

JUN 19 2006

**DISTRICT #10 & 11 MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2006**

Paddy Trusler, Lake County Commissioner called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Present were: Chuck Whitson, Lake County Commissioner; Mike Pence, Flathead County Administrator; Alan Thompson, Ravalli County Commissioner; Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County Commissioner; Rita Windom, Lincoln County Commissioner; Harold Blattie, MACO Executive Director; Sheryl Wood, MACO Associate Director; Ruth Hodges, Lake County Clerk and Recorder; Jack Holstrom, MACO JPIA; Susan Brueggeman, Lake County Environmental Health Director; Bill Carey, Missoula County Commissioner; James Warnken, Mineral County Commissioner; Judy Stank, Mineral County Commissioner; Doug Kaercher, Hill County Commissioner/ MACO President; Vic Miller, Mt. HRDC Association; Ben Nunnallee, MT. Dept. of Transportation; and Legislative candidates: Janna Taylor, Rep. HD 11; Phonacelle Shapel, HD 12 Candidate and her husband David Shapel; Kevin Howlett, Transportation Commissioner Dist. 1 from Arlee; Denise Peterson, Candidate for HD 11; Rick Smith, Candidate for SD 5.

The May 2, 2005 Minutes were approved as presented.

Those in attendance introduced themselves. Paddy gave each of the political candidates in attendance an opportunity to introduce themselves and briefly explain their background and political position.

MACO President/Officer Reports & Comments – Doug Kaercher.

Doug Kaercher MACO President talked about the importance of meth use awareness. He said that 50% of the incarcerations in Hill County are meth related. He explained that the County Extension Agents in the counties have meth awareness kits for presentations. The NACO web site has a presentation but it may not be appropriate for young children.

DPPHS – Public Health Modernization Project. Jean Curtiss & Susan Brueggeman
(Power Point Presentation, see attached handout)

Draft statute is available. Everyone was encouraged to attend the regional meetings coming in June.

Executive Directors Report – Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood

(See attached handout)

Harold went through the list of proposed MACO legislation.

Following a short break, Vic Miller talked about HRDC/MACO Resolution to provide summer Youth Employment for Youth in Low-Income families (see attached resolution). Judy made a motion to support this bill, Jean seconded the motion with an amendment to include a statement which provided for a minimum wage provision. And that the HRDC administer the program and use as little as possible for administration expenses, motion passed.

Doug discussed the unique challenges posed by wireless phones regarding the enhanced 911 project. (See attached)

Doug discussed the fact that when people dial 911 from a cell phone their location can not be identified. In order to provide for this service there would be a minimal charge to both land phone users as well as cell phone users. It was asked that MACO sponsor a bill to address this issue. Greg made a motion, Jean seconded, the motion passed to support an E911 enhancement bill.

Jean had a suggestion that MACO create a resolution to remove derogatory names such as squaw from road names in counties. Yellowstone County still has a road named Squaw Creek Road. Discussion ensued concerning the language in 2-15-149 MCA. Vic suggested a resolution to reiterate derogatory language will not be tolerated in any county according to state law. Jean will create a resolution to be reviewed at the conference in Bozeman in the fall.

Jean suggested that maybe we should look at a bio diesel credit to taxes for burning alternative fuel. Kevin Howlett and Ben Nunnallee made some remarks regarding the 5 districts in the state attempting to address problems. Kevin gave his home # 726-3831 and work # 745-3525 if you have questions or problems. Harold commented that the increased fuel cost has had a significant impact on letting contracts.

Ballot Initiatives & Commissioner Involvement – Jack Holstrom

(See handouts)

The Code of Ethics addresses what roll elected officials can take (2-2-121 MCA). In summary he mentioned that elected officials can't use public time, resources or personnel but have a responsibility to inform constituents what impact the initiative will have on Local Government. A Commissioner can use their title but must state that his opinion is a personal one. You can not say "vote for ..." or "vote against ...". MACO could not get involved in promoting an initiative as they are publicly funded. Paddy asked about Local Gov't study items for the ballot. Jack said to do it as an individual citizen and not as a Commissioner. You can endorse a candidate with your title but state it is your personal endorsement and don't use County stationery.

Rita said she supports re-authorization PL 106393. However, she does not support the sale of public lands to fund it. She will send out a draft letter for those who wish to use it to state this position.

NOMINATIONS

Jean nominated Judy Stang for Chair of District 11 for a 2 year term.

Passed.

District 10 re-affirmed that Paddy & Rita will continue as Chairs through 2007.

Judy nominated Allen as Vice-Chair for District 11 for a 2 year term.

Jean seconded. Passed.

Paddy was nominated for 2nd Vice President of MACO but he declined.

Rita Nominated Jean Curtis , Judy seconded the nomination. Passed.

S.J. 11 – Subdivision laws.

Paddy tried to keep dist. 10 & 11 informed of progress. There was discussion on how to make zoning part 1 & 2 more user friendly and fair. Liability was discussed. It's easier to approve with lots of conditions than to disapprove. Draft legislation will be presented at the fall meetings.

Cheryl covered some other proposed MACO legislation:

- Per diem
- Term of office changed to Dec. 31.
- Juvenile Detention.
- Public defender costs removed from entitlement.
- Funding liabilities.
- County attorney salaries

DNRC – Pat Cross, State Fire Prevention Specialist. (see handout)

County should work through the area representative.

HJR-10 County will have same authority as DNRC to enforce burning restrictions.

MACO BUDGET Harold reviewed the proposed budget. (See handout)

- Printing has been reduced as they are doing more in house.
- Contracted service is for IT services.
- Convention & workshop – this is an election year and there will be newly elected officials training.
- Per diem rate increased.
- NACO travel. Current person not officer for NACO now so MACO has to pay her travel.
- Gave a brief update on the Health Care Trust. He stated that reserves are at .5 mil. and are anticipating adding a couple of counties.

There was discussion about looking at contracting out transportation for mental patients. The County would negotiate the contract not the State. The State would give us an approved contractors list and the county would enter into the contract.

A competition for meth education was discussed. The students would apply and one commissioner from each county would be on the judges panel. A press conference is scheduled for June. The Commissioners office could be one of the contacts.

MDOT SECONDARY ROADS – Wayne Noem & Gary Larson

A handout showing construction update was given to each county.
He explained that the projected costs are now inaccurate because of fuel costs.
Regarding bridges, he will help you get on top of the list. If it's a small bridge it will cost less than a larger one. Even with SETEP you pay 50%.
Paddy asked them why the Lake County project is so far behind schedule and their response was that there were problems with planning.

Meeting Adjourned.