DISTRIBUTED 6 & 7 MEETING MINUTES
Harlowton, MT – Graves Hotel
June 2, 2015

**Districts 6 & 7**

**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:** Dave Schulz, Madison County Commissioner, MACo President; Maureen Davey, Stillwater County Commissioner, MACo 1st Vice President; John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner, MACo Past President (2006-2007);

**Pledge to Flag**

**Roll Call & Introductions:** Richard Moe, Wheatland County, welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and conducted roll call.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** August 11, 2014 Minutes
- MOTION: John Prinkki, Carbon County, moved to accept the August 11, 2014 minutes. Tom Bennett, Wheatland County, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**District Chair/Vice Chair Elections**
- District 6: 2-Year Term
  - Chair & Vice Chair
    - MOTION: Bryan Adolph, Musselshell County, moved to reappoint the current Chair and Vice Chair. Tom Bennett seconded the motion. With no further nominations, Richard Moe, Wheatland County, was re-elected as Chair, and Chris King, Petroleum County, was re-elected as Vice Chair.
  - District 7: No elections until 2016

**Next MACo Districts 6 & 7 Meeting:** May 2016
- District 7 will host the next meeting in Sweet Grass County.

**MACo Officer Nominations:** 2nd Vice President
Harold Blattie announced that Bill Barron, Lake County, was nominated at the previous district meeting.
- MOTION: John Prinkki moved to nominate Bill Barron for MACo President. Maureen Davey, Stillwater County, seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. Nominations remain open up until the floor session at the Annual Conference.

**MACo FY2016 Proposed Budget:** Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood
Note: We have a new Accountant who brought in GAP/Accrual Accounting.
MACo

Revenue

- Ended year with $38,000 more than budgeted
- Conservative in our estimates; always higher than we anticipate
- Advertising: Newsletter & Directory
  - Directory down a bit; resisting putting it online, as it is a significant revenue source
- Conferences & Workshops Income: Registrations and sponsors from Annual Conference, Elected Officials Training Certification, Midwinter Conference (DES is included this year), Miscellaneous Workshops/Training
- Dues Income: Member Dues, PILT Dues Special Assessment
  - Member Dues: 17 tiers based on taxable values; 1.6% CPI recommendation; find it’s better to do incremental than one big increase every now and then
- NACo Programs: Caremark Rx Card, CRS Inmate Medical, Nationwide Deferred Compensation, US Communities
  - Projected revenue a little higher
- Grant Income: No longer, One-time Grant
- Interest Income: Bank & QCI—generating a fair bit of interest income
- Miscellaneous Income: Pins sales, name badges, photo ID cards, other
- Pooled Investment Fee: Managing investments of the three pools (HCT, WCT, PCT)
  - Projecting higher than last year
- Rent Income: Conference room—pretty popular
- Scholarship Contributions: 50/50 tickets at conferences

Expenses

- Very conservative, no surprises
- MACo administrative costs split four ways
  - Admin-100
  - Legislative -200: Not a legislative year, so a little bit is budgeted for the Interim
  - Annual Conference -300: Last few years, revenues have exceeded expenses
  - Midwinter Conference-400: Budgeted more this year, as it will include DES (DES contributes to luncheon)
- Admin-100 Expenses
  - Auto: Fuel, Repairs, Maintenance
  - Building Remodel: Chip seal parking lot; back stairs deteriorating
  - Contracted Services: Flex will be outsourced to Allegiance; Commissioner Handbook—the Local Government Center is funded this legislative session; they are looking for additional staff, so this will be done soon
  - Convention Workshops: Elected Officials' Training, Phase 2, not as big participation-wise, as it's just commissioners, not all elected officials
  - Data Imaging System
  - Dues: PILT Dues—pay WIR Dues offset by PILT revenue coming in
  - Education & Training—Staff
  - Equipment Purchase (Under $5,000) & Repairs: Big printer plotter needs replacing
  - Grant Administration: Board of Crime Control for Jail Advisory Group—won’t get this year
  - Health Insurance: MACo pays 100% of employee portion—no increase this year
  - Land Lease: Lease from airport—no increase
  - Maintenance & Service Agreements: Computer systems (DIS works with staff)
  - Member Travel & Committees: Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings
  - Miscellaneous: Credit card fees, bank fees, investment fees
  - National Association of Counties: NACo Delegation Travel
  - Payroll: 1.6% COLA increase for all staff—some Executive Director merit requests to be decided at Board of Directors meeting
  - Pooled Investment Fee: MACo doesn’t have expense
  - President’s Scholarship: Has been awarded
  - Printing: Directory is main portion—offset by sales and advertising
- Professional Services: Auditors for 990
- Rent
- Server System: In-house server
- Staff Travel: For staff to travel to things like District Meetings
- Subscriptions: Significantly reduced—Newspaper Association Clippings went to online version; they send us about 400 electronic copies and have to retype them for “Around the Counties” in the newsletter; Shantil is putting a feed on the website
- Taxes & Assessments
- Telephone: Phone system contract--$500 increase, which includes replacement of phones (would be $350 per handset; saves us money)
- Training & Marketing Materials
- Utilities

- Board of Directors will meet June 24th to review the budget.

**MACo Updates from MACo Staff:** Harold Blattie & Sheryl Wood

- Proposed Short Term Investment Pool (STIP) Resolution—Montana Board of Investments: Need resolution adopted stating who is authorized to do what
- Pool/Trust Name Changes—Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) to Property & Casualty Trust (PCT) and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to Workers’ Compensation Trust (WCT): Trustees approved name change of entities (effective July 1st)
- State Contribution—County Attorney Services: Does not set salary; this is a contract with the state; the state is paying you for the work that the County Attorney does for the state and neglect and abuse cases; there is an article on our website explaining it thoroughly; 50% of 85% of District Court Judge’s salary; the salary is set by you on recommendation of County Compensation Board
- Property & Casualty Trust’s Model Personnel Policies: Posted on the website; free to PCT members; $500 for non-members; this is just a model; do not just adopt; go through it and edit to fit your county; help get you in legal compliance
- FY 2016 County Matching Grants for Crisis Intervention, Mental Health Grants & Jail Diversion
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) and County Jails
- Inmate In-Patient Exception: Admitted to hospital for 24 hours, Medicaid pays
- Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)—GABA Lawsuit: PERS Employer Contribution will go up 0.1% (making it 8.37%); if we go back to actuarial soundness, it will go back to 6.9%
- MACo Annual Survey: Need your input on how we are doing and what we can do better to better service you
- MACo Annual Conference: September 20-24 in Missoula
- Committee Appointments—Biographies for Requesting Committee Appointments: Helps MACo President make appointments and helps us with the Directory of County Officials; Committees help set policy at state and national level
- Workshops—July 27-30: Monday, Opencut; Tuesday, Road Law; Wednesday, Budget; Thursday, Hiring, Recruitment, Discipline (basically, everything that needs to be done from posting a job to terminating a job); can sign up for just one block or all blocks
- Health Care PPACA Workshop: Repeat of the one that was done in Lewistown

**MACo President’s Report:** Dave Schulze, Madison County, MACo President

- Commissioner Biographies for MACo Committee Placements: Had the help of 1st Vice President, Maureen Davey, Stillwater County Commissioner; Agriculture and Public Lands are very popular committees
- Presidential Initiative: Didn’t pick one, no time with legislative session and the many things going on with MACo
  - December: 5-state North West Presidents & Executives Retreat in Big Sky; it was our turn, and being President, thought “my backyard” was the place to do it; we share many of the same issues as other states
  - January: 50-state Presidents & Executives in Washington, DC
  - MACo Midwinter Conference
  - Testified in front of Congress: Litigation and lack of planning in fire prone forests
WIR in Hawaii: ESA, Waters of the US, Forest Health
- Lesley Robinson, Phillips County Commissioner, just completed her year as the Western Interstate Region (WIR) President at the recent WIR Conference. She is running for NACo’s Western Region Representative, which would give us a seat on NACo’s Executive Committee. Also, Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner, received the Dale Sowards Award; he is the first Montana Commissioner to receive the award.

Legislative Session: In Helena 2-3 days a week at least testifying on bills and helping represent MACo; amazing staff; Harold & Sheryl have tremendous respect; Shantil is great lobbyist, there at 7 a.m. to organize us and standing in front of committees explaining MACo processes as well as testifying on bills; MACo is still number one.

- Public Surplus Auction—Zach Corbett: Online auction program; we had an excavator that we wanted to get rid of, and we put it on the auction program for about three weeks, and it sold for $46,000.
- MACo 2nd Vice President, Prairie County Commissioner, Todd Devlin: In Washington, DC at the County Leadership Institute Training; MACo has sort of made it an objective to encourage 2nd VPs to go

MACo Legislative Report:
Harold Blattie, Sheryl Wood, and Shantil Siaperas
We had a hole in the health and human services area this year, with Sheryl taking over more of the office duties. We hired John Esp, former legislator with a background in mental health, taxes, and local government; he was a great asset. Shantil went from a legislative coordinator to carrying a huge bill load while keeping the website generally updated and doing legislative updates—heard good things about her from legislators. With Sheryl at the office more, Harold was free to be at the Capitol more and behind the scenes.

MACO Bills
- HB 112, Extend sunset on enhanced 9-1-1 fund distribution – Passed
- HB 187, Clarify laws pertaining to assignment of road/street addresses – Passed
- HB 193, Revise board of adjustment appeal process related to county zoning – Passed
- HB 334, Generally revise laws applicable to county government – Passed
- SB 111, Clarify wind generation facility impact fee for local governmental units – Passed
- SB 119, Clarify eligible voters in certain local government elections – Passed
- HB 145, Revise laws related to livestock loss – Passed
- SB 229, Extend historic county road or utility right-of-way application dates – Passed
- SJ 20, Interim study on historic road right-of-way acquisition – Passed
- HB 534, Allow county commission to regulate compression brake usage – Died, Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal
  o Motor Carriers to take care of situation
- SB 121, Revise what employment by a PERS retiree is considered active member service – Died, Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal
- LC1554, Establish process to allow counties to enter into development agreements – Draft Died in Process
  o Pulled it; Basically, legislative leadership didn’t approve

Other Pertinent Legislation
- HB 2, General Appropriations Act – Passed
  o Included funding for Local Government Center ($180,000 in extension base)
- HB 10, Long-Range Information Technology Appropriations – Passed
- HB 33, Appropriate money for new or expanded mental health crisis intervention – Passed
- HB 34, Appropriate money for additional secure psychiatric detention beds – Passed
- HB 35, Appropriate money for short-term voluntary mental health treatment – Passed
- HB 37, Revising laws regarding domestic violence and child abuse evidence admissibility – Died in Standing Committee
- HB 47, Appropriate money for youth crisis diversion pilot projects – Passed
- HB 84, Generally revise election laws – Passed
HB 101, Generally revise administrative laws of the MPERA retirement systems – Passed
HB 123, Generally revise public records laws – Passed
  - Closed meeting minutes: Sign and date, put in personnel file; only open by district court order
  - Access to Info: Safety and security exceptions
HB 211, Require POW/MIA flag be displayed at certain times and places – Passed
  - Order of flags when flown on a single pole: National Flag, then POW/MIA, then State
HB 223, Revise cost of death certificates and use for funding board of funeral service – Passed
  - $15 for first certified copy and $6 for each additional if ordered at the same time
HB 228, Increase coal board funding until June 30, 2017 – Passed
  - Order of flags when flown on a single pole: National Flag, then POW/MIA, then State
HB 229, Clarify definition of commercial motor vehicle for emergency vehicles – Passed
  - Post on publicly accessible website
HB 304, Allow for electronic address confirmation for biennial absentee ballot list – Passed
  - Email/Website
HB 366, Revise county district court clerk and justice of peace compensation laws – Passed
  - $15 for first certified copy and $6 for each additional if ordered at the same time
HB 389, Require department of revenue review of tax exempt properties – Passed
  - One-time, establish base, up to homeowner to update
HB 401, Provide for an interim judicial redistricting commission – Passed
  - Our representative will be Dave Schulz
HB 463, Revise laws related to asset forfeiture – Passed
HB 483, Raising pension benefit in VFCA – Passed
  - From $150 to $175
HB 504, Revise laws related to consolidation of rural fire districts and areas – Passed
HB 512, Establish an eastern Montana crime laboratory – Passed
HB 557, Revise laws regarding legal fences – Passed
HB 627, Task force to study the office of public defender – Passed
HJ 29, Study membership-based health services to determine insurance, cost impacts – Passed
HJ 7, Study next-generation 9-1-1 – Passed
SB 5, Establish all-hazard incident management teams and provide funding authority – Passed
  - Teams have access to Governor’s emergency funding immediately; the idea is the soon the mitigation the smaller the incident
SB 20, Reallocate metal mines license tax – Passed
SB 90, Revise penalties eliminating jail time for certain misdemeanors – Died in Standing Committee
SB 124, Require certain boards to record and publish meetings in video or audio format – Passed
SB 139, Revise jury selection laws – Passed
SB 157, Generally revise tax reappraisal laws – Passed
  - From 6-year to 2-year reappraisals; eliminated phase-in and exemption amount for residential properties; homeowner-assessed value will be slightly higher; will have significant effect on taxable value in different areas (Eastern Montana will see huge increases; dry land will go down somewhat; irrigated ag land will go up)
SB 224, Create a commission to study criminal justice system – Passed
SB 249, Generally revise energy performance contracting laws – Passed
SB 259, Revising workers’ compensation and occupational health and safety assessments – Passed
SB 335, Adjust remuneration for county tax appeal boards – Passed
SB 405, Creating the Healthy Montana Act to Expand Health Care Coverage – Passed
SB 411, Plan for the closure of Montana developmental center at Boulder – Passed
SB 418, Authorizing transfers to implement provisions of House Bill 2 – Passed
SJ 9, Resolution on Medicare/Medicaid expansion – Passed
SR 46, Confirm appointees to public employees’ retirement board – Passed
Additional Legislative Notes

- **Land Use Bills:** We have Tara DePuy, MACo JPIA Land Use Attorney, covering land use issues for us at the Capitol. This is the first session since the inception of the subdivision and platting act that it was not amended—there were attempts but nothing passed. Tara did a good job derailing bad bills.
- There were several bills related to “attorney’s fees” and “public’s right-to-know;” the bills that passed say “may recover attorney’s fees” instead of “shall”
- Some bills that did not pass included study on transportation, major infrastructure bills, work comp fraud, sheriffs’ pension funding, and eliminating jail time for certain misdemeanors.

Other District Business

- **PILT:** Fully funded for one year; payment is split
  - Most of payment will come in June and the rest in October
  - Congress needs to do something; no legislation thus far
  - NACo/WIR on top of this issue
- **DNRC Wildfire Rehabilitation, Maureen Davey**
  - Stillwater County had an almost 3000-acre fire
  - DNRC rehabilitation came up; we had different definitions
    - Fire Management Plan has new language

**Secondary Roads Program, FLAP & STIP:** Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation

- Federal Lands Access Program
- Secondary Roads
- STIP

Meeting Adjourned