



## MACo Second Vice President CANDIDATES



### **JOHN PRINKKI CARBON COUNTY**

ELECTED 1989

#### MACo PARTICIPATION

MACo Board of Directors  
Land Use Planning Committee Vice Chair  
Oil, Gas and Coal Counties Board  
Joint Powers Insurance Authority Board

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Beartooth Rural Electric Cooperative Board - 16 years  
Carbon County Memorial Hospital Board - 10 years  
Roberts Rural Fire District - 6 years  
Red Lodge EMS ambulance driver - 2 years

#### OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION

Dairyman / Farmer / Rancher  
Trained as Electronics Technician

#### SPECIAL ABILITIES

Consensus building and conflict resolution  
Likes working with people.

I believe the main role of the Montana Association of Counties is to provide education and information; the most difficult role for MACo is in defining our legislative agenda. The Board of Directors and Executive Board need to assure the membership that their concerns are given consideration. MACo leadership needs to have the patience to discuss any issue that commissioners have, and be willing and able to give an historic perspective to these issues.

I believe MACo should focus on health insurance, jails, and tax policy.

If I am elected as MACo 2nd VP, I expect to spend a lot of time on the phone, traveling and working with commissioners. We all have roles in defining MACo's mission so I encourage every commissioner to serve on a MACo committee.

### **BILL KENNEDY YELLOWSTONE COUNTY**

ELECTED 1993

#### MACo PARTICIPATION

Health & Human Services Committee Chair  
BOS Workforce Investment Council  
NACo Health Steering Committee  
NACo Rural Action Caucus



#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BLM Resource Advisory Board - 5 years  
Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee - 4 yrs.  
State FAIM Advisory Board - 7 years  
Governor's Statewide Technology Board - recent

#### OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION

Educator  
Masters in Personnel & Guidance

#### SPECIAL ABILITIES

Ten years of legislative experience  
Knowledge of Transportation, Workforce Investment and TANF legislation

By being actively involved in county, state and federal issues through the legislative sessions and national hearings, I feel my experience and knowledge will be an asset for MACo during the next two legislative sessions.

Counties all across Montana are struggling with lack of revenues and the means to provide services. From Ekalaka to Libby and Dillon to Wolf Point, I feel I can adequately represent my fellow commissioners. I am willing to learn, will listen to your needs and will do my very best to lead our organization to great success.

I was thrilled with the county support for my candidacy. Thank you for your continued support and your vote in September.

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA SUMMARY

## Sunday, September 22

Resolutions Committee	1:30
Board of Directors	3:00
President's Reception and Banquet	6:00

## Monday, September 23

Prayer Breakfast	7:00
General Session	9:00
NACo Internet University Program	9:45
District Courts	10:30
Luncheon - NACo President-Elect	Noon
General Session	1:30
BOS Job Training Consortium	2:00
Joint Meeting-Insurance Pools	3:00
Urban Counties	4:00
Hard Rock Mining Counties	4:00
Oil, Gas and Coal Counties	4:00

## Tuesday, September 24

Reservation Counties	7:00
JPIA Trustees	7:00
All MACo Committees Meet	8:30
General Session—Committee Reports	10:00
“Grow Your Nest Egg”	10:30
Luncheon - Governor Judy Martz	Noon
Workshops	
Rules for Lobbying	1:15
Employee Lawsuits	1:15
Intergovernmental Transfers	1:15
Legislative Lobbying	2:45
Contemporary Issues	2:45
Welfare Reform	2:45
Six-County Fort Peck Lake Group	4:00
Coalition of Forest Counties	4:00
Buffet	6:00
Entertainment and DJ Dance	7:30

## Wednesday, September 25

General Session	8:30
Resolutions and Bylaws	
Election of Second Vice-President	
2004 Conference Site Selection	
Annual Meetings:	
JPA Workers' Compensation Trust	
JPIA Property and Casualty Trust	
Installation Luncheon	Noon
Board of Directors	2:00
Health Insurance Open Meeting	2:00

## SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

### BREWERY FOLLIES

#### From Virginia City

Expect the UNEXPECTED

fol'ly, n.; pl. fol'lies, (ME. folye, folie, foly, foolishness, from fol, a fool). Syn. - madness, nonsense, misconduct, imprudence, silliness, foolishness, absurdity, imbecility.

re-vue (ri vyoo') n.; a musical show with skits, dances, often parodying recent events, etc.

im-pro-viso (im 'pro viz') vt., vi. -vised, -vising. (L. in "not", plus providere, "forsee").

1. To compose or perform without preparation.

2. To make or do whatever is at hand.

Appearing: Sunday Night President's Banquet



### BARBARA FAIRCHILD & ROY MORRIS

Since 1992, Barbara Fairchild and her husband, Roy Morris, have been entertaining in Branson, Missouri. Their regular Sunday Morning Worship Services and their Tribute to Veterans every November continue to be their focal points. They appear at the Braschler Music Theater September through December.

Fairchild was nominated for two Grammy awards for her hit records, "The Teddy Bear Song" (1973) and "Lullaby for Teddy" (early '80's). She has made numerous television appearances on Nashville Now, The Tonight Show, Hee Haw, and recently on TNN's A Country Homecoming.

Appearing: Monday Morning Prayer Breakfast and Tuesday Night Barbecue.

MUSIC FOR DANCING AND  
KARAOKE WILL FOLLOW TUESDAY  
NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

5	Geographic Information Council; Capitol 152; 9:00 am
9-13	Clerk and Records Convention; Red Lodge
10	<b>MACo Executive Committee Conference Call; 10:00</b>
11	Patriot Day; flags at half-mast
13	District Court Council; Old Livestock Building; 8:00 am
16-21	County Treasurers Convention; Sidney
19	State Drought Committee; Capitol Room 317; 9:30 am
18-20	Risk Management Conference; West Yellowstone
21	Growth Policy Forum; MACo Conference Room; 9:30 am
22-25	<b>MACo Annual Conference; Big Sky</b>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8	BOS Joint Workforce Investment Board
October 10	CEP Joint Workforce Investment Board
October 11	District Court Council; Old Livestock Building
October 24	State Drought Committee; Capitol Room 317
November 5	Election Day

## DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RULES

### Resolutions and/or Bylaws

Rule 1 Any resolution or bylaw change from a member district or county not submitted at the District meeting must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee no later than the Sunday before the Annual Convention in order to be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Rule 2 Any resolution or bylaw change not submitted through Rule 1 will not be considered by the Delegate Assembly unless two-thirds of the delegates present and voting elect to suspend the rules to consider late proposals. Late proposals shall be accompanied by copies for all delegates and shall be available prior to the Introduction and Consideration of Bylaw Changes or Resolutions.

### Voting Procedures

Rule 3 Each regular member has one vote. (Regular members shall be those counties which contribute annually to the financial support of the Association.) There shall be one county delegate and one alternate with the authority to vote. The delegate and the alternate must be elected county officials.

Rule 4 In speaking to a motion, a delegate will be limited to three minutes except wherein this rule has been suspended by a delegate vote.

Rule 5 All voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote, subject to the call of the chair. A roll call vote will be conducted upon request by a delegate from the floor.

Rule 6 Debate is considered privileged and a "call for the question" cannot be used to limit debate. A vote to close debate requires a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

### Suspension of Rules

Rule 7 Any of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

### AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

#### ARTICLE III

#### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Section 4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

c) The Executive Committee shall serve as an Evaluation Committee for purposes of annually evaluating the performance of the Executive Director **by surveying the member Boards of County Commissioners...**

*The intent is to have each Board of County Commissioners participate in the evaluation of the Executive Director by being involved in a survey questionnaire regarding the Executive Director. Currently the surveys are sent only to the Board of Directors.*

### AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

#### ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES (paragraph 4) **The hiring of an Assistant Director by the Executive Director requires the concurrence of the Executive Committee and confirmation by the Board of Directors.**

*The intent is to involve the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors directly in the hiring of an Assistant Director by requiring concurrence and confirmation. This is currently the sole responsibility of the Executive Director.*

### AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE

#### ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

j. function as the nominating committee and select at least two candidates each for the offices of Second Vice President and Fiscal Officer. **No candidate can be nominated and run for two offices simultaneously...**

*The intent is to prevent any one candidate from being nominated and running for two positions. This will require a candidate to have him/herself removed from nomination for one or the other of the two positions, remaining as nominee for the one office.*

### AMENDMENT NUMBER FOUR

#### ARTICLE IX - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#### Section 4. NOMINATIONS

c) All nominations will <sup>(be)</sup> **remain open until the time of the election during the closing** <sup>(closed</sup>

<sup>at the conclusion of the opening)</sup> general session.

*The intent is to keep nominations open for all elective offices*

# PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>		
2002-1	Wireless Communication Standardized Regulations	Information Technology
2002-2	Internet Motor Vehicle Registration Renewal	Information Technology
2002-3	Wildlife Management and Crop Protection	Agriculture
2002-4	Local Drought Advisory Committees	Agriculture
2002-8	Indigent Defense and Youth in Need of Care	Health and Human Services
2002-9	County Use of State Waters	Transportation
2002-10	Appointment of a Non-Paid Local Registrar	Resolutions
2002-11	Compensation of Election Judges	Resolutions
2002-12	Architecture, Engineering, Land Survey Contracts	Transportation
2002-14	Uniform Unclaimed Property Act—Amendments	Resolutions
2002-15	Exempt Levies Pledged Against Indebtedness	Resolutions
2002-16	Revising Bidding Requirements	Transportation
2002-17	Clarifying Public Officer Participation in Organizations	Resolutions
2002-18	Expand Definition of “Elected Official”	Resolutions
2002-19	Communities as Focal Points for Mental Health Services	Health and Human Services
2002-20	Increase Assessment on Medicaid Provider Rate	Health and Human Services
2002-21	Retain Control of Substance Abuse Funds	Health and Human Services
2002-22	Reimbursement of Increased Indirect Costs	Health and Human Services
2002-23	Prisoner Medical Expenses Assumed by State	Health and Human Services
2002-24	Involuntary Commitment Expenses Paid by State	Health and Human Services
2002-25	Mental Health Pre-commitment Costs	Health and Human Services
2002-26	Interlocal Agreements to Create Regional Jails	Justice and Public Safety
2002-28	County Ability to Set Lower Speed Limits	Transportation
2002-30	Charging Fees for Processing Exemption Applications	Land Use Planning
2002-33	Local E-Government Convenience Fees	Information Technology
2002-34	Prevent State Deductions from County Monies	Tax, Finance and Budget
2002-35	State Public Defender System	Justice and Public Safety
2002-37	Funding of Summer Youth Employment Program	Health and Human Services
2002-38	Maintain Standard Utility Allowance Through FY 2003	Health and Human Services
2002-39	Establishing County Role with State & Federal Agencies	Public Lands
Board Resolution 2002-1	Information Technology Coordinator	Information Technology
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>		
2002-5	County Weather Stations	Agriculture
2002-27	Municipal Annexation to Include Streets and Roads	Transportation
2002-31	County Appointment to City Planning Board	Land Use Planning
<b>LOW PRIORITY - none</b>		
<b>RECOMMENDATION TO TABLE</b>		
2002-6	Entitlement Growth Rate of 3%	Tax, Finance and Budget
2002-7	Health and Human Services Funding	Health and Human Services
2002-13	Permit Burning in Landfills and Transfer Sites	Resolutions
2002-29	City Funding and Maintenance of Bridges	Transportation
2002-32	Annexation of Land Contiguous to Zoning Districts	Land Use Planning
2002-36	Reimbursement for Search and Rescue Operations	Justice and Public Safety

THERE WILL BE 17 RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR RE-AFFIRMATION.

**MACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**RESOLUTION 2002-1**

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, (h), " The Board shall have the power to present recommended dues increases and assessments, if any, to the membership at the annual conference for approval and adoption;" and

WHEREAS, THE MACo INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A "LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR",

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL, AS ATTACHED, BE REFERRED TO, AND CONSIDERED BY, THE MEMBERSHIP TO IMPLEMENT A DUES INCREASE OF UP TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OVER CURRENT DUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005.

ATTACHMENT A

**General Description:**

The Local Government Information Technology (IT) Coordinator is a joint position funded by MACo and ITSD (State Information Technology Services Division). The Coordinator will be responsible for advising Montana counties on IT issues including planning, design, acquisition, hardware and software, and other information technology issues. The Coordinator will develop and distribute model policies and practices, act as a liaison between state and county government, and represent IT activities to state and local government as needed. The Coordinator will be located at the MACo building in Helena. Some travel will be expected. The MACo Executive Director will supervise the Coordinator with oversight from the MACo Executive Committee and the MACo IT Committee. The State participation in the position will be directed by the State ISD Deputy CIO. The long-term objective for the IT Coordinator is to evolve the position and its services into a self-sustaining enterprise.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The Coordinator will:

1. Advise counties and MACo staff on planning, design, acquisition, and use of IT hardware and software, as well as IT service and personnel issues.
2. Coordinate IT planning among counties to enhance IT investments.
3. Develop appropriate model policies and practices for county management of IT resources including model procurement practices and RFPs.
4. Serve as a resource for applications of technology among counties.
5. Communicate the State Strategic Plan and standards; encourage common policies and standards.
6. Represent county IT activities to local and state officials as needed.
7. Prepare quarterly reports and other summaries of activities for MACo and ISD.
8. Participate in county projects as available.
9. Become familiar with county IT structures.
10. Support MACo IT Committee.
11. Assist counties with vendor evaluation and act as liaison between counties and vendors.
12. Perform other duties as assigned.

**Qualifications**

- Degree in Business Administration, Computer Science or equivalent combination of education
- 3-5 years experience in IT or related field
- Outstanding oral and written communications skills
- Extensive knowledge of IT applications, software/hardware, and IT practices
- County or State government experience preferred

**Salary:** \$35,000 - \$45,000 DOE

**Total Budget:** \$70,000 - \$80,000 with benefits, travel (per diem and mileage), and equipment

**Funding:** 25% increase in MACo dues for one year (ranges from \$50 - \$1,700)

Two-year commitment

50/50 split between MACo and State

## PRESIDENT HARMON'S FINAL MESSAGE



It seems the year of my Presidency went by very fast. I attended three NACo meetings, two MACo meetings, ten multi District meetings and several Executive Board meetings, as well as insurance meetings for JPA/JPIA. In addition, I served on the Governor's Agricultural Tax Advisory Committee and the Governor's Tourist Tax Advisory Committee. In all of these I listened, learned and, when appropriate, contributed.

I have been fortunate to see parts of our state I had not seen before. My appreciation of Montana and its diversification has grown.

The best part of my term was having the pleasure of working with a very fine MACo Executive Board, MACo staff and involved commissioners across the state.

If you were to ask me what I accomplished, the answer would be "nothing earthshaking". I never had that in mind. What was accomplished, in my opinion, were a few small improvements in understanding, openness and trust. These things will always need work.

To have the privilege to serve the public is a very gratifying experience. To be given the privilege to serve my peers is an honor I will always cherish.

# COUNTY NEWS

PHILLIPS COUNTY has a new Clerk of District Court. Iris Robinson was appointed to serve the remaining 2½ years left in the position vacated by Frances Webb. Webb retired after 21 years of service.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY is one of thirteen counties nationally which was awarded a NACo Five Star Restoration grant for work with a community-based partnership to restore wetlands and streambanks, to improve local water quality and to restore fish and wildlife habitats.

MADISON AND GALLATIN COUNTIES use their "Code of the West" to inform prospective real estate buyers and developers about rural living.

LAKE COUNTY Commissioners suspect that their Caterpillar road roller was stolen and taken to Nevada.

FLATHEAD COUNTY is auctioning off Courthouse East, a 90 year old building which has housed a variety of service agencies. Terms of the sale allow the county offices to stay rent-free until October 31.

GARFIELD COUNTY Health Center is threatened with closure because of a Federal regulation requiring a health services practitioner to be on-call 24 hours and within a one hour drive to the facility.

GALLATIN COUNTY had a 51% response to its mail ballot for a jail bond measure. The vote defeated the measure by a 3 to 1 margin.

**CUSTER COUNTY'S** Tongue and Yellowstone Irrigation District covers 9,300 acres and 298 users. Lack of water has led them to consider hiring a ditch rider to regulate the system.

LAKE COUNTY, state, federal, and tribal officials are proposing that the state and the tribes jointly process requests for new groundwater uses.

GALLATIN COUNTY recently received a \$4 Million loan from the State Revolving Fund for construction of the West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin Composting Facil-

ity. BLAINE COUNTY special primary election for county commissioner in District 1 is to be held September 19. All five candidates are Democrats, so the winner will proceed unopposed in the General Election. The candidates are:

Reuben Horseman  
Wesley A. Main  
Carletta H. Benson  
Janice E. Hawley  
M. Dolores Plumage.

The current Commission is appealing the federal order to hold this election, but the federal judge refused to block the September primary to wait for the appeal process.

In VALLEY, ROOSEVELT, SHERIDAN AND DANIELS COUNTIES, the Assiniboine Sioux Tribes and the US Department of Reclamation united two water systems, now named the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

PARK and LINCOLN COUNTIES recently attached fines to county green box rules for dumping trash outside of the green boxes or the fences and for removing any item which has been thrown away.

LINCOLN COUNTY is planning to use Plateau, instead of Tordon, to control leafy spurge in an 80-acre infestation.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY updated its noxious weed list by taking off eight weeds, which are not problems or do not qualify to be on the list.

GALLATIN COUNTY is considering a transportation district, with support from Bozeman and the State University. They hope to match enough federal funding to run a bus system in the Belgrade, Four Corners and Bozeman areas.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY hosted a five-month long bowling congress, using a myriad of revenue sources to cover the \$1.5 Million in costs.

JEFFERSON COUNTY is proposing an 8.5% increase in waste disposal fees, raising the residential fee from \$123 a year to \$133.51.

## INFORMATION REMINDERS

1. Please send us your 2002-2003 Compensation Board Recommendations, including your health insurance levy. We have responses from about half the counties and we want to complete the information for next year's Compensation Boards.
2. When you submit your 2002-2003 Annual Budget to the Department of Administration, please send a copy to MACo, also. The budgets are used to prepare information and testimony for the upcoming legislative session.

### **ARBITRATION AND LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference will be September 26-27 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Board of Personnel Appeals, Montana Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the National Labor Relations Board are the sponsors. The conference program includes:

- Presentation from Saturn Motors on their latest labor/management techniques
- Arbitration and mediation processes with presenters from public and private industry; legal updates from representatives of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS)
- Montana employment law developments
- Fundamentals of arbitration presented by nationally recognized arbitrator, Jack Flagler, and a session in remedies in arbitration for advanced practitioners
- Red Light/Green Light— Instant case analysis by a panel of arbitrators who will give reasons for their decisions.

More information, including registration form, is available at [http://erd.dli.state.mt.us/LaborStandards/Conference/Conference\\_Home](http://erd.dli.state.mt.us/LaborStandards/Conference/Conference_Home) or Vicki Knudsen, Conference Coordinator, 406-444-0038, [vknudsen@state.mt.us](mailto:vknudsen@state.mt.us).

## Attorney General OPINIONS

### Volume 49 No. 19

#### **Question:**

When a Board of County Commissioners denies a Justice of the Peace's request for clerical support, which the Justice of the Peace considers to be an actual and necessary expense for conducting court business, what procedure may the Justice of the Peace follow in seeking to compel the Board of County Commissioners to honor the expense?

#### **Held:**

Boards of County Commissioners have a duty to accept and pay claims for actual and necessary clerical expenses associated with the operation of justice court. The procedural rule adopted in State ex rel. Browman v. Wood, 168 Mont. 341, 543 P.2d 184 (1975) applies to disputes between Justices of the Peace and Boards of County Commissioners regarding payment of actual and necessary expenses.

#### **Requested by:**

David G. Rice, Hill County Attorney

### Volume 49 No. 20

#### **Question:**

1. Does a judge have a duty to advise persons accused of fish and game violations of the potential forfeiture of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges as a result of a conviction, plea, or forfeiture of bond in order to assure a "knowing" plea; and
2. Should a judge or the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) enforce the forfeiture of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges?

#### **Held:**

1. The loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges that occurs upon a guilty plea, conviction or forfeiture of bail of a fish and game violation is a direct consequence of that violation. A judge must inform an individual accused of a fish and game violation of the potential forfeiture of fishing, hunting and trapping privileges as a result of conviction, guilty plea or forfeiture of bond in order to assure that a "knowing" plea is entered.
2. Notification regarding loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privilege is, by statute, to be done by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

#### **Requested by:**

David G. Rice, Hill County Attorney

## 2002 GOVERNOR'S RANGE TOUR

The 2002 Governor's Range Tour will be September 11-12 at St. Mary Center in Deer Lodge. Registration will begin at 10:00 am the first day; the tour will end around 5:00 pm the second day.

The Governor's Range Tour is an annual event which rotates around the state. The two days include field tours to view rangeland management practices and to recognize landowners who are excelling. The first day will be centered in the Deer Lodge area, featuring the Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, Windy Mountain Ranch, leafy spurge control using sheep and the Montana Correctional Enterprises. The second day will include stops at Helmville, Whitetail, Mannix Brothers Ranch and Blackfoot Challenge Projects.

For more information, contact Carla Lawrence, State Coordinator, Rangeland Resource Program at (406) 444-3022 or Susie Johnson at (406) 846-1703 ext. 300.

## 2003 Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program

Applications for grants to reduce hazardous fuels in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) in and around communities in Montana will be accepted on or before September 30, 2002, and are to be submitted to one of the six DNRC Area Offices in Missoula, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City or Billings.

The grant has three areas for projects:

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Projects of this type include fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications, etc. The purpose is to break up the fuels in such a way as to lessen catastrophic fire, its threat to public and firefighter safety and damage to property.

### Information and Education (I&E)

These proposals are to deliver educational outreach programs to individuals and communities.

### Homeowner and Community Action

Projects are sponsored by communities, agencies or groups such as homeowners associations, which are looking for fuels reduction in a WUI in their area.

Application information, forms and guidelines are available at [www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/index.htm](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/index.htm) or call DNRC at 406-542-4235.

## SAFETY INFORMATION FROM EMELIA McEWEN ASSISTANT RISK MANAGER

The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working to make people aware of automobile fires as a result of "static" (that is, static electricity) at gas pumps. They have researched 150 cases of these fires in a variety of makes and models. The results were surprising:

- 1) Almost all cases involved people getting back into vehicles while gas was pumping. When pumping was completed, they went back to pull the gas nozzle and the fire ignited from static.
- 2) It is the gas vapors that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 3) Most people had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 5) Most men never get back in their vehicles until completely finished. Consequently, they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 6) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas.
- 7) 29 fires occurred when the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched before pumping was completed.
- 8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Don't get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely must get back into your vehicle while the gas is pumping, **TOUCH the METAL on the door** when you get out of the car and before you get near the nozzle and its fumes. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you remove the nozzle.



## ELECTION POLL WORKERS

California counties are hiring county employees to work as election officials, paying the employees their regular wages for the General Election Day holiday, plus a volunteer stipend. The California legislature passed a bill permitting government employees to work the polls without affecting holiday leave. The volunteer stipend helps cover the 13 to 14 hour election day. Under the US Fair Labor Standards Act, the "alternative work assignment" allows for payment for "occasional and sporadic work."

In Oregon, county employees may take a vacation day to work the polls. In Washington, it is illegal to have county employees work at the polls.

There is a shortage of poll workers in Montana, according to Elaine Graveley, Elections and Legislative Bureau in the Secretary of State's Office. To help address this need, Secretary of State Bob Brown included election training in his "Y-Vote" program in high schools last spring. As a result, twelve counties qualified at least one student as an election judge for the June primary election. Those counties were Missoula, Gallatin, Butte-Silver Bow, Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Pondera, Rosebud, Chouteau, Hill, Jefferson, Ravalli and Flathead.

General Election Day is a holiday for Montana government employees. There is no Montana prohibition for hiring government employees to work the polls. However, hiring county employees may require holiday pay rate / overtime for the day.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

The Montana Consensus Council and Professional Development Center present "Public Participation Strategies," a one-day class on September 17, in the MACo Conference Room.

The class is designed for public officials who want to learn more about the requirements to conduct public participation and to identify what works and why. Participants will examine public participation strategies to develop growth policy plans and ways to work with the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

The class runs from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$105. For more information call 444-3985, Fax 444-0544 or email [pd01@state.mt.us](mailto:pd01@state.mt.us).

## RURAL BANK ROBBERIES

While bank robberies over-all rose 17% from 1995 to 2001, FBI statistics show they jumped 82% over the same period in small towns and unincorporated rural areas. Nearly a third of the nation's 8,259 bank robberies last year were in small towns.

Bankers, law enforcement officials and sociologists offer several explanations. Small-town crime has generally increased, especially drug traffic. Roads are better, making towns more accessible and familiar.

Modern robbers seem to be counting on simple facts of life in small towns, where metal detectors, cameras and security guards are not present and the sheriff may be clear across the county when the call comes.

from New York Times  
"Robbers Rediscover the Small Town Bank"  
based on an article from  
Texas Association of Counties

## MAPPING FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

The Montana Stewardship Mapping Project identifies major ownership classes (federal, state, local, tribal, and private) as well as the specific agencies with management responsibility. It also tracks statutory designations (e.g., wilderness, national wildlife refuge, national park) and administratively designated management units (e.g., research natural area, game range). It includes both public and private easements, but does not track information on other types of privately-owned lands. It does not include information on private landowners, even where lands are under conservation easements.

Information is available in a variety of formats, including GIS digital data, paper maps, and via the Internet. The Thematic Mapper on the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) website (<http://nris.state.mt.us>) offers the Stewardship information to access, view, and download.

The Stewardship data has a myriad of uses. It provides information for growth or open space planning and for natural resource conservation and development. Other applications include tracking and analyzing data on biology, habitat pressures (wells, subdivisions, water quality), and opportunities (parcel size, land values) to improve the effectiveness of land use planning efforts.

For more information, contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-5354 or [mtnhp@nris.state.mt.us](mailto:mtnhp@nris.state.mt.us) or visit the

# NACo INFORMATION

NACo's 67th Annual Conference was held in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. Ten MACo members attended the sessions and steering committee meetings. Steering Committee members present reports to MACo. MACo News will publish summaries of the reports as they are submitted.

## LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

### **Victor Miller, Blaine County**

Three broad resolutions passed through the Committee covering social security privacy, H1B funding and Workforce Investment Act emergency funding. Sue Mohr, Montana Job Training Partnership, and I originated the resolution for H1B.

We are fortunate to have Sue on the Presidential subcommittee to redraft the reauthorization for Workforce Investment Act.

I honestly believe our involvement in NACo is a necessary thing. National policy is very important in getting local governments' message firmly delivered to our national leaders.



L—R Carol Brooker, Sanders County; Vic Miller, Blaine County; Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County; Kathy Bessette, Hill County; Connie Eissinger, McCone County

## PUBLIC LANDS

### **Connie Eissinger, McCone Co.**

Colorado Commissioner Jim Sullivan discussed the Hayman fire, which burned 23.6 million acres and demonstrated the necessity of defensible space around homes within the forest. He noted that 35 feet must be cleared around a home. Federal money is available to counties to haul cleared brush and trees and dispose by chipping, shredding, etc. Also, FEMA only pays 80% of a Stage 1 fire, so it is vital to get the fire labeled as a Stage II fire. Bob Ader, a geographer with the BLM, discussed land ownership and rights-of-way information being available at the county level for the public to access. \$15 Million has been requested for counties to develop an integrated data system.

Project Manager Rita Henderson from the US Fire Administration of FEMA reported that home-study materials are available from the National Fire Academy free of charge for fire departments and volunteer firemen. She also noted that pre-disaster assistance fire-wide workshops can be given in communities.

As chair of the Federal Lands Payments Subcommittee, I moved to adopt the sliding scale PILT formula revision proposal. After much discussion and the assurance that it would only be acted upon if PILT were fully funded and under which scenario, no county would lose funding, the motion passed.

## TRANSPORTATION

### **Vern Petersen, Fergus County**

We have a new NACo policy to help counties speak with a unified message for highway funding renewal. The policy is organized into four areas:

- 1) Funding
- 2) Streamlining Permits
- 3) Rural Equity and Balance
- 4) Safety / Security / Reliability

We in Montana have a good system with the State for long-range planning of the entire system and for the secondary system. We have opportunities to be heard at transportation planning meetings. Some states are not allowed local input so the majority in NACo wants tighter rules from the Feds. I suggest that we are better off with fewer federal dictates and more latitude to negotiate our own process locally.

Senator Baucus recently summarized the highway re-funding bill, which is consistent with NACo platform:

1. Fund 5.3¢ ethanol subsidy from general fund, not the trust; redirect 2.5¢ ethanol tax from general fund to the trust
2. Inform states of the entire six-year appropriation to help with long term planning
3. Protect trust fund so funds must go to transportation
4. Identify revenue sources, as alternative fuels continue to lessen fuel tax income
5. Fund rural roads, which make up 3/4 of total miles but receive no federal fuel tax funding
6. Streamline permit process
7. Assure rural transit
8. Separate USDOT office for

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