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MACo News
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BEFORE THE 20TH OF EACH
MONTH

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58th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HOW DID COUNTIES FARE? Comments from MACo Executive Director

It is Friday, April 25, 2003, the 88th legislative day, and for all intents and purposes the session is done! Let me begin by thanking everyone for the contribution made in calling, writing, emailing, faxing, etc. to the legislators when asked. You were immensely helpful and contributed to what I conclude was a very good session for counties.

With help from all of you, we were successful in getting SB 46 passed by overriding the Governor's veto. Senator Gebhardt was a champion and deserves our sincere thanks. While the legislation will restore the law to the pre-1999 status, we all need to work with our contractors and not undertake projects and activities that would be better left to the private sector and the competitive bid process. I know Senator Gebhardt would like to see an effort to address the issues that drove the contractors' position and I think MACo should commit to this. These issues are better dealt with at home rather than in Helena.

In general, the session was successful. My personal assessment is that it was "great." My only disappointment was the loss of the public defender bill (SB 218). That loss may very well be rectified with the court case. The Senators who

worked with us during the session are committed to coming back next session to "get the job done."

SB 490 passed, which will significantly improve the entire court reimbursement process. We are working on a workshop for Clerks of Court to address uniformity and consistency in reporting the reimbursements. ("We" consists of myself, the lobbyist for the Clerks of Court, and Nancy Sweeney, Lewis and Clark County Clerk of Court.) In addition, on April 18, the District Court Council approved paying the reimbursements at 100% for FY 2003.

While I say we had a successful session, I would be remiss if I did not comment that the State, on
(Continued on next page)



Signing SB 7, MACo Bill to exempt local government officials from lobbying fees

L-- R: Senator Ed Butcher, Sponsor
Harold Blattie, MACo Assistant Director
Governor Judy Martz
Gordon Morris, MACo Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 28-May 2	Magistrate Association; Lewistown
May 2	JPIA Staff / Consultants; MACo Conf.; 1:30
May 5	JPA Rates-JPIA Trustee Renewals
May 7	MACo Districts 8, 9, 12; Townsend
May 9	Urban Counties quarterly meeting; MACo
May 13	MACo Districts 10 and 11; Polson
May 12-21	Meetings with JPIA Agents
May 15	BOS Joint Workforce Council; Billings
May 19	MACo Districts 4 and 5; Havre
May 21	MACo Districts 1, 2 and 3; Miles City
May 22	MACo Districts 6 and 7; Roundup
May 28-29	Economic Development Summit; MSU-Billings
May 28-31	MACo Western Interstate Region (WIR); Reno

UPCOMING EVENTS

June	GASB Training--Reports; Supplementary Info.
June 5	MACo Board of Directors; 10:00 am
June 6	JPA / JPIA Defense Counsel Retreat
June 9	MACo Economic Development Committee
June 17-19	Governor's Forest Health Summit, Missoula
July 10-16	NACo Annual Conference; Milwaukee
July 16-18	County Attorney Association; Fairmont
August 10-14	Clerks of District Court Association; Forsyth
September 14-19	Clerk and Recorder Association; Forsyth
September 21-24	MACo Annual Conference; Lewistown
September 22-26	Treasurer Association; Dillon
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	Magistrate Association; Helena

the other hand, is worse off in general terms. The revenue projections are dismal. Human services are impacted to an extent that will extend the pain across the state. Long-term solutions still allude us. There were seven bills introduced dealing with sales tax and tax reform. They all had elements that we supported based upon our efforts in prior sessions, but the one that finally emerged, SB 470, died on the floor of the House.

For State fiscal purposes special tax increases associated with rental vehicles, cigarettes and hotels are the fix. (See SB 407) The financial outlook for the state is not good.

District meetings will begin in two weeks and I am looking forward to seeing everyone. I know there will be many questions about the session. Both Harold and I be there to try to answer them.

Again, MACo's efforts have been successful, thanks to all of you.

See you soon.

NOTE: Montana's 58th Legislative Session proposed 1,359 bills and resolutions. MACo identified 437 Senate and House bills to watch and support or oppose. Of these, 32 bills were developed by MACo as a result of Annual Conference resolutions.

MACo RESOLUTIONS LEGISLATION RESULTS

PASSED; BECAME LAW

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Title</u>
2002-3	HB 42	Wildlife Management / Protect Crops
2002-9	HB 238	Exemption from water requirements
2002-10	HB 408	Non-paid County Registrars
2002-11	HB 151	Compensation of Election Judges
2002-12	SB 45	Increase limits for service contracts
2002-14	SB 89	Amend Unclaimed Property Act
2002-16	SB 46	Revise Bidding requirements
2002-17	SB 136	Public Officer in Organizations
2002-18	SB 7	Exempt Elected Officials—lobby fees
2002-23	SB 370	Prison Medical Expenses
2002-27	SB 168	Annexation includes streets & roads
2002-30	HB 298	Fees for Exemption Applications
2002-31	SB 197	County Appointments to City Planning
2002-32	HB 512	Annexation next to zoning districts
2002-33	SB 24	E-government convenience fees
2002-34	HB 272	Prevent deductions from County share
2002-35	SB 218	State Public Defender System
2002-39	HB 142	County role with state/federal agencies
2002-40	HB 333	Interest credited to individual funds
2002-42	SB 163	Payments by credit card
2002-43	HB 339	Create county auditor in small counties
2000-11	SB 47	Bidding requirements
2000-13	HB 264	Complying with Personnel Policies
1999-8	HB 232	Revise Capital Improvement Program

TABLED, DEFEATED, NO ACTION

2002-1	SB 198	Wireless Communication Regulations
2002-2	—	Online motor vehicle registrations
2002-8	LC 1773	Indigent Defense; Youth needing Care
2002-15	SB 158	Exempt Indebtedness Levies
2002-19	—	Mental Health Service in Communities
2002-21	HB 291	Retain Substance Abuse Funds
2002-22	HB 273	Reimburse Increased Indirect Costs
2002-24	SB 170	Involuntary Commitment Expenses
2002-25	HB 279	Mental Health Pre-Commitment Costs
2002-41	—	County Extension Agent funding
2000-10	LC 579	Prevailing Wage Requirements
2000-16	LC 641	Counsel in Paternity Cases
2000-25	HB 418	County Costs for State Inmates
2000-29	—	Regional Mental Health Centers
2000-32	LC 580	Road/Bridge Depreciation Reserves
1999-7	—	County Treasurer Duties
1998-18	—	County Interest Income

(Resolutions not listed were defeated at MACo Conference, were federal issues, or were for individual county action—consequently there was no State Legislative action taken.)

LAKE COUNTY RESOLUTION 03-12

WHEREAS, Recent world events have brought Americans together, while reinvigorating our patriotism, reminding us of our precious liberties and freedoms and giving us a greater appreciation for the men and women of our Armed Forces, and

WHEREAS, The nation, Montana and Lake County owe a debt of gratitude to these patriots and their families for their courage, heroism and exemplary service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Lake County, Montana hereby expresses its deepest gratitude for the courage and sacrifice of the brave members of the United State Armed Forces, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT
Lake County Commission hereby adopts the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN75)/Carrier Air Wing Three (CVW3) and the Harry S. Truman Battleship Group consisting of twelve surface ships and submarines and eight aircraft squadrons as the official Lake County Armed Forces Group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT
Lake County urges other counties throughout America to adopt groups of our Armed Forces to honor their courage and sacrifice with appropriate resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT
Lake County invites all members of the Harry S. Truman Battle Group to come to Lake County, Montana with their families and friends, as well as all men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, to visit and enjoy Montana.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2003.

FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING LAKE COUNTY RESOLUTION 03-12

The Harry S. Truman Battleship Group consists of over 5,000 military personnel, of which 17% are women. Harry S. Truman Ship Captain is Michael Groothousen; Commander of the Airgroup is Captain Cyrus Vance.

On April 9, through a satellite phone feed from the Harry S. Truman (located in the Mediterranean and conducting Iraqi war maneuvers), Captain Groothousen was interviewed and discussed the Lake County Resolution with John Stokes, radio station KGEZ owner, and Mike Hutchin, Lake County Commissioner.

Captain Groothousen was ecstatic that a county would "adopt" the Battleship Group. He plans to send a colored photo and a flag from the Harry S. Truman for display in Lake County Courthouse. He agreed that when the Lake County Veterans Memorial is completed in 2004, he and/or personnel from the Group would attend the dedication.

Lake County's basis for passing the resolution was to support US troops, to feature the Harry S. Truman Battleship Group, to invite the 5,000+ troops to Lake County, and to promote Montana as a tourist location.

JOB OPENING PARK COUNTY PLANNER

For a job description and
application form,
contact any
Montana Job Service.

FOR SALE

By Petroleum County

1967 Cat Model 14E Patrol--serial #12K1124
(minimum bid \$11,000)

1985 John Deere Patrol--serial DW770AX506640
(Minimum bid \$15,000)

Ateco Ripper (Minimum bid \$1,500)

All equipment is in very good condition. Petroleum County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. For viewing, contact Gary Allen (406)429-5251. Sealed bids are to be received by May 23, 2003.

Petroleum County—Grader Bids
PO Box 226
Winnett MT 59087

Bid openings will be Wednesday May 28, 2003 at 9:30 am.

MONTANA COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES (July 2002)

COUNTY	POPULATION	# CHANGE FROM 2001	COUNTY	POPULATION	# CHANGE FROM 2001
Anaconda-Deer Lodge.....	9,069.....	-143	Madison	7,005.....	+81
Beaverhead	9,009.....	-86	McCone	1,827.....	-62
Big Horn.....	12,886.....	+30	Meagher.....	1,941.....	-10
Blaine.....	6,895.....	+46	Mineral	3,803.....	-35
Broadwater	4,366.....	-38	Missoula.....	96,102.....	+1,342
Butte-Silver Bow	33,403.....	-356	Musselshell	4,410.....	-18
Carbon.....	9,675.....	+31	Park	15,767.....	+74
Carter.....	1,343.....	-11	Petroleum	500.....	+11
Cascade	79,389.....	-255	Phillips	4,321.....	-101
Chouteau.....	5,566.....	-185	Pondera	6,232.....	-114
Custer.....	11,341.....	-76	Powder River	1,829.....	+11
Daniels.....	1,967.....	-56	Powell	7,045.....	-28
Dawson.....	8,713.....	-193	Prairie	1,190.....	-18
Fallon.....	2,715.....	-28	Ravalli.....	37,868.....	+886
Fergus	11,678.....	-83	Richland.....	9,265.....	-183
Flathead.....	77,240.....	+1,257	Roosevelt.....	10,494.....	-123
Gallatin	71,206.....	+1,359	Rosebud	9,276.....	-2
Garfield.....	1,230.....	-20	Sanders	10,367.....	-32
Glacier	13,085.....	+21	Sheridan	3,798.....	-137
Golden Valley.....	1,063.....	+50	Stillwater	8,420.....	+46
Granite.....	2,863.....	-8	Sweet Grass	3,623.....	+13
Hill.....	16,372.....	-180	Teton.....	6,315.....	-81
Jefferson.....	10,424.....	+201	Toole.....	5,103.....	-83
Judith Basin	2,273.....	-12	Treasure	785.....	-31
Lake.....	26,908.....	+55	Valley	7,382.....	-134
Lewis and Clark	56,554.....	+273	Wheatland.....	2,164.....	+2
Liberty.....	2,037.....	-73	Wibaux.....	1,046.....	+7
Lincoln	18,665.....	-26	Yellowstone	131,622.....	+1,286

RE-ACTIVATE COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD

MCA 7-4-2503(4)(a) "The county compensation board shall hold hearings annually for the purpose of reviewing the compensation paid to county officers. The compensation board may consider the compensation paid to comparable officials in other Montana counties, other states, state government, federal government and private enterprise."

Population may be used in Compensation Board deliberations. More population information can be found at <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us/EstimatesCntyPop.html> .

The cost-of-living adjustment factor effective July 1, 2003, is 1.6%. The mileage reimbursement rate is 36¢ per mile up to 1,000 miles; then it becomes 33¢ per mile. (MCA 2-18-503)

MACo has various salary publications available online and in hard copy.

MACo
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2003

Chair Anita Varone, Lewis and Clark County, stated that the Committee and MACo should encourage participation of all counties, support the Governor's Office of Economic Development and network with other groups and associations.

Paul Tuss, Bear Paw Economic Development Corporation, focused his remarks on "Ten Steps to a Stronger, More Sustainable Rural Economy." He cited the need to work to overcome the objections of CAVE people—citizens against virtually everything.

Sheldon Bartel, Gateway Economic Development Corporation, has initiated a loan program and is exploring managing a state program. He feels that Montana demographics are in flux—there is growth in the west, but the east is losing population.

Committee member Joann Huffsmith noted that Granite County worked with Helena College of Technology to provide online job training opportunities. She suggested that the Committee may wish to discuss this at the next meeting.

Final comments by the committee included:

Economic development happens because of local government involvement. The Committee should write to the State's program for not involving local government.

We need to utilize established resources such as SCBD, the Montana Ambassadors and MEDA.

MACo
RESERVATION
COUNTIES
MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2003

The Association passed a Dues Committee recommendation to reduce membership dues to one-half the current amount and also approved policy to pay for membership expenses incurred to attend special meetings on behalf of the entire membership.

Three Native American State Legislators attended—Carol Juneau, Veronica Small-Eastman and Jonathan Windy Boy.

Thane Johnson, Attorney, provided information and definitions of "Indian" (must have significant amount of Indian blood and must have federal or tribal recognition) and "Indian Country" (land within the limits of any Indian Reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States). Johnson also discussed serving legal papers on reservations. At issue is whether or not the tribe recognizes the legal document.

The Association agreed to host a workshop presented by Larry Keown, "*Developing Effective Working Relationships with Indian Tribes and Organizations*". The workshop will be held at the 2004 Midwinter Conference. All Montana tribes will be invited to participate.

Abraham Lincoln, after listening to a lengthy speech said, "I never saw so many words compressed into so small an idea."

MACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past President Gary Fjelstad convened the Board of Directors and rendered oaths of office to MACo President Carol Brooker and Second Vice President Doug Kaercher.

Legislative Update

Resolutions Committee Chair Mike Murray, MACo Executive Director Gordon Morris and Assistant Director Harold Blattie reported on the status of legislation. Handouts were distributed which showed the up-to-date status of MACo legislation and how to testify before a legislative committee.

GIS/GPS Report

Gordon Morris reported that the project has been completed with the exception of Lake County, which had been granted an extension. To date 51,938 miles have been driven, for which counties were paid \$543,442.

Other Business

Ron Alles, Lewis & Clark County Chief Executive Officer, discussed an effort with the League of Cities & Towns to explore a group health insurance program. The group is proposing to conduct a needs inventory and a feasibility study, with estimated cost between \$20,000 to \$25,000. After several questions, Alles agreed to keep counties involved.

President Brooker reported that only 30 Executive Director evaluations had been returned. She indicated she was disappointed in the response, but she would report at the next Board meeting.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings are planned and conducted by the districts. Traditionally, combinations of the twelve districts have met together, so that a total of five district meetings occur across the state. The chairs in the combining districts identify the location for the meeting and the host county arranges a luncheon.

May 7 Districts 8, 9, & 12
Townsend
May 13 Districts 10 & 11, Polson
May 19 Districts 4 & 5, Havre
May 21 Districts 1, 2, & 3
Miles City
May 22 Districts 6 & 7, Roundup

Chairs of each district contact their member counties to ask for agenda items and work with the other chairs to set the agenda for the meeting.

All county officials are encouraged to attend district meetings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

MSU-Billings is the site of the 2003 Montana Economic Development Summit, May 28-29. The Summit is sponsored by Montana Congressional representatives, MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council, Economic Developers Association, MACo, League of Cities & Towns, AFL-CIO, Montana Chamber of Commerce and others.

Registration is at <http://www.montanajobs.org> or by contacting 406-256-6871. There is no fee for participation, but each person must pre-register.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAKE MOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW

MACo Annual Conference is scheduled for September 21-24 in Lewistown. Motels are willing to set aside only a limited number of rooms in each complex for MACo guests.

However, if we make reservations early and the motels realize we need more rooms, they may open more rooms to accommodate MACo delegates.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Be sure to ask for rooms set aside for MACo. The motels which currently have MACo rooms set aside are:

Yogo Inn (conference center)
NO MORE ROOMS AVAILABLE

Mountain View
538-3457 (Ilene)
Continental breakfast
Single \$32.25 Double \$42.65

Super 8
538-3581 (Annette)
State summer rate \$55 + tax

B & B Motel
538-5496
Single \$45 Double \$50

Sunset Motel
538-8741 (Candy)
Single \$34.32 Double \$43.68

Trails End Motel
538-5468 (Julie)
Single \$38 Double \$43

No MACo set-aside
Willow Tree Bed & Breakfast
538-8844 Double \$75

Symmes/Wicks House Bed/Brkfst
538-9068 Single \$45 to \$75

ERGONOMICS FOR ROAD CREWS, LAW ENFORCEMENT and FIREFIGHTERS

By Emelia McEwen
Assistant Risk Manager

Ergonomics is not just for office and computer stations. Service departments can also design safe and comfortable work areas and work habits.

Road departments are turning in reports of carpal tunnel problems. High vibration levels in heavy equipment, repeated impact of power tools, and repetitive material handling can injure wrists and hands. Recently an employee from Yellowstone County Road Department was diagnosed with severe carpal tunnel injury. The doctor elected physical therapy before considering surgery. After three months of therapy, stretching exercises and using impact mitts, the employee was back to work full-time, driving the road grader.

In law enforcement departments, musculoskeletal injuries have been reported as a result of using force to detain suspects. A non-lethal alternative, electronic stun guns, temporarily disables violent suspects. This use reduced deputy injury rates by 80% in one Florida county.

Firefighters need fast access to equipment in fire trucks, which may be awkward to reach (power saws, tool kits, first aid supplies, jaws of life, etc.). New fire trucks come with pullout shelves within the storage compartments. The shelves provide access to both sides of the

COUNTY NEWS

OFFICIALS

DAWSON COUNTY Clerk of District Court Ardelle Adams and Sheriff John Kahl both retired from their elected offices. Planner Ellen Woodbury resigned her position.

MAIL VOTES

STILLWATER COUNTY voters (62%) approved the new Bear-tooth Park and Recreation District. A levy to support the District was not part of the vote.

BROADWATER COUNTY voters (52%) approved a 5-mill levy for weed control during the next three years.

ROADS

JEFFERSON COUNTY property owners feel there is a need to clarify what a 'non-maintained county road' really means, when it comes to levels of service.

CARTER COUNTY Commission has contracted with a Washington DC law firm to assist in obtaining federal funding for paving Route 323 between Ekalaka and Alzada.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

ROOSEVELT COUNTY held public hearings to gather comments on floating a 3-mill levy to cover the increased costs for county employee medical insurance.

CASCADE COUNTY randomly selected 2,000 residents to receive a 10-page survey covering the most important issues and ways to make the area a better place to live.

HEALTH

GLACIER COUNTY's medical center received donated x-ray equipment from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

POWDER RIVER COUNTY is comparing the wages between contract registered nurses and county-employee registered nurses, following a recommendation for increasing wages as a method of attracting employees.

GRANITE COUNTY Medical Center continues to function in spite of a large cash deficit. The Administrator resigned in March.

TETON COUNTY Commission will conduct a mail ballot vote for a 10-mill levy authority for the county nursing home. In addition, a county task force is to make long-range recommendations for future operations and funding by end of May.

WELFARE

LINCOLN COUNTY has directed the county indigent services to stop disbursing money until reimbursements and donations cover a \$20,000 deficit.

GLACIER COUNTY Public Assistance Office was seeking donations to cover costs during the remaining five months of the fiscal year.

GROWTH POLICY

FERGUS COUNTY Commission approved a resolution rejecting the Lewistown-area growth policy. At issue was the 4½ mile area surrounding the community.

POLLUTION

RAVALLI COUNTY is considering a light ordinance to reduce light pollution from outside lighting. Public comments are being solicited.

ANIMALS

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY has found that the owls aren't working as well as hoped in discouraging crows from perching around the courthouse. However, the crows do seem to have discouraged folks who used to sleep on the courthouse lawn.

CARBON COUNTY public nurse reported that three residents had been bitten or scratched by an otter, causing concern for rabies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CASCADE, FLATHEAD, LEWIS & CLARK, MISSOULA and YELLOWSTONE COUNTIES are designated as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas and share in a \$1 million grant from the Office of National Drug Control Center.

LAND USE

GALLATIN COUNTY approved \$4 million bond sale for Open Space program.

RAVALLI COUNTY subdivision approval was overturned by local court because the commission bypassed the Planning Board, failed to follow subdivision regulations and usurped the public's right to comment in public hearing.

OLD COMPUTERS And SECURITY RISKS

Disposing of old computers is a problem. Many organizations sell used computers to recyclers or donate them to schools or charities, not realizing the security risks for information contained on the hard drives.

One second-hand computer shop received a computer containing confidential records from a health insurance company. Another used-computer shop acquired a hard drive from a county which contained confidential data on law enforcement investigations.

Many people do not believe that data can be recovered from hard drives if the files or directories have been deleted. However, with special software and sometimes even with just the utilities that come with the operating system or the machine, deleted data can be recovered. The security implications can be serious. Malicious parties could use data and addresses for illegal or unscrupulous purposes. Passwords and codes could be used to crack computer networks.

When your county gets rid of old PCs, you should be sure that no recoverable data remains. Deleting files and even reformatting the hard drive is not sufficient to ensure security. The National Security Agency (NSA) recommends overwriting the hard drive with random numbers. This process should be repeated four times to assure security. Although this process may be time-consuming, it is worthwhile, considering the possible consequences of security breaches.

One way to speed up the process of securely removing old files and data is to use a program specifically designed for that purpose. "File Shredder" is distributed as shareware (\$25 registration costs) and can be downloaded from: www.gregorybraun.com/Shredder.html. Another downloadable program is "Eraser 5.3", free at www.tolyanen.com/. Both programs make data on your hard drive unrecoverable by repeatedly overwriting and then deleting selected files. Each provides a high level of security.

COMMON EMAIL MISTAKES

1. Ignoring email etiquette

Don't write when you are angry. Don't use sarcasm. These types of sentences are most-often completely misunderstood.

DON'T USE ALL UPERCASE! That is the email equivalent of yelling.

Use clear subject lines. This will help the reader be ready for your message.

Keep it short—If your email is more than two paragraphs, maybe you should use the phone.

Don't forward other email, poems, jokes, virus warnings, etc., unless the recipient has previously agreed.

2. Thinking you are anonymous

Even if you set up a phony email address, the header on the message contains information about the sender, some of it invisible. You may be less anonymous than you think.

3. Sending email to the wrong person

When you respond to an email, the "To" field may already have addresses in it. Be careful that the address is the same one you intend to contact.

4. Using one email address for everything

As businesses get more assertive in emailing prospective customers, you may find a single email box overloaded. Establish separate email addresses for private, public, shopping, information requests. Each will attract mail for those specific areas.

5. Not checking all your email boxes

Checking different mail boxes can be a chore. "ePrompter" can check up to sixteen password-protected accounts. ePrompter is free.

6. Sending mail before checking it over

Re-read every email before you send it out. You will want to correct a word that is spelled correctly but is the wrong word and insert words you didn't type in the first time. People will judge you subconsciously on mistakes. You can catch them if you take a minute and re-read.

7. Forgetting the attachment

We all do this occasionally. Re-reading your message before you send it will help correct this problem.

NACo
Community and Economic Development
Steering Committee
Synopsis of Report
by Anita Varone, Lewis and Clark County

The Committee is supporting three legislative priorities:

1. Increase appropriations for the Community Development Block Grants and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
2. Maintain funding or provide tax incentives for federal programs that assist local governments in investing in economic development opportunities
3. Provide funding or tax incentives for programs that provide housing and services to move families and individuals towards independence and self-sufficiency.

Economic Development 101

During discussion on regional approaches to economic development, several attendees voiced their concern regarding rural economic development. This track of the conference was geared toward urban economic development with little or no consideration for rural economic development needs. This discussion became the heart of the presentation and, as a result, a sub-committee was formed to address rural economic development needs. I volunteered to be a member on that sub-committee, which is expected to meet via telephone conferencing and e-mailing during the next six months. The intent is to address problems, develop a program and present it at the fall conference. Montana will be in on the ground floor of whatever results.

“An Economic Development Handbook for County Officials” is the result of the appointment of a Presidential Task Force on Economic Development. It addresses “counties that were being left behind.” The booklet discusses how to get started, strategic planning, preparing a qualified workforce, information technology, unique challenges facing rural areas, and financing economic development. If you’re interested in obtaining a copy, you can contact NACo at 440 First St. NW., Washington, D.C 20001, call them at 202-393-6226, fax them at 202-393-2630, or e-mail them at www.naco.org.

NACo
Environment, Energy, Land Use Planning
Steering Committee
Synopsis of Report
by John Prinkki, Carbon County

Five sub-committees met before the full Committee gathered.

Solid and Hazardous Waste: Robert Springer, Director of EPA Office of Solid Waste, discussed innovations such as biomass and recovery of methane from landfills. The Committee passed a resolution to encourage manufacturing of products less problematic for landfills.

Land Use: Charles Baker, Land Use Manager, New Castle County, Delaware, discussed relationships between planners and elected officials. The Committee passed a resolution for coordination among government levels and how decisions affect housing costs.

Water and Watersheds: Tracy Mehan, Assistant Director, EPA Water Division, discussed the Water Pollution Trading Credits and the proposed Clear Skies Act, as it addresses chemicals from coal-fired generation which end up in drinking water. I expressed concerns with the mercury cap and trade aspects of the Act.

Energy: Robert Rose, Executive Director of U.S. Fuel Cell Council, discussed advantages of fuel cell technology and the status of production models being available to the public.

Air Quality: Donna DeLeoni, EPA Governmental Affairs Director, discussed the Clear Skies Act’s 70% reduction in chemical emissions through a “cap and trade” system. The Committee passed resolutions to support multi-emissions, the Clear Skies Act and to expand eligibility for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality.

Energy, Environment and Land Use:
The full Steering Committee heard two speakers. Kevin Braun, Editor of ‘Environment & Energy Publishing’, spoke on environment and energy issues. Jim Connaughton, Chair of White House Council on Environmental Quality, spoke on the Clear Skies Act and explained that it would provide for cleaner air sooner than the existing Clean Air Act. The Steering Committee reaffirmed all resolutions after heated discussion over CMAQ and the Clear Skies Act. Julie Ufner, NACo Associate Legislative Director, gave a brief update on other congressional issues.

NACo INFORMATION

There are at least ten reasons why NACo Membership is a tremendous value.

#1: Lobbying

NACo represents counties nationwide. NACo presents the *county view* for issues such as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), TEA-21, airport improvement, homeland security, community/rural development, juvenile justice, etc.. NACo was recently rated in the top 100 of lobbying organizations by Fortune Magazine.

#2: Conferences

The NACo Legislative and Annual Conferences are still the best place to acquire information to make "informed decisions." NACo also offers the Western Interstate Region Meeting and the Employment Policy and Human Services Conference.

#3: County News

County News is the premier publication for counties. The bi-weekly issues keep on top of the latest developments in Washington, the nation and in NACo.

#4: Financial Benefits

Deferred Compensation Program

Is a partnership of NACo and Nationwide Insurance, adopted by more than 2,100 counties, and provides retirement benefits for county employees.

Financial Services Center (FSC)

Offers enhanced financial services to member counties, large discounts on office supplies, computers and

so much more. Your county could easily save more than your membership dues just by participating in one of these programs.

#5: Networking

Whether you attend conferences or participate on one of NACo's many steering committees, the interaction with other county officials is invaluable.

#6: Training and Workshops

NACo offers several satellite broadcast training programs that bring the training to you. Our conferences are always filled with programs to keep you up with the latest issues to help you be the best county official you can be.

#7: Research and Information

NACo conducts research and provides statistics on a variety of subject areas such as environmental programs, welfare-to-work initiatives. The NACo staff "goes to work for you" so your staff doesn't have to divert their time.

#8: Access to national leaders

Key national leaders from the Administration and Congress participate in all NACo events and NACo can assist with meetings with key lawmakers.

#9: Promotions

National County Government Week and Counties Serve America are just two of the premier campaigns. NACo also ensures that the media is aware of the importance of counties through press releases and public relations activities.

#10: Web Site & Publications

The NACo website offers research and publications to help counties improve services:

- Aging and Children's Issues
- Coastal Watershed Management
- Pollution Prevention
- Radon/Indoor Air Program
- Solid Waste Management
- Source Water Protection
- Sustainable Development
- Volunteerism

Two of the newest publications coming this year are in land use and planning:

1. Community Planning Guidebook (July 2003) is a technical assistance tool to help manage growth in ways to promote healthy economies, preserve local identity and safeguard natural and cultural resources.
2. Local Greenprinting for Growth (Spring 2003) is to assist with open space protection and conservation:
 - a) Overview
 - b) Conservation Vision
 - c) Conservation Funding
 - d) Acquiring and Managing Park / Conservation Land.

Other publications:

Jail Planning and Expansion
Local Officials and Their Roles
County Election Services
National Survey, 2001
Affordable Housing—Counties in Crisis
A Look at the Inner Ring
Discussion of Older Suburbs
County Operations Analysis, 2001
Changes and Challenges
Rural County Governance
County Sales Tax at the Dawn of E-Commerce

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