

**MACO District Meeting
Districts 8, 9 and 12
August 14, 2008
Dempsey's Tavern
White Sulphur Springs, MT.**

Welcome & introductions: Commissioner Tom Lythgoe, Jefferson County opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Present were:

Dist. 8: Gail Vennes, Broadwater County, Tom Lythgoe, Ken Webber, Dave Keish, Jefferson County, Andy Hunthausen, Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County.

Dist. 9- Steve White, Gallatin County, Herb Townsend, Jamie Doggett, Bernie Lucas, Meagher County, no members present from Park County.

Dist. 12- Mike McGinley, Tom Rice, Beaverhead County, Marilyn Ross, Madison County, Susie Browning, Granite County, Dwight O'Hara, Gail Jones, Powell County.

MACo officers: Mike McGinley, 1st Vice President, Carl Seilstad, 2nd Vice President

MACo Executives: Harold Blatte, Executive Director, Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Guests: Dave Lewis, Senate District 42, Pamela Hanley-Cote, Senator Testers office Butte Division, Mike Waite, Congressman Rehberg's Office.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Doggett moved to accept May 15, 2008 district minutes, Commissioner Murray seconded, motion carried.

Nomination for MACo 2nd Vice-President:

Commissioner Doggett moved to reaffirm John Ostlund's nomination for 2nd Vice-President of MACo, Commissioner Murray seconded, motion passed.

Election of District Chairs and Vice-Chairs (all are two-year terms):

District Chair:

Andy Hunthausen Dist. 8
Bernie Lucas Dist. 9
Tom Rice Dist. 12

District Vice- Chair:

Gail Vennes, Dist 8
Steve White Dist. 9
Susie Browning Dist. 12

Staff Report:

MACo has issued an alert regarding the calculation of deputy salaries to comply with a recent Supreme Court Decision.

Staffing changes in Helena, the legal department will move in house at the Helena office. The 2009 Annual Convention will be in Helena with host Lewis and Clark and surrounding counties.

Four bylaw changes will be presented at annual conference.

The Court Administrator's office has \$90,000 to use by the end of the fiscal year. It is not spent so monies will go to MACo, and not go back to general fund. It will be available for courtroom security. Judicial Districts will be created in larger counties and space will be required to be provided by counties, which will require expenditure of funds.

STIP- Senator Lewis discussed the possibility of introducing a bill in upcoming session isolating local government from any write down of value on invested funds.

Sheryl Wood-

2008 annual surveys are out and can be done by board or individual members. MACo board passed budgets and there will be two legislative interns for session.

DES Emergency Management Training Grants: Sheryl noted that DES Directors had cautioned counties not to sign as state is keeping some of the funds. She asked that Commissioners work with their DES Coordinators to see if there are any issues within their counties.

Legislative update:

There will probably be a bill to deal with stream access and bridge encroachments. Gravel pits will be an issue in upcoming session; there are a number of bills coming out of the Fire Suppression Committee, and the Law & Justice committee is considering making counties responsible for health care costs on detainees.

MACO officer report- Mike McGinley, 1st Vice-President reported on NACO convention and discussed PILT and Secure Rural Schools. Carl Seilstad, 2nd Vice-President, reported to group concerning the "detainee" medical bill and noted it is unfair to ask taxpayers to pay inmate medical when they can't pay their own.

Resolutions:

Harold and Sheryl reviewed resolutions that had been submitted by districts to date, including:

Tom Lythgoe, Jefferson County, proposed a resolution allowing counties to set their office hours and possibly have four day work weeks. Commissioner Murray moved and Commissioner Doggett seconded to approve. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Farm Service Bill and the proposed \$250 million for Plum Creek. Commissioner Weber noted his concerns that these funds would be paid for by not reauthorizing PILT.

Meeting Adjourned:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.