



## 92nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE

53 of 55 MACo member counties attended the 92nd Annual Conference in Glendive on September 23-26. Outgoing President Gary Fjelstad was honored at the President's Reception and Banquet on the first night with over 200 people in attendance. Margo Smith, legendary country singer from Branson, MO, entertained with a selection of her hits.

A variety of speakers presented during two general sessions. Kurt Alme Director of Montana Department of Revenue, and Dave Gibson, newly-appointed Business Officer for the Governor's Economic Opportunity Office, both stressed the integral roles county governments have in their work. Susan Fox, Research Analyst from the Legislative Services Division, reviewed the national and state directives for adjusting commission district boundaries as a result of the 2000 Census. Mike McCourt, Energy Coordinator for the Montana Local Government Energy Office, presented suggestions for county government energy planning and offered help in implementation of the plans. The attendees were treated to an especially humorous presentation of "Attitude Virus" by Terry Fleck, Professor from Bismarck State College.

The voting delegates approved Lewistown as the location for the 2003 Annual Conference and elected two new officers. The new Second Vice President is Carol Brooker, Commissioner from Sanders County and the new Fiscal Officer is Dan Watson, Commissioner from Rosebud County. They join President Dean Harmon, Roosevelt County; 1st Vice President Victor Miller, Blaine County; Urban County Representative Mike Murray, Lewis and Clark County, and Past President Gary Fjelstad, Rosebud County.

All MACo Committees met on Tuesday morning and a series of workshops were presented Tuesday afternoon. Clint Blackwood, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration for Montana, reviewed the national perspective and focused attention to the planning effort by regional groups recently formed in Montana.

### HIGHLIGHTS—INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidential Messages .....	3
Recreational Trails Grant .....	4
Attorney General Opinions.....	5
Salary Increases and Base Pay .....	7
Training, Training, Training .....	9
NACo Reports .....	10

### NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT DEAN HARMON SPEAKS DURING GENERAL SESSION



Left to right: Outgoing Past President Harold Blattie  
Stillwater County  
Incoming 1st Vice President Victor Miller  
Blaine County  
Incoming Past President Gary Fjelstad  
Rosebud County  
Sylvia Harmon, Roosevelt County

**“HELLO” FROM HARMON**



Dear Elected Officials of Montana,

First, you all should know how much I am looking forward to leading MACo as our representative for the next twelve months. To serve as your president is one of the highlights of my life.

Second, the challenges before us are many. One such issue on the agenda is the need to examine the complex legislation passed last session and ascertain if it is implemented and functioning as expected to fill the needs of the counties. If it is not, it may be necessary to propose some legislative adjustments to improve that function. Each county has the obligation to do the same review and inform our association with thoughts on improvements. Resolutions may be in order.

We all know there is strength in numbers and cooperation. Any association is only as strong as the combined strength of its members. It is my objective to increase the effectiveness of MACo in Montana by involving more elected officials in issues and finding results that we and our constituents and live by.

**MACo News**  
Published Monthly  
Montana Association of Counties  
2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602  
Phone (406) 457-7207 Fax (406) 442-5238  
E-mail: [macopb@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:macopb@maco.cog.mt.us)  
Webpage: <http://maco.cog.mt.us>  
**Subscriptions are \$25 per year.**

**THANK YOU  
TO  
CONFERENCE  
SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS**

**SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS**

- American General/VALIC, Missoula
- Black Mountain Software, Polson / Great Falls
- Entranco, Inc., Helena
- National Association of Counties, Wash. DC
- Roscoe Steel & Culvert Co., Billings
- Tractor and Equipment Company  
Billings  
Great Falls  
Williston, ND
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Idaho Falls

**SPONSORS**

- Brentwood Services, Inc., Brentwood, TN
- Community First Bank, Glendive
- Fidelity Exploration & Production, Glendive
- Heritage Bank, Glendive
- Intermountain Administrators, Inc., Missoula
- Labor Relations Personnel, Missoula
- MDU Resources Group, Helena / Glendive
- Montana Association of County Agents
- Montana State 4-H Leaders Council
- PPL Montana, Helena
- Porter W. Yett Company, Portland, OR
- QCI Asset Management, Inc., Pittsford, NY
- Raymond James Financial Services, Helena
- Stockman Bank, Glendive
- WILLIS, Helena
- Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company
- Valley Bank of Helena

**EXHIBITORS**

- AFLAC, Helena
- Computer Software Associates, LLC, Billings
- Employee Benefit Management Systems
- ESRI, Olympia, WA
- Independent Diversified Insurance, Great Falls
- Montana Department of Commerce-TSEP
- Montana State University-Pollution Prevention  
Local Technical Assistance Program
- Montana Department of Revenue
- Montana Local Government Energy Office
- Montana Weed Association
- Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena
- Myhre-Atwood Architects & Planners, Billings
- Northwest Truck & Trailer Sales, Inc., Billings
- 1 Contractors Solutions, Billings
- RDO Equipment Company, Billings
- 3 Rivers Communications, Fairfield
- United Micro Data, Idaho Falls, ID



**INCOMING**

**2001-2002 MACo EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Mike Murray, Urban Representative**  
Lewis and Clark County
- Dan Watson, Fiscal Officer**  
Rosebud County
- Carol Brooker, Second Vice President**  
Sanders County
- Dean Harmon, President**  
Roosevelt County
- Victor Miller, First Vice President**  
Blaine County
- Gary Fjelstad, Past President**  
Roosevelt County



**OUTGOING**

**2000-2001 MACo EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Mike Murray, Urban Representative,**  
Lewis and Clark County
- Alan Underdal, Fiscal Officer**  
Toole County
- Harold Blattie, Past President**  
Stillwater County
- Victor Miller, Second Vice President**  
Blaine County
- Dean Harmon, First Vice President**  
Roosevelt County
- (not pictured) Gary Fjelstad, President**  
Rosebud County

**2001-2002**

**MACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President**  
Dean Harmon, Roosevelt County
- First Vice President**  
Victor Miller, Blaine County
- Second Vice President**  
Carol Brooker, Sanders County
- Fiscal Officer**  
Dan Watson, Rosebud County
- Urban Representative**  
Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark Co.
- Past President**  
Gary Fjelstad, Rosebud County

- District 1**  
Carol Kienenberger, Phillips Co.
- District 2**  
Todd Devlin, Prairie County
- District 3**  
William Duffield, Fallon County
- District 4**  
Doug Kaercher, Hill County
- District 5**  
Arnold Gettel, Teton County
- District 6**  
Joy Schanz, Golden Valley Co.
- District 7**  
John Prinkki, Carbon County
- District 8**  
Sam Samson, Jefferson County
- District 9**  
Jennifer Mitchell, Gallatin County
- District 10**  
Howard Gipe, Flathead County
- District 11**  
Judy Stang, Mineral County
- District 12**  
Ted Coffman, Madison County

- Attorneys**  
Leo Gallagher, Lewis/Clark Co.
- Clerks and Recorders**  
Vickie Zeier, Missoula County
- Clerks of District Courts**  
Dena Tippets, Hill County
- Coroners**  
Tim Wong, Cascade County
- Justices of Peace**  
Gary Olsen, Broadwater County
- Superintendents of Schools**  
Dottie Donovan, Beaverhead Co.
- Sheriffs**  
Chuck Maxwell, Yellowstone Co.
- Treasurers**  
Susan Miller, Jefferson County

**FY 2001**

**PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

ANACONDA DEER LODGE.....	202,745
BEAVERHEAD .....	476,624
BIG HORN .....	45,669
BLAINE .....	464,651
BROADWATER .....	308,834
BUTTE SILVER BOW.....	244,121
CARBON .....	515,820
CARTER .....	94,327
CASCADE .....	224,245
CHOUTEAU.....	172,083
CUSTER.....	381,486
DANIELS .....	222
DAWSON.....	71,616
FALLON.....	134,157
FERGUS.....	538,997
FLATHEAD.....	1,368,715
GALLATIN .....	774,200
GARFIELD.....	96,588
GLACIER.....	450,365
GOLDEN VALLEY .....	33,128
GRANITE.....	116,085
HILL .....	53,627
JEFFERSON .....	476,105
JUDITH BASIN .....	144,502
LAKE.....	166,115
LEWIS AND CLARK .....	1,125,350
LIBERTY.....	37,475
LINCOLN .....	267,350
MADISON .....	435,001
McCONE.....	147,062
MEAGHER.....	100,636
MINERAL.....	176,941
MISSOULA .....	697,444
MUSSELSHELL.....	98,526
PARK .....	688,024
PETROLEUM .....	37,230
PHILLIPS .....	337,034
PONDERA.....	110,651
POWDER RIVER.....	124,482
POWELL.....	404,755
PRAIRIE .....	89,995
RAVALLI .....	1,218,182
RICHLAND .....	58,730
ROOSEVELT.....	4,534
ROSEBUD .....	365,274
SANDERS .....	139,894
SHERIDAN .....	2,002
STILLWATER .....	209,436
SWEET GRASS .....	262,470
TETON.....	296,438
TOOLE.....	50,547
TREASURE .....	845
VALLEY .....	488,471
WHEATLAND .....	67,624
WIBAUX.....	29,287
YELLOWSTONE .....	87,028

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### October

- 4-5 **MACo Interviews for Assistant Director**
- 8 Columbus Day Holiday
- 8-10 Workforce Investment Boards, Billings
- 9 ITS-CIST Meeting; 9:00 am
- 9-12 DES Orientation for Elected Officials; State office
- 10 Council of County Officials; 10 am; MACo Office**
- 11 NRIS meeting; 1:00 pm; State Library Conference Room
- 15-19 Association of State Executives; Lake Tahoe
- 22 Land Use Training; Big Timber; 9:30 am
- 24 Land Use Training; Helena; 9:30 am
- 24 Lobbying Rules Committee; 9:00 am
- 25 Clerks & Recorders; MACo Conference Room; 10:00 am
- 26 Land Use Training; Superior; 9:30 am

### November

- 12 Veterans Day Holiday**
- 14 National GIS Day Open House; State Library
- 14-17 NACo Workforce/Human Services; Ft. Lauderdale**
- 22 Thanksgiving Day Holiday**
- 27-29 JPIA / JPA Joint Trustees meeting**

### December

- TBA MACo Board of Directors Retreat
- 13 Council on Quality Workforce; Belgrade
- 25 Christmas Holiday

## TRAIL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is now making available \$1.4 Million for trail projects planned for 2002 and 2003. Applications for the Recreational Trails Program funds can be downloaded from FWP's web page at

[www.fwp.state.mt.us](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us)

The deadline for completed applications is November 23. To request a hard copy or additional information, call FWP at 444-4584 or 444-7642.

The Recreational Trails Program, one part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), is administered by FWP with oversight by the Federal Highway Administration. Priorities for funding include development of new trails near homes and workplaces, trails that connect communities together or with the backcountry and trails that interpret unique historical or natural resource sites. Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing trails in the backcountry is also a priority.

FWP provided \$714,000 to 41 different agencies and private organizations last year for the development of new recreational trails and maintenance and rehabilitation of existing trails. Approved projects included development of 12 new urban hiking and bicycle trails on city and county properties and maintenance of portions of 240 backcountry trails on federal lands. Examples of projects funded last year include, among others, urban trail development in Billings, Missoula, Fort Benton, Lewistown and in Fallon County Park near Baker. Backcountry projects include maintenance of horse, hike and mountain bike trails and grooming of ski trails and snowmobile trails in every national forest in Montana.

## DON'T FORGET!

Please send a copy of your 2001-2002 budget to MACo, when you have completed the form. Budget information is used to generate reports and information for state agencies and the legislature.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNTY EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION

How do you provide for county elected officials and county employees who are traveling and need government identification?

Please send copies of cards or the forms of identification you use to MACo by FAX, email or regular mail.

*"Even Napoleon had his Watergate."*  
Yogi Berra

### COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner John Morrison will hold community roundtable discussions on "Affordable Health Care: What can our state do to assure access to affordable health care coverage?"

Employers, employees, health care providers, insurance agents, community leaders, and all interested persons are invited. To request more information about the roundtable discussions email [cclifford@state.mt.us](mailto:cclifford@state.mt.us) or call 1-800-332-6148. Discussions will be held from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on the following dates:

October 16th -- Great Falls  
University of Great Falls  
Absolon Lounge  
1301 20 Street South

November 13th -- Billings  
Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center  
Deaconess Hospital  
2800 10th Avenue North

November 5th -- Kalispell  
Flathead Valley Community College  
Board Room  
777 Grandview

Jan 8, 2002 -- Butte  
Montana Tech Commons  
South Campus  
25 Basin Creek Road

November 6th -- Missoula  
DoubleTree Edgewater Hotel  
100 Madison

Jan 10, 2002 -- Bozeman  
GranTree Inn  
I-90 & N 7th Avenue

November 12th -- Glendive  
Dawson Community College Lecture Hall - UC 102  
300 College Drive

# Attorney General OPINIONS

## Volume 49 No. 5

Requested by:

David Gliko, Great Falls City Attorney

Question:

1. Under then-existing law, did the City of Great Falls have authority to levy an additional two mills for airport purposes under MCA 67-10-402 (1999), in light of the fact that the city had not levied any mills under MCA 67-10-402 (1998)?

Held:

1. The mill levy cap provided in MCA 15-10-420(1)(a) (2001), as amended by HB 124, is calculated with reference to the total property tax assessed in the previous year, and not by reference to the amount levied for any particular purpose in any prior year.

2. **Local governments may not derive “carry forward” authority** under MCA 15-10-420(1)(b) (2001) based on the difference between the mill levy set in 2000 and the amount the local government would have been authorized to levy under MCA 15-10-420 (1) (1999).

3. **The “carry forward” authority provided in MCA 15-10-420(1) (b) (2001)**, as amended by HB 124, will be available whenever the local government levies fewer mills than would be authorized to reach the mill levy cap provided in subsection (1)(a), and is measured by the difference between the number of mills actually levied and the number of mills the local government would have been allowed to levy to reach the cap.

4. **The “carry forward” mills may be levied in a future year and expended by the local government for any lawful purpose it chooses.**

## Volume 49 No. 6

Requested by:

Peter Blouke, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

Question:

Are sellers and marketers that are statutorily exempted from the bonding and registration requirements of the Montana Telemarketing Registration and Fraud Prevention Act also exempted from the remaining provisions of the Act?

Held:

Telemarketers who are exempt from the registration and bonding requirements of the Montana Telemarketing Registration and Fraud Prevention Act are not exempt from other provisions of the Act.

Requested by:

## Volume 49 No. 7

J. Allen Bradshaw, Granite County Attorney

Questions:

1. Is a local governing body required to adopt subdivision regulation standards for water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal that are at least as stringent as the standards set forth in **the Montana Department of Environmental Quality’s regulations?**

2. Is a local governing body required to incorporate by reference into its subdivision regulations the standards for water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal adopted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality?

3. When must a proposed subdivision undergo review to show compliance with local subdivision regulations?

Held:

1. Absent the findings required by MCA 76-3-511(2), a local governing body must adopt subdivision regulations for water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal that are as stringent as the standards adopted by the Department of Environmental Quality under the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act.

2. MCA 76-3-511 grants local governments the authority to incorporate by reference comparable state regulations or guidelines, but local governments retain discretion to determine the best method of adopting minimum requirements.

3. Review of a proposed subdivision for compliance with local subdivision regulations must occur at the preliminary plat stage.

Requested by:

## Volume 49 No. 8

George H. Corn, Ravalli County Attorney

Question:

Under what circumstances may a local governing body remove a member of an airport authority commission?

Held:

An airport authority commissioner may only be removed for **cause during his or her term of appointment**. “For cause” means some type of misconduct or neglect of duty. As long as commissioners are exercising powers authorized by law, they are not subject to removal during their term of office.



# COUNTY NEWS

## **WATER**

ROSEBUD COUNTY's Tongue River Water Users Group has filed suit against DEQ to stop a permit to dump waste water from coal-bed methane processing. The water is high in sodium bicarbonate, which binds the native clay-like soil so much that root systems can't grow.

GALLATIN COUNTY officials say that people are illegally drawing water from the Gallatin River at the expense of those who hold legitimate water rights. Some people don't know they're breaking the law; others are flagrant abusers, including putting pumps in the river at night. District Court Water Commissioner will go door to door to inform people.

STILLWATER COUNTY's access to Stillwater River is in controversy following the location of a new road and bridge with no access to the river.

BIG HORN COUNTY is facing problems from beavers, as river levels decline. In one five mile stretch, 30 beaver dams were found.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY officials toured a 45-mile stretch of Yellowstone River to view water projects and natural stretches on the longest free-flowing river in the United States.

HILL COUNTY is constructing off-creek springs in Beaver Creek Park to keep cattle in the mountains, not on the road.

LAKE COUNTY, federal and tribal officials met to address Flathead Lake levels, which affect power generation, endangered species protection, recreation, flood control, irrigation, and tribal resources.

## **SOLID WASTE**

SANDERS COUNTY received an EPA grant to begin a vermi-composting operation to reduce food and yard waste brought to transfer stations. The county hopes to lessen the yardage of solid waste which is hauled to Missoula County for disposal.

ANACONDA DEER LODGE is partnering with AWARE, Inc. (a behavioral services program) to introduce worms, drip water system and rotating of windrows to reduce compost materials and to free up valuable landfill space.

## **BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS**

CARBON COUNTY Treasurer's Office and Sanitarian's Office now accept Mastercard/VISA for transactions. A minimal service charge will be added.

FLATHEAD COUNTY real estate and banking can now access computerized plat maps, legal descriptions, tax and appraisal information. The County is charging no fees.

## **HEALTH**

CHOUTEAU and TETON COUNTIES are under rabies quarantine for sixty days, beginning September 1.

HILL COUNTY has an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis, a parasitic diarrheal disease. Crypto is highly contagious and contracted through the mouth.

FLATHEAD COUNTY has named its new city/county health building for Earl Bennett, who worked 16 years as the County Administrator.

## **BUYING...**

FERGUS COUNTY purchased a home for onsite year-round fairgrounds management. The funds came from one-time excess funding from state Legislative changes to the welfare department. The modular home had been set up for the Fair.

CASCADE COUNTY will not buy Tower Rock, a Lewis and Clark landmark, after residents said it should remain with the State. MT. Department of Transportation wanted to sell or trade for one acre of county land in order to widen a road.

GALLATIN COUNTY is proposing to use Open Space Bond revenue to purchase conservation easements on agricultural land. The landowner gets a tax break and up-front payment for voluntarily giving up all future development rights.

## **...and SELLING**

VALLEY COUNTY has 42,000 acres of tax deed lands. The Commissioners chose to sell some sections as surplus property rather than as tax deed lands. A school district and grazing districts brought suit because surplus property revenue is not shared with the districts, as tax deed revenue would have been.

ANACONDA DEER LODGE sold three lots for business development from land deeded to them by ARCO in 1994.

DAWSON COUNTY could not sell pieces of property in subdivisions because the bid requirement was thousands of dollars more than the property is worth because of the many SIDs attached to the property. In addition, they donated one piece to the City of Glendive.

## **MAIL BALLOTS**

PARK COUNTY approved a mail ballot on the question of raising the mill levy for the Sheriff's Department to add three deputies.

GRANITE COUNTY mailed ballots to vote that the County Commission levy annually for nursing home maintenance.

## **WEEDS**

RAVALLI COUNTY received complaints from an organic farmer who claimed that the county sprayed in their "I Control My Own" section of the county road.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY received "Beaverhead/Deer Lodge National Forest Noxious Weed Control Draft Environmental Statement", which was "eagerly anticipated by the weed killing community".

DAWSON COUNTY Weed Board will be running its own program, following an agreement with the County Commissioners.

ANACONDA DEER LODGE Weed Warriors held another weed pull recently and stressed the importance of hiring licensed businesses for weed control.

## **UNINCORPORATED TOWNS**

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY residents (150) volunteered to fix roads and streets in Lincoln, rather than form an RID.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY is looking for ways to fix a leaky septic system in the town of Jackson.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY is seeking funding to stabilize a meandering channel of the Yellowstone River before it erodes enough to flood the town of Huntley.

FERGUS COUNTY landowners in the Kendall area are contesting water use and reclamation efforts by the local mining corporation.

## **MOONLIGHTING**

LINCOLN COUNTY is considering an expansion of its Internet provider service, Kootenet. The county is the lone exception to the new law prohibiting county government from owning and operating such a service. Lincoln County has been part of this business since 1994.

CASCADE COUNTY is buying a new printing press, which will be used to do jobs for the city, county and school district.

GRANITE COUNTY has approved a proposal to restore hydropower electricity generation at Georgetown Lake. The County has yet to complete the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permitting process.

## **COURTS**

400 current inmates fall under a new decision that requires re-filing of probation violation cases, if a hearing was not held within 36 hours of the violation arrest. In CASCADE COUNTY, where half the cases may be, emphasis will be

**COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARDS  
SALARY INCREASES AND BASE PAY—2001-2002**

BY CLASS OF COUNTY

<b><u>CLASS I-A</u></b>	<b><u>Low</u></b>	<b><u>High</u></b>
Percent Raise	3.4%	20.58%
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$39,062	\$56,118
<b><u>CLASS I-B</u></b>		
Percent Raise	3.4%	10.158%
2001-2002 Base Salary	28,502	\$33,426
<b><u>CLASS 2</u></b>		
Percent Raise	3.4%	\$5,000
2001-2002 Base Salary	24,965	\$37,216
<b><u>CLASS 3</u></b>		
Percent Raise	2.67%	\$3,000
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$26,600	\$35,387
<b><u>CLASS 4</u></b>		
Percent Raise	9%	11.81%
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$27,000	\$29,031
<b><u>CLASS 5</u></b>		
Percent Raise	3.4%	13%
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$24,081	\$29,020
<b><u>CLASS 6</u></b>		
Percent Raise	3.4%	18.4%
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$21,081	\$26,940
<b><u>CLASS 7</u></b>		
Percent Raise	3.4%	10%
2001-2002 Base Salary	\$21,369	\$22,810

*A county-by-county list of this information is available online at the MACo website <http://\maco.cog.mt.us> or by FAX from the MACo office. Give Marie a call at 457-7207.*



# INSURANCE INSIGHTS

By Greg Jackson  
MACo Insurance Marketing

## **THE IMPACT**

As we all know, the impact of the terrorist attacks on September 11 was far-reaching in so many ways. Although miniscule in comparison, the question arises, "How will the attacks impact the JPIA Property and Liability Pool in light of all the property and potential liability losses?"

Even prior to September 11, the insurance industry was in a "hard market", which has been evident this last renewal. The JPIA pool did experience an average 8% increase in property re-insurance, less than experienced by most traditional carriers. Liability re-insurance premiums also increased.

In both cases, the premium increases were attributed to the "hard market". The fortunate thing is that the property re-insurance premium for the JPIA Program is only 12% of the total premium. Also fortunate is the liability re-insurance premium provided by Midwest is guaranteed for the next policy year.

Therefore, outside of an anticipated increase in the property re-insurance premium, the impact on the JPIA property and liability pool should be minimal.

The JPIA pool can rely on staying the course.— increasing members, increasing equity, providing comprehensive coverage, and decreasing loss ratios.

## **WELCOME TO OLINE BARTA Administrative Assistant**



The new voice on the MACo phone belongs to Oline Barta, who begins work at the Association office as Administrative Assistant on October 1, 2001. She brings to MACo ten years of office reception and staff assistance experience. Oline and her husband, Steve, spent 17 years farming in Phillips County before moving to Helena the first time, living there for five years. They moved to Utah and recently returned to Helena.

Oline's education background includes a degree in philosophy from University of Montana and coursework from Helena College of Technology. Her work experience includes settings in a medical office and in a real estate office, which she says, "required attention to detail."

## Board of Directors Member District 3



### **Willie Duffield Commissioner Fallon County Elected 1985-1990; 1997**

Prior Occupation	Rancher, Trucking Company, Oilfield Contractor
Favorite Part of the Job	Planning for the future, watching those plans come together and being part of the process
Least Favorite Part	<b>Having to tell someone they didn't get the job</b>
Most Important Goals	To find ways to provide the services we do without raising taxes; to become more efficient in the delivery of these services
Personal	Married 26 years to my wife, Marcee; have three grown children and two grandchildren
Motto	<b>Where there's a will, there's a way.</b>



# TRAINING

# TRAINING

and more TRAINING

ORIENTATION  
TO  
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DES)  
(for elected officials)  
OCTOBER 9-12  
HELENA DES OFFICE

This program provides an overview of the emergency management system in Montana, expectations, the people that work within the system and the resources that are available to assist local jurisdictions. It is a four-day training session held in the State DES Helena office. Topics include the Local Government Disaster Information Manual, applicable Montana laws, the state functions and the roles of county officials during an emergency or disaster.

\$35.00 registration fee includes 3 continental breakfasts, 3 lunches, snacks, beverages and course materials. Mileage, per diem, lodging at state rate and registration fee is reimbursable upon successful completion of the course.

Course instructors are state and local professionals who want to establish partnerships and share information in order to improve communications, trust and the networking process for responding to emergencies.

## MACo RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES

- **Back Safety**
- **Safety Committee Assistance**
- **Bloodborne Pathogen Program**
- **Confined Space Entry**
- **Defensive Driving**
- **Department Inspections**
- **Ergonomics / Assessments**
- **Hazard Communication Program**
- **Hearing Conservation Program**
- **Lockout/Tagout Program**
- **Monitoring Air / Noise Sampling**
- **Personal Protective Equipment**
- **Post Incident Review and Investigation**
- **Respiratory Protection Program**
- **Slips, Trips and Falls**
- **Shop Safety**
- **Tools—Hand and Power**
- **Welding, Cutting and Heating**
- **CPR and First Aid**
- **Defibrulators**

## PLANNING 101

### FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The Montana Department of Commerce presents "Planning 101" at the Montana Association of Planners annual conference, Wednesday, October 10 at the Great Northern Hotel in Billings. The day-long session will present the basic requirements of Montana planning law for planning board members, local government officials and members of the public. The agenda includes:

- 9:00 a.m. Planning Boards  
Statutory roles and responsibilities including work-plans, budgets, staffing, public hearings, and legal concepts of planning
- 10:00 a.m. Growth Policies  
Requirements, including development, implementation, evaluation and affects of recent legislation.
- 1:30 p.m. Subdivision Regulations and Review  
Purpose, statutory requirements, basic review procedures, exemptions from review, and the affects of recent legislation
- 3:00 p.m. Zoning  
Purpose and types of zoning, statutory requirements, implementation, enforcement, variances, and boards of adjustments

Contact Janet Cornish, Montana Association of Planners  
954 W. Caledonia Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-7993 janallyce@aol.com

## MONTANA'S NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NRIS)

[www.nris.state.mt.us](http://www.nris.state.mt.us)

Want to know more about our geography, geology, water, climate, or rare plants and animals? The [Montana Natural Resource Information System \(NRIS\)](#), a program of [Montana's State Library](#), makes information on our natural resources easily and readily accessible by serving as a "one stop shop." Assisting government agencies, businesses, and private citizens, NRIS operates a clearinghouse and referral service to link its users with the best sources of information and service.

*"Rene Descartes came up with the theory of coordinate geometry by looking at a fly walk across a tiled ceiling."*

Montana Marketing, Inc. Calendar page for March 26, 2002

# NACO COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SUBMITTED BY

HAROLD BLATTIE

Stillwater County Commissioner

The July Annual Conference opened with an address by Stuart Varney, TV News Anchor and Commentator. He spoke about the expansion of the economy and America's love affair with new "things".

I attended a workshop about the implementation of HR 2389. No new information was presented and I have no reason to think the changes in Montana law will be inadequate for Full Payment transfers. I slipped into a workshop about changes in the insurance industry, which was basically about restructuring changes that pools could consider when coping with the hardening market. It appears to me that the JPIA pool has been way out ahead of many other pools in addressing potential changes, primarily increasing retention levels. The program presenters recommended that, depending on the size of the pool, retention levels be increased to at least \$100,000. It is obvious to me that our pool is very progressive and has taken positive actions to lessen susceptibility in the hard market.

The joint breakfast with Idaho, North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Nevada was well attended. With only one candidate for NACo 2nd VP, there was very little discussion and the time was spent with introductions. We extended an invitation to attend WIR 2002 in Billings.

The highlight of the 2nd General Session was the address by Vice President Cheney's wife, who focused on our national energy policy and the Administration's initiative to open more federal lands for exploration. Christine Todd Whitman, EPA Administrator, signaled a change in EPA policy to provide greater recognition of local control in environmental issues. She challenged NACo to develop a list of EPA practices that are creating problems for local government and to determine three top funding priorities.

I attended two workshops on e-government. The best and most effective practices are state-wide initiatives. There is strong evidence that our "customer" demand for e-services is increasing at a fast pace as Americans become more "wired"

(Continued in next column)

## SUBMITTED BY

VERN PETERSEN

Fergus County Commissioner

The regular Baucus/Department of Transportation quarterly meeting to track TEA 21 Allocations for Montana was held August 16.

The State is doing a very good job of getting the money obligated. However, one could certainly argue the merits of where and for what.

I was disappointed in the meeting in that there was very little time for public comment. Sen. Baucus sent me a personal invitation to the meeting and asked me during the break if it would be alright for him to call on me to report on railroad crossings and on TEA 21 renewal. The public comment period came and about five people spoke and I remained seated, waiting to be called upon and they adjourned.

I talked to Sen. Baucus briefly after the meeting and he apologized for forgetting to ask. I very briefly told him where we were with the NACo task force and he asked me to keep him informed.

~~~~~  
(Blattie, continued)

and accustomed to e-commerce. These observations reinforce my belief that MACo will have to lead e-government issues in Montana.

The annual business meeting was uneventful. The platform and policy changes recommended by the various steering committees were approved with no discussion. The new 2nd VP is Angelo Kyle, Commissioner, Lake County Illinois. Other officers moved up in the chairs, with Javier Gonzales becoming president.

The response to our WIR 2002 booth was very good. People who stopped to talk gave us an indication that we would see a very high attendance. Vic Miller is a wonderful "booth man". He engaged everyone who even came close to the booth and, if there wasn't anyone close by, he went out into the crowd to give literature and to talk to delegates. Our delegation met with NACo representatives to continue planning.

# PLEASE SUPPORT MACo SUPPORTERS

**MORRISON - MAIERLE**  
ENGINEERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

MACo Associate Member Billings • Bozeman  
Helena • Kalispell  
Great Falls • Phoenix 406-442-3050

MORRISON MAIERLE, INC.  
An Employee-Owned Company

**ROSCOE STEEL & CULVERT**  
The **Most Reliable** Source of Products  
Required for County Road Projects


406 / 656-2253  
2847 Hesper Road  
Billings, MT 59102

406 / 542-0345  
5405 Momont Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59802



**PORTER W. YETT**  
Grading & Paving Contractor  
Soil Stabilization


PULVERIZE BLEND  
RECYCLE  
Asphalt Cement Lime  
Bentonite



Highways - Shoulders - Air-ports  
Secondary Roads  
Parking Lots - Haul Roads - Building Sites

**For More Information and Job Estimates**  
Steve Yett Call (503) 282-3251 Hugh O'Neal

Gordon E. Hoven  
Montana Public Finance 406 443-4958



Securities products and services are offered through U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., member SIPC and NYSE, Inc., a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp. 500-0634

*Freedom  
In Retirement*



Through our partnership with National Association of Counties, Nationwide Retirement Solutions provides financial solutions for county employees to prepare for life events through retirement planning, educational programs, and attractive and competitive investment options.

Nationwide's commitment to county employers and employees includes comprehensive communication and administrative support as well as advanced interactive systems and technology.

We're making it easier for you to get the service you need. We can be reached at 877/677-3678 or visit our website at [www.NRSFORU.com](http://www.NRSFORU.com).




- \*Internet
- \*Long Distance
- \*Private Line
- \*Equipment



Call today to learn more about Touch America  
**1.877.671.7426**  
[www.tamerica.com](http://www.tamerica.com)

## Board Of Directors

**President:** Dean Harmon, Commissioner  
Roosevelt County

**1st Vice President:** Victor Miller,  
Commissioner, Blaine County

**2nd Vice President:** Carol Brooker  
Commissioner, Sanders County

**Fiscal Officer:** Dan Watson, Commissioner  
Rosebud County

**Urban Representative:** Mike Murray  
Commissioner, Lewis & Clark Co.

**Past President:** Gary Fjelstad, Commissioner  
Rosebud County

### District Chairs

1. Carol Kienenberger, Phillips County
2. Todd Devlin, Prairie County
3. William Duffield, Fallon County
4. Doug Kaercher, Hill County
5. Arnie Gettel, Teton County
6. Joy Schanz, Golden Valley County
7. John Prinkki, Carbon County
8. Sam Samson, Jefferson County
9. Jennifer Smith Mitchell, Gallatin County
10. Howard Gipe, Flathead County
11. Judy Stang, Mineral County
12. Ted Coffman, Madison County

## Associate Board Members

Leo Gallagher, Lewis and Clark County  
Attorney

Vicki Zeier, Missoula County  
Clerk & Recorder

Dena Tippetts, Hill County  
Clerk of District Court

Tim Wong, Cascade County  
Coroner

Gary A. Olsen, Broadwater County  
Justice of the Peace

Dottie Donovan, Beaverhead County  
Superintendent of Schools

Chuck Maxwell, Yellowstone County  
Sheriff

Susan Miller, Jefferson County  
Treasurer

### Staff

C. Gordon Morris..... Executive Director  
(vacant) ..... Assistant Director  
Carla Smith..... Financial Officer  
Oline Barta..... Administrative Assistant  
Marie McAlear..... Publications Officer  
Karen Houston..... Meeting Planner  
Ray Barnicoat..... Risk Manager  
Emelia McEwen..... Assistant Risk Manager  
Greg Jackson..... JPIA Marketing Director  
Jack Holstrom... Personnel Services Administrator  
Fran Monro .... JPA/JPIA Administrative Assistant

## Affiliate Members

Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Montana Association of County  
Information Technology  
Administrators (MACITA)

Browning Ferris Industries of  
Montana (BFI)

Morrison-Maierle, Inc.  
Board Certified Rehabilitation  
Consultants (BCRC)

MSU Extension Service  
Employee Benefits  
Management Services (EBMS)

D. A. Davidson & Co.

Roscoe Steel & Culvert Co.  
Willis

Montana Association of County  
Road Supervisors (MACRS)

Tractor & Equipment Co.,  
Williston, ND

Tractor & Equipment Co.,  
Great Falls

Tractor & Equipment Co.,  
Billings

Norman Grosfield, Helena  
Montana Power Company

Stahly Engineering

GovWorks, Inc. , Burlingame, CA