



Montana Association of Counties

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2715 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, HELENA, MT 59602

(406) 449-4360 Fax (406) 442-5238

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DISTRICTS 6 & 7 MEETING MINUTES

Stanford, MT – Stanford City Hall

May 8, 2014

District 6

- Fergus
- Golden Valley
- Judith Basin
- Musselshell
- Petroleum
- Wheatland

District 7

- Big Horn
- Carbon
- Stillwater
- Sweet Grass
- Yellowstone

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; Maureen Davey, Stillwater County Commissioner, MACo 2nd Vice President; John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner, MACo Past President (2006-2007); Carl Seilstad, Fergus County Commissioner, MACo Past President (2009-2010)

Guests: Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation

Pledge to Flag

Welcome & Introductions: Ken Ronish, Fergus County called the meeting to order. Bill Annala, Judith Basin County, welcomed everyone. Shantil Siaperas conducted roll call.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Districts 6 & 7: June 4, 2013 Minutes
 - MOTION: John Prinkki moved to accept the June 4, 2013 minutes. Tom Bennett, Wheatland County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with correction.
 - CORRECTION: Add John Ostlund, Yellowstone County, John Prinkki, and Carl Seilstad to the MACo President & Officers list.
- District 7: July 25, 2013 Minutes
 - MOTION: Maureen Davey moved to accept the July 25, 2013 minutes. Susan Mosness, Sweet Grass County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

District Chair/Vice Chair Nominations: District 7 Chair & Vice Chair (District 6 Elections Not Until 2015)

- NOMINATION: Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass County, moved to nominate Susan Mosness for Chair. Dennis Shupak, Stillwater County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - NOTE: Nominations remain open until the election during the fall district meeting.
- NOMINATION: Maureen Davey moved to nominate Jerry Dell, Stillwater County, for Vice Chair. Susan Mosness seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - NOTE: Nominations remain open until the election during the fall district meeting.

Next District Meeting Host: August 2014

- Sweet Grass County volunteered to host (District 7).

MACo Officer Nominations: 2nd Vice President & Fiscal Officer

Harold Blattie: At the previous district meeting (Districts 10 & 11) Todd Devlin, Prairie County, and Ron Stoltz, Ravalli County, were nominated for MACo 2nd Vice President, and Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County, was nominated for MACo Fiscal Officer.

- NOMINATION: John Prinkki moved to nominate Todd Devlin for MACo 2nd Vice President. Maureen Davey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- NOMINATION: John Prinkki moved to nominate Mike McGinley for MACo Fiscal Officer. Jim Reno, Yellowstone County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- There were no further nominations from the Districts 6 & 7 meeting; nominations remain open until the elections at the 2014 Annual Conference in September.

MACo FY 2015 Preliminary Budget: Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood

- Projected Revenues
 - Higher Than Anticipated Revenues: Conferences, Total Pool Investment Fee (Health Care Trust, Workers Compensation Trust, Property & Casualty Trust)
 - Dues
 - Tax, Finance & Budget Committee recommendation 1.5 % COLA/CPI
 - NACo – Caremark Prescription Discount Card, Inmate Medical Royalty, Nationwide Retirement Deferred Compensation, US Community Commissions
 - CRS Inmate Medical
- Expenses
 - Administration Costs
 - Contracted Services: *Commissioners, Clerk & Recorders and Treasurers Handbook*
 - Working with Local Government Center (LGC)
 - Convention & Workshop Expense
 - Dues Expense
 - Health Insurance: MACo pays 100% of employee portion of plan (Lewis & Clark County plan)—\$25 increase per employee per month
 - Member & Committee Travel: Board and Committee meetings
 - NACo Expense – Travel for NACo Delegation
 - Payroll Expense – No increase for staff built into budget
 - Termination Liability
 - Printing: Cost of printing the MACo Directory and *Counties on the Move*, LGC (final draft)
 - Professional Services – Auditors
 - Staff Travel
 - Looking to Underspend – \$114,000, less travel, vacancy savings
 - Legislative Costs
 - Officers often at Capitol
 - Miscellaneous Expense – MACo’s sack lunch at the Capitol for legislators
 - Staff Travel – To Capitol
 - Annual Conference & Midwinter Conference
 - Haven’t increased registration costs
 - Overspent at Midwinter – Had Department of Emergency Services there; balanced out with Annual
 - Building I
 - Didn’t do the deck or seal the parking lot last year, so it’s still budgeted
 - Did do the other building’s deck – safety issue
 - Building Appraisals
 - Land Lease Expense
 - Maintenance – Service agreements and phone
 - Telephone – Issue with T1 line and internet; found out the T1 line was installed as a failsafe; looking at alternatives

- Remodel front desk area – Better services and security
 - Board of Directors meet June 25 to adopt the budget: Questions should be directed to District Chairs, Harold Blattie, or Sheryl Wood
- Discussion
 - Jim Reno: With today's age, and the confidential information dealt with, we should explore cameras and motion sensors. The Price has gone down.
 - Sheryl Wood: We will bring it up to the board.

MACo Updates from Staff: Sheryl Wood

- Health Care Trust Workshops
 - ACA Workshops on Compliance – notification in next month or two
 - Open to all members, not just Trust members
- Model Personnel Policies

Succession Planning Report

Joe Briggs, MACo President, Cascade County Commissioner

- Reviewed Operation (including Trusts being under MACo's umbrella) – Better off keeping entities under MACo
- MACo used to be primarily legislative, but not anymore – Growth
- Harold & Sheryl's Time – Segmented, during the Legislative Session, they are both at the Capitol; no direct management of staff
- Two Divisions: Office Management and Policy Management
- Legislative Position – Open, asked not to fill; split into operations side and policy side (Executive Director oversees both)
 - Funding – Not using any additional funds; use extra legislative position and move Sheryl into the operations side
- Harold agreeable to consulting
- Documenting Process – Future guidance and history

MACo President's & Officers' Report

Joe Briggs, MACo President, Cascade County Commissioner

- Jail Advisory Group (JAG) Update
 - Jail Standards
 - Make Commissions aware of true costs of jail
 - Suicides
 - Intake questions
 - Will likely come up during the 2015 Legislative Session – Can show the work from the group of stakeholders' taskforce (about 30 as of now)
 - Standards adopted by MACo & list of counties
 - Peer Review Process
 - Board of Crime Control Grant
- State Interoperability Governance Board (SIGB) & 9-1-1 Advisory Council
 - SIGB
 - No funding source—last of money allocated last month
 - Montana Highway Patrol has been funding majority of transport system—don't want to be the ones to maintain
 - MDT never converted to it
 - SIGB also responsible for FirstNet (data network for first responders)
 - 9-1-1 Advisory Council
 - Asked via email if they wanted to merge with SIGB (Governor asked SIGB for recommendation on putting 9-1-1 under SIGB)

Lunch Break

Legislative Report: Harold Blattie, Sheryl Wood, Shantil Siaperas

- SJR 14, Resolution Requesting an Interim Study of Local Government Election Procedures
 - Assigned to State Administration & Veterans Affairs Interim Committee
 - Focus on cleaning up election statutes
- HJR 2, Interim Study Investigating State/Local Government Electronic Records Management
 - Assigned to Education & Local Government Interim Committee
 - Two potential bills: 1.) Revise & reorganize Montana's open record laws (Title 2 Chapter 6); 2.) Montana Historical Society Digital Archives Consultant
 - Committee Report – State enterprise system recommendation
 - SITSD is working on this already and welcomes local governments to participate
- SJ 15, Study of Public Land Management
 - Assigned to Environmental Quality Council
 - Meet via conference call other week
 - Counties and some Commissions divided – MACO hasn't taken a position
 - NACo has a "state's right" resolution
- Infrastructure Funding
 - Mainly municipalities, water & sewer
- Legislative Council – Looking at shortening legislative session
- Economic Affairs – Looking at restructuring State Fund, put under Insurance Commissioner
- Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee – Prepaid wireless; Oregon passed statute where prepaids are helping pay
- IT Council – System to replace LAWS, current system is antiquated
- Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee – Tax Increment Financing Districts, State Tax Appeal Board
- Water Policy Interim Committee – Rejected proposed Administrative Rules for exempt wells
 - Water Compact – Not a MACo issue—neutral; limited number of counties impacted
- Pensions – Recovering, not sound yet; rates will go up 0.1%
 - MPERA – New Executive Director, Dore Schwinden
 - Looking for two new Board Members
 - Sheriffs' Retirement System (SRS) – Not actuarially sound; potential 1% employer/employee contribution increase and looking for possible 3rd source of funding (only system without the 3rd source)
 - Dispatchers
 - GASB 68 Implementation
- Mental Health
 - MACo Subcommittee on Mental Health
 - Stakeholders Meeting in February
 - Children, Families, Health & Human Service Interim Committee: Studying health centers
 - Bill to expand HB 130 grants
 - Bill to expand HB 131 dollars (empty bed/full bed reallocation)
 - Emergency crisis response team: expand from 5 to 10 or 15
 - Possible 16-bed facility
 - Comment: Carl Seilstad – South Central Mental Health (SCMH) voted to expand Medicaid
- Inmate Medical
 - Oregon law (just passed): Incarcerated individuals won't lose medical coverage
 - Affordable Care Act & Medicaid Expansion
- Satellite Voting
 - Upcoming Federal District Court: June 30
 - Possible Impact: Sequential ballots, need at least two machines, personnel costs, training
- E-911: Extend the sunset on the 84-16 split on the county's share of 911 funds
- MT Votes Database Funding: Secretary of State funded it over the Interim and wanted to work local governments on future funding – it's a state function and federally required

- Notice by Posting: Municipalities have "notice by posting" and counties should have the same ability (language for counties is needed)
- Historic Rights-of-Way: Sunsets in 2015
- Local Government Center Funding: Lost half last session—was made clear that local governments and schools need to come up with the funding
- Special District Minutes: Require that they file with Clerk & Recorder
- Audit Threshold for Public Entities: Decouple from Federal Level—put hard number into statute (\$500,000)
- Antiquated Statute: 7-14-2606
- Board of County Printing Administrative Rules: No one commented—increase of \$1 per folio as of July 1
- Council of County Officials (CCO): Looking at elected officials' salaries
- Unintroduced Bills List: Preliminary, will continue to grow
- Ballot Initiatives
 - "Top Two": The top two vote-getters, irrespective of party affiliation, would go to the general election—Supreme Court removed
 - Reclassify Cable Companies' Property Tax Valuations: Charter/Bresnan
- Discussion: CDL/Firefighter returning from fire

Proposed Resolutions

- TIFs: Presented by Jim Reno
 - Not voted on by Yellowstone County (District 7) yet
 - "Once a property 'sunsets' in an Urban Renewal TIFD, it cannot be subject to a second Urban Renewal TIFD without the consent of all applicable taxing jurisdictions."
- Collection of Wind Generation Impact Fees: Presented by Richard Moe, Wheatland County, District 6
 - 15-24-3004: 1.5%,
 - Legislature: 0.5%
 - Analyst: 1.5 %
 - Cleanup Bill
 - Resolution to be drafted for next district meeting
- Three resolutions from Midwinter: Presented by John Prinkki
 - NACo Committees adopted them.
 - Carbon County (District 7) will look at adopting them.
 - Public Lands Management
 - Equal Access to Justice
 - Endangered Species Act

Federal Lands Access Program Status Report: Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation, and Harold Blattie

- President's Proposal: Local match reduction from 13.2% to 5%
- Surface Preservation Projects
- Capitol Enhancement Projects

Other District Business

- Salish Kootenia Water Compact, Melissa Hornbein, Attorney, Water Compact Commission

STIP & Secondary Roads: Wayne Noem

- Secondary Roads
- STIP
- Off-system Bridges

Meeting Adjourned