



DISTRICTS 1, 2 & 3 MEETING MINUTES

JULY 11, 2022 | DISTRICT 3 HOSTED | CUSTER COUNTY EVENT CENTER, MILES CITY

COUNTIES IN ATTENDANCE

District 1

X Daniels
X Phillips
X Roosevelt
X Sheridan
X Valley

District 2

X Dawson
X Garfield
X McCone
X Prairie
X Richland
X Wibaux

District 3

X Carter
X Custer
X Fallon
X Powder River
X Rosebud
X Treasure

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE

Chair Krausz called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Deputy Director Jason Rittal called the roll. All members were represented in all Districts.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Minutes

Chair Krausz asked for a motion regarding approval of the minutes of last year's meeting. Commissioner Martens moved to approve—second by Commissioner Macdonald. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Location

Commissioner Macdonald offered to host next year's District 1,2 & 3 meeting in Roosevelt County (Wolf Point) at the Senior Center. District 1 is up on the schedule and without objection was selected as the next host.

District Chair & Vice Chair Elections

With District 2 Chair and Vice Chair terms expiring, Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to leave the slate of officers as is for another term, and Commissioner Keltner seconded the motion. There were no other nominations or motions; therefore, Commissioner Collins, Chair, and Commissioner Devlin, Vice Chair, will continue to serve another term.

MACo Officer Nominations – 2nd Vice President

Chair Krausz called for any MACo 2nd VP nominations. Commissioner Dunbar nominated Commissioner Joette Woods of Liberty County. Staff announced that nominations remained open until the closing business session during the membership annual meeting in September.

MACO PRESIDENT'S & OFFICERS' REPORTS

President Strouf provided an update on his year in office thus far including attendance at the County Leadership Institute, replacing Commissioner Hart on the NACo Board of Directors, and attending the NACo Board Meeting in Atlanta along with the Presidents & Executives meeting and NACo's Conference where he additionally served on some committees. President Strouf also attended MACo's Broadband Summit and served on the MPERA Board of Directors.

Past President Martens talked about the value of Montana's representation at the national level and the weight our participation has.

MACO UPDATES & FY 2023 BUDGET

Executive Director Bryson gave a staffing update including a report on the cybersecurity/IT initiative, the retirement of Karen Houston who was replaced by Meagan Gallagher. Karen Alley is on board as Associate General Counsel/Land Use with an eye toward the pending retirement of Tara DuPuy.

The MACo budget as approved by the Board of Directors was included in the handouts. Director Bryson went through some highlights including Professional Services which is up due to MPERA lawsuit, CI-121, and the county salary survey. Other expenses of note are the printed county elected officials directories which were done as a result of feedback from membership, the Broadband Summit, and the accounting around the downsizing of the vehicle fleet.

The Board has approved a 4.6% CPI dues increase in accordance with the bylaws, resulting in a 6.46% revenue increase due to changes in tiers of some members who have grown in taxable value.

MACO LEGISLATIVE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Director Bryson and Deputy Director Rittal gave an overview of the legislative process for MACo, and the new makeup of the lobbying team. Shantil will not lobby but will be helping from the office. Jason will be the Legislative Director with a focus on appropriations and orchestrating our efforts. Eric will take Clerk & Recorders and Tax and Karen Alley will take land use, some local government, and fill in where needed.

They then outlined the resolutions that are anticipated during the District Meetings tour and followed with a discussion on the types of legislation that can be expected including elections and property tax reform as well as possible attacks on the Entitlement Share and MACo's ability to lobby. The group had a robust conversation about pending legislation, other issues such as the use of the marijuana tax, mental health, state mandates, and county budget issues.

Other Item of Note: ARPA still has the additional payment slated for counties that Treasury is to get out by the end of the fiscal year. More to follow. The State has applied for Broadband planning funds.

RESOLUTIONS

County Audits – Prairie County – Commissioner Todd Devlin

Commissioner Devlin of Prairie County proposed a resolution that would address the rising cost of audits for counties. This is especially burdensome for small counties where the number of mills required to cover the cost is becoming unbearable. In addition, the state is decreasing its financial technical assistance and GASB, and the state requirements continue to grow. No draft resolution has been prepared. Without objection MACo Staff will draft a resolution to be brought forward to the Resolutions Committee.

Marijuana Tax – Phillips County – Commissioner Richard Dunbar

Commissioner Dunbar of Phillips County presented the draft resolution as presented in the packet. Currently a percentage of the marijuana tax collected is earmarked for the acquisition of habitat for wildlife. The resolution would limit the expenditure for that use to the amount collected within the county where the acquisition of habitat was proposed. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried to move the proposed resolution forward to the Resolutions Committee.

Clarify the Process for Road Abandonment – Fallon County – Commissioner Roy Rost

Commissioner Rost of Fallon County proposed a resolution to clarify the process for road abandonment by counties. Fallon County made some mistakes in the past due to misinterpretation of the statute and wishes to make sure that the same process errors are not made elsewhere. Motion to move the proposed resolution forward to the Resolutions Committee was made and seconded. Motion carried.

MACo staff departed to embark on the journey to their next destination, and MDT along with their Consulting Team working on the Bridge Study took over.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Secondary Roads, Federal Lands Access Program & STIP: Andy White, MDT
Off-System Bridge Study & Implementation Plan: Lisa Gray, HDR