

MACO DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2005

MACO District 6 and 7 Meeting Harlowton, Montana

A MACO meeting of Districts 6 and 7 was held May 12, 2005 in Harlowton, Montana at the Harlowton Youth Center. Attending from the following counties were:

Carbon:

Albert Brown

Fergus:

John Jensen

Ken Ronish

Carl Seilstad – District 6 Chair

Golden Valley:

Joy Nell Schanz

Leslie Burroughs

Judith Basin:

Ed Arnott

Musselshell:

Robert Goffena

Mike Kilby

Larry Leske

Petroleum:

Chris King

Lloyd Rowton

Lee Iverson

Stillwater:

Chuck Egan

Dennis Hoyem

Maureen Davey – District 7 Chair

Sweet Grass:

Elaine Allestad

Lloyd Berg

Philip Hathaway

Wheatland:

Tom Bennett

Richard Moe

Yellowstone:

John Ostlund

Bill Kennedy – MACO President

Also attending:

Harry Klock – House District 83

Dustin Frost – Congressman Rehberg's Office

Keith Kelly – MT Dept. of Labor and Industry

Gordon Morris – MACO

Harold Blattie – MACO

The meeting was called to order by District 6 Chairman, Carl Seilstad.

Gordon Morris of MACO spoke of the Legislative Session highlights. Referring to a Legislative Summary handout, he touched briefly on each of the following bills.

- HB218 – Revising the laws relating to mosquito control districts.
- HB743 – Reimbursement of counties for monies spent on deputy training.
- SB301 – (Clean up bill) Allowing local government to levy for public service.
- SJR41 – Requesting a study of the development of Community Central Health Crisis Response systems.
- SB146 - Establishing Montana Public Defender Act.

Harold Blattie spoke on other bills of interest.

- SB342 – Authorizes entity to utilize design build.
- HB700 – Mine License Tax Money disposition.
- SB48 – Removes tax provision for phase out of class eight property.
- HB60 – Establishing a decontamination standard for cleanup of meth manufacturing property and subsequent documentation to uncloud title.
- House Bill – Concerning the state to fully fund one half of the County Attorney’s salary.

Land Use Bills

- SB116 – Rewrite of subdivision laws.
- SB290 – Revise sanitation in subdivision process.
- SB255 – Airport bill/protection from adverse land use.
- SB185 – Authorizes impact fees on development.
- SB98 – Montana Land Information Act.

Bills that didn’t pass (but will probably be back)

- SB195 – Quality Growth Act/Smart Growth Act
- SB456 – Prohibited building regulations.
- HB361 – Gravel Pit Bill

Interim Study

- HB790 – Surface Ownership and Subsurface Ownership
- HJR10 – Fire authorities
- HJR44 - Taxation of hard line equipment
- SJR11 – Continuation of study of subdivision

Bill Kennedy spoke on the legislative session, explaining highlights of bills of interest.

- HB395 – Pre-commitment bill.
- SB499 – Mental Health/Service Area Authority.
- Public Defender Bill

The next presentation was from MACO President, Bill Kennedy and the Executive Board. For those who were not aware, Gordon Morris spoke of his retirement, effective June 2006. Mr. Morris spoke on the subject of handling Worker Comp Claims in house, at significant savings. Insurance issues were also addressed.

Mr. Kennedy spoke of the Executive Board Meeting, June 8th at 10:00 am. at the MACO building in Helena. The JPIA & JPA meeting will be held in the afternoon. He asked for Commissioner input and welcomed their attendance at the meetings.

Presentations were made by:

- Tom Hayes – Workforce Investment/Montana Job Training Partnership
- Keith Kelly – Department of Labor and Industry.

2005/2006 Budgets were discussed. Mr. Morris walked through the 2005/06 budget report answering questions and addressing concerns.

Next on the agenda were nominations for various offices. The positions of District 6 Chair and Vice Chair are up, with District 7 terms expiring next year. Nominations were opened for the two-year term of District Chair and District Vice-Chair. The results were Carl Seilstad nominated for District Chair and Bob Goffena for District Vice-Chair.

There was discussion on having a fall meeting. It was decided that if issues were to arise a meeting could be scheduled in August, if not wait until September.

The positions for MACO 2nd Vice President and MACO Fiscal Officer were open for consideration. Mr. Morris observed that Jean Curtiss of Missoula County and Mark Rehbein of Richland County had been nominated from their districts for 2nd Vice President. Bill Nyby hasn't decided whether to go forward or not for the position of MACO Fiscal Officer. It was observed that candidates may be nominated from the floor the prior to the actual election. No nominations for either of the MACO positions were made at this time.

The results of the nominations for the Work Force Investment Board positions were:

- District 6 – Ken Ronish
- District 7 – Bill Kennedy

District issues were up for discussion.

Maureen Davey, Stillwater County, addressed the group about a resolution from Stillwater and Liberty counties concerning the opening of US borders to Canadian cattle. Ms. Davey distributed copies of this resolution. A highlighted area concerning “country of origin wording” was left out of the MACO resolution 2005-1 that was adopted by the membership. Commissioner Davey would like the MACO resolution to be amended to include the highlighted “country of origin” wording. A motion from District 6 & 7 was made for Commissioner Davey to carry a language change to the board.

Lisa Osborne, an area coordinator, with the Custer National Forest spoke to the group concerning fire restrictions. Her group tries to coordinate local, Forest Service and BLM fire restrictions so that all fire restrictions for all counties in the district will be the same. She answered questions from the group.

Wayne Noen – MDOT/Secondary Road and STIP (State Transportation Improvement
Plan)

Mr. Noen explained to the group how the “Choosing by Advantages” program is set up. It was noted that a project for the Judith River slide was nominated without the appropriate approval. It was also noted that the project was nominated by the state for safety reasons. There was a considerable amount of discussion concerning the priority list being manipulated and situations like this happening again. The group was assured that this error was unintentional and precedence would not be set. They were also informed that the body would have to vote on whether or not to continue this project. It was moved and seconded to leave this project on the list since public safety was involved. Motion carried.

Jeff Bohlman of the DNRC spoke to the group about:

- Land Banking
- The Historic Right of Way Program
- The Real Estate Management Bureau

Questions and answers from the floor.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.