan B is to address with legislation; strike third “whereas”
    - Resolutions Committee and Justice & Public Safety Committee to work on additional amendments
- Support Proposal from the Private Lands/Public Wildlife Council Regarding Support to Counties, Chris King, Petroleum County
  - Help to clarify legal rights-of-way
- Wind Generation Impact Fee, Richard Moe, Wheatland County
  - Clarify that payment is to be each year for 3 years
- Introduced Resolutions at the Districts 1, 2 & 3 Meeting
  - Oversized and Overweight Vehicles Permit Fee, Roosevelt County, Gary Macdonald
    - MOTION: Shane Gorder, Richland County, moved to support the proposed the resolution as amended. Todd Devlin, Prairie County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Other District Business**

- Reports for Each County: Action for Eastern Montana, Brian Steffen, CEO
- Western Interstate Region Board Meeting: Lesley Robinson, Phillips County
  - Hosting in Malta

#### **Meeting Adjourned**