



# DISTRICTS 8, 9 & 12 MEETING MINUTES

JULY 15, 2022 | DISTRICT 8 HOSTED | BROADWATER COUNTY, THE LODGE OF TOWNSEND

## COUNTIES IN ATTENDANCE

### District 8

Broadwater  
 Jefferson  
 Lewis & Clark

### District 9

Gallatin  
 Meagher  
 Park

### District 12

Anaconda-Deer Lodge  
 Beaverhead  
 Butte-Silver Bow  
 Granite  
 Madison  
 Powell

## CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE

Vice Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ROLL CALL

Deputy Director Jason Rittal called the roll. All members were represented in Districts 8 and 9. There were only 2 of 6 members represented in District 12; therefore, there was no quorum for District 12.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

### Minutes

Vice Chair Kirsch asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from last year to which there was a motion and a second received. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Next Meeting Location

Beaverhead County offered to host the 2023 District Meeting to which there were no objections.

### District Chair & Vice Chair Elections

District 8: Commissioner Kirsch of Jefferson County was nominated as Chair, and Commissioner Randolph of Broadwater County was nominated as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations made; therefore, Commissioners Kirsch and Randolph were elected via acclamation.

District 9: Current Chair, Commissioner Berg of Park County, and current Vice Chair, Commissioner MacFarlane of Gallatin County, were nominated by each other to remain in their current positions for another term. There were no further nominations made, therefore Commissioners Berg and MacFarlane were re-elected via acclamation.

District 12: The Chair and Vice Chair will remain in place until another District Meeting is held due to no quorum being present.

## MACo Officer Nominations – 2nd Vice President

During the previous meetings, two nominations were received: Commissioner Vero of Missoula County and Commissioner Woods of Liberty County. Commissioner McGinley expressed support of Commissioner Woods' nomination by nominating her again.

## MACO PRESIDENT'S & OFFICERS' REPORTS

President Strouf provided an update on his year in office thus far including attendance at the County Leadership Institute, replacing Commissioner Hart on the NACo Board of Directors, and attending the NACo Board Meeting in Atlanta along with the Presidents & Executives meeting and NACo's Conference where he additionally served on some committees. President Strouf also attended MACo's Broadband Summit and served on the MPERA Board of Directors.

1st Vice President Zylawy expressed his gratitude for being asked to serve and pledged to do his best in the coming year as he steps into the President's position and his responsibilities become much more diverse.

Fiscal Officer McGinley reported that MACo has had clean audits for a while now and that that this year's audit would begin shortly and be ready for the Board at that Annual Meeting. He ended by stating that if there were ever any questions about MACo's financials, to simply ask—all the information is available.

## MACO UPDATES & FY 2023 BUDGET

Director Bryson and Deputy Director Rittal gave an overview of the legislative process for MACo, and the new makeup of the lobbying team. Shantil will not lobby but will be helping from the office. Jason will be the Legislative Director with a focus on appropriations and orchestrating our efforts. Eric will take Clerk & Recorders and Tax and Karen Alley will take land use, some local government, and fill in where needed.

They then outlined the resolutions that had come forward thus far as well as those that are anticipated and followed with a discussion on the types of legislation that can be expected including elections and property tax reform as well as possible attacks on the Entitlement Share and MACo's ability to lobby. The group had a robust conversation about pending legislation, other issues such as the use of the marijuana tax, mental health, state mandates, and county budget issues.

Other Item of Note: ARPA still has the additional payment slated for counties that Treasury is to get out by the end of the fiscal year. More to follow. The State has applied for Broadband planning funds.

## MACO LEGISLATIVE REPORT & DISCUSSION

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## RESOLUTIONS

### Two Resolutions – Gallatin County

Gallatin County brought forward two resolutions for consideration:

1. Expert Witness Fees: During a previous session, the statute regarding expert witness fees was changed to have the Department of Justice pay, instead of the Supreme Court. It also included a key word change from “shall” to “may,” which has now come back to haunt counties. The resolution would compel the Department of Justice to pay the fees.
2. Public Health Authority: Address the broad language in MCA 7-5-121 as revised last session, because it now impacts land use regulation, which is much broader than the intention of limiting public health authority. The resolution would clarify that 7-5-121 does not apply to land use regulations.

Motion and second to approve moving the resolution forward to the resolutions committee. Motion carried.

Both resolutions received motions and seconds to move them forward to the Resolutions Committee, and both motions carried.

*MACo staff departed to embark on the journey to their next destination, and MDT along with their Consulting Team working on the Bridge Study took over.*

## MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Secondary Roads, Federal Lands Access Program & STIP: Andy White, MDT

Off-System Bridge Study & Implementation Plan: Lisa Gray, HDR