



HIGHLIGHTS

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NEW FISCAL YEAR NEW DEVELOPMENTS

BY MACo PRESIDENT DOUG KAERCHER

The June MACo Board of Directors meeting was very successful in providing benefits for MACo members:

NO DUES INCREASES

MACo Board of Directors approved the FY 2007 MACo budget, based on anticipated revenues and carryover funds of \$1,963,247. The total reflects three areas:

MACo Administration	\$ 491,360
Insurance Trusts	\$1,122,106
Carry in cash balance	\$ 349,781.

The largest source of income for MACo Administration is the anticipated dues revenue of \$250,000 which reflects **no increase in county dues.**

Special thanks go to the Tax, Finance and Budget Committee for their hard work.

MACo TRAVEL POLICY AMENDED

The MACo Board amended the travel policy for NACo Steering Committee members: "NACo Committee travel reimbursements will be made only for those committee assignments pre-approved by the MACo President and Executive Director." Reimbursement amounts remain the same, as does the requirement that steering committee reports are to accompany travel reimbursement requests.

This change was imposed to guarantee positive outcomes from the Association's investment.

MACo INSURANCE CLAIMS STAFF Welcome to MACo!



(L - R) Keith Stapley, Claims Manager; Donna Forkan, Claims Assistant; Bonnie Knopf, Claims Adjuster; Wendy Sesselman, Senior Claims Adjuster; Christine Holling, Claims Assistant

At the Board meeting, a comparative budget demonstrated A definite savings by bringing MACo Insurance Claims staff in-house, rather than contracting for the service. If the service had remained under a contract, the FY 07 cost would have been \$ 965,933. With the service moving to MACo, the budget is \$ 552,209, for a **savings of \$ 413,724!**

This is a result of following the leadership provided by Gordon Morris. The Board acknowledged his work and ideas on behalf of MACo by implementing his insight for membership services.

With these positive outlooks, and the help and ideas from MACo members, 2007 should prove to be a very successful year.

MACo PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS



President Doug Kaercher presented the \$500 MACo Presidential Scholarship to Andrew Dusek, recent graduate of Havre High School. Andrew plans to attend the University of Montana to study broadcast journalism.

His background includes music and theater performance, Honor Society, 4-H, volunteer work for elderly and an All-American designation by the National Forensic League.

Andrew attended the June MACo Board meeting with his parents, Douglas and Cheryl, his sister and his aunt.

Morgan Gatzemeier, from North Star High School in Hingham, received the other Presidential Scholarship but was unable to attend the MACo Board meeting. Morgan plans to attend MSU to study Equine Science.

WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (W.I.R.)

*from Connie Eissinger, McCone County
WIR Past President*

PILT has been the top priority for WIR with successful lobbying efforts to increase it annually from around \$100 million in the 90's to \$232 million last year. WIR established a Public Lands Trust Fund and uses the interest to fund well-planned and focused lobby efforts. The past few years we have reached out to PILT counties east of our borders for assistance in gaining admittance to their states' congressional offices.

In 1997, Bob Douglas, a school superintendent, came to our WIR Conference to seek support for legislation to restore forest payments to counties and schools (PL 106-393). From that meeting, five of us put together the important points that this legislation should include. From there, the Secure Rural Counties and Schools Coalition was born. Since the reauthorization of that legislation is so vitally important to all of us right now, it is of equal importance as PILT.

WIR also works with the National Endangered Species Act (ESA) Reform Coalition. Legislation to improve the ESA has already passed the House and is being worked on in the Senate.

WIR committees include the PILT Formula Study Committee and the Native American Issues Working Group. One board member from Idaho serves on the National Advisory Committee on Roadless Areas. Another from Utah serves on the RS 2477 Working Group with members of the US Department of Interior and has reached some rather satisfactory agreements. A Supervisor from California, previously the chief fire coordinator for the California forests, represents WIR on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council. One of their main issues is fire containment costs; he has been an invaluable informational source to that Council. I represent WIR on the Greater Sage Grouse Regionwide Strategy Forum.

We have a liaison from the BLM, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, and a liaison from the Forest Service, Randy Philips. They attend our meetings and offer essential information, as well as representation for our points of view, to their respective agencies. Dr. Paul Beddoe is our NACo staff person who keeps tabs on pertinent legislation and does most of the lobbying on our issues.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

* = Incumbent R = Republican D = Democrat NP = Non-partisan I = Independent

<p>Anaconda-Deer Lodge #1 David Elias NP Mark A. Sweeney NP #4 Paul Chirico, Jr. NP Robert Pierce NP #5 Michael Softich NP Peter Lorello NP</p> <p>Beaverhead * #1 Tom Rice R * #3 Garth Haugland I Ty Cobb R</p> <p>Big Horn * Chad Fenner NP</p> <p>Blaine Vic Miller D Alan L. Brekke R</p> <p>Broadwater Gail Vennes NP</p> <p>Butte-Silver Bow * #1 Michael Kerns NP Glen Granger NP * #2 Joe Lee NP #7 Debra Retzlaff NP Mark Moodry NP #9 Laurie Raymond NP Dan Foley NP * #10 Michael Sheehy NP #11 Cindy Shaw NP Michael Hogart NP</p> <p>Carbon * John Prinkki NP Tera Reynolds NP</p> <p>Carter * James Courtney R</p> <p>Cascade * Peggy Beltrone D Fred Burow R</p> <p>Chouteau * James O'Hara R</p> <p>Custer #1 Gary Matthews NP Dennis Hirsch NP * #2 Milo Huber NP Keith Holmlund NP</p> <p>Daniels * Lalon Trang D Paul Richardson R</p> <p>Dawson Douglas Buxbaum R Randy Hansen D</p> <p>Fallon * Don Reiger R Gene Domagala D</p> <p>Fergus * Carl Seilstad NP</p>	<p>Flathead Dale Lauman R Mark Crowley D</p> <p>Gallatin Steve White R Lynea Seher D</p> <p>Garfield * Phil Hill NP Jack Murnion</p> <p>Glacier Kelly Solberg R Ron Rides At The Door D</p> <p>Golden Valley Anthony Zinne R</p> <p>Granite Maureen Connor R</p> <p>Hill * Kathy Bessette D</p> <p>Jefferson * Tom Lythgoe NP Rod Sager NP</p> <p>Judith Basin Cody McDonald R</p> <p>Lake * Paddy Trusler R</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Andy Hunthausen D Liane Taylor R</p> <p>Liberty Larry Hendrickson R</p> <p>Lincoln * Marianne Roose D Ginny Emerson R</p> <p>Madison #2 Marilyn Ross NP Lewis Stahl NP #3 James Hart NP John Lounsbury NP</p> <p>McCone Janet Wolff R</p> <p>Meagher * C. Bernie Lucas R</p> <p>Mineral Dennis Hildebrand R Clark Conrow D</p> <p>Missoula * Jean M. Curtiss D Jim Edwards R</p> <p>Musselshell * Robert Goffena R Sue Olson D</p> <p>Park * Jim Durgan NP Richard Huson NP</p>	<p>Petroleum * #3 J. Chris King R</p> <p>Phillips * Troy Blunt R</p> <p>Pondera * Cynthia Johnson R</p> <p>Powder River * Betty Aye I Darold Zimmer I Don McDowell R</p> <p>Powell * Gail Jones R Christie Brander D</p> <p>Prairie * Todd Devlin R</p> <p>Ravalli Howard Lyons R Kathleen Driscoll D</p> <p>Richland * Don Stepler D Lou Nielson R</p> <p>Roosevelt * Gary Madconald D</p> <p>Rosebud * Joan Stahl D Kerrie McFarland R</p> <p>Sanders * Carol Brooker D</p> <p>Sheridan * Gerald Kohler D Howard Kavon R</p> <p>Stillwater * Maureen Davey R</p> <p>Sweet Grass Rick Reed R</p> <p>Teton * Arnold Gettel I</p> <p>Toole Teri Iverson R Dave Miller D</p> <p>Treasure * Doug Hollowell R</p> <p>Valley * Bruce Peterson D Kari Lee Knierim R</p> <p>Wheatland * Tom Bennett R</p> <p>Wibaux Gilbert Quade R</p> <p>Yellowstone * Bill Kennedy D</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMISSIONERS</u> <u>ENDING SERVICE</u></p> <p>Anaconda-Deer Lodge Russ Bilodeau Wayne Ternes Connie T. Daniels</p> <p>Blaine Art Kleinjan</p> <p>Broadwater Elaine Mann</p> <p>Butte-Silver Bow Bud Walker Laura Lee Dunlap Ted Bury</p> <p>Custer Duane Mathison</p> <p>Dawson Bill LaBree</p> <p>Flathead Robert Watne</p> <p>Gallatin John Vincent</p> <p>Glacier Ray Salois</p> <p>Golden Valley Joy Schanz</p> <p>Granite Barry Carnahan</p> <p>Judith Basin Ed Arnott</p> <p>Lewis & Clark Anita Varone</p> <p>Liberty Ed Diemert</p> <p>Madison Frank Nelson Ted Coffman</p> <p>McCone Kent Larson</p> <p>Mineral James Warnken</p> <p>Ravalli Betty Lund</p> <p>Sweet Grass Elaine Allestad</p> <p>Toole Tom Gordon</p> <p>Wibaux Sandy Nelson</p>
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TWO REVENUE SOURCES

COUNTY	PROPOSED PILT FFY07	ENTITLEMENT SHARE
ANACONDA DEER LODGE	\$289,818	1,046,534
BEAVERHEAD	\$561,020	341,398
BIG HORN	\$8,385	24,064
BLAINE	\$332,555	201,955
BROADWATER	\$369,374	354,233
BUTTE SILVER BOW	\$308,899	3,291,297
CARBON	\$534,011	460,683
CARTER	\$120,326	145,145
CASCADE	\$289,333	362,210
CHOUTEAU	\$191,383	598,339
CUSTER	\$471,272	318,072
DANIELS	\$0	254,471
DAWSON	\$12,943	956,613
FALLON	\$23,454	275,242
FERGUS	\$676,413	266,137
FLATHEAD	\$1,352,023	3,150,221
GALLATIN	\$965,440	1,858,705
GARFIELD	\$119,388	166,719
GLACIER	\$576,122	455,125
GOLDEN VALLEY	\$42,805	46,108
GRANITE	\$142,432	270,853
HILL	\$23,444	465,220
JEFFERSON	\$636,747	668,322
JUDITH BASIN	\$174,792	274,256
LAKE	\$167,131	752,533
LEWIS and CLARK	\$1,380,519	1,258,855
LIBERTY	\$35,100	281,007
LINCOLN	\$353,740	672,229
MADISON	\$543,762	583,068
McCONE	\$170,447	245,002
MEAGHER	\$124,854	114,487
MINERAL	\$130,049	280,537
MISSOULA	\$687,639	3,303,339

COUNTY	PROPOSED PILT FFY07	ENTITLEMENT SHARE
MUSSELSHELL	\$111,854	144,714
PARK	\$849,045	526,598
PETROLEUM	\$48,514	46,866
PHILLIPS	\$278,672	226,748
PONDERA	\$139,410	367,152
POWDER RIVER	\$120,368	312,732
POWELL	\$419,642	160,472
PRAIRIE	\$86,912	139,188
RAVALLI	\$1,475,188	1,107,070
RICHLAND	\$11,002	375,882
ROOSEVELT	\$867	312,169
ROSEBUD	\$65,945	2,289,753
SANDERS	\$185,112	899,576
SHERIDAN	\$360	423,831
STILLWATER	\$258,616	735,751
SWEET GRASS	\$332,806	261,033
TETON	\$381,729	389,770
TOOLE	\$43,973	475,892
TREASURE	\$151	93,260
VALLEY	\$440,952	163,751
WHEATLAND	\$87,774	128,071
WIBAUX	\$5,463	249,712
YELLOWSTONE	\$109,660	2,011,282

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SPOTLIGHT ON BEAVERHEAD COUNTY



Beaverhead County's new seal was featured in a recent issue of the National Association of Counties (NACo) newsletter with an explanation of how it came about and what it is used for.

The seal is used on county business cards, letterhead and door signs for county vehicles. It will also be used for Beaverhead County's value-added beef program, "Beaverhead Beef," so producers and processors can verify cattle county-of-origin.

The seal was designed by a community working group of approximately 90 people to give the county a unique brand.

The images on the seal represent five key symbols of the county: Big Sky, water, agriculture, mountains and recreation. The phrase "wide open adventure," which half-circles the seal, represents the geography and spirit of Beaverhead County.

Excerpt from Dillon Tribune

SPOTLIGHT ON RAVALLI COUNTY



The new Ravalli County Weed District website -- www.rcweeds.org -- features pictures and descriptions to help identify noxious weeds found in Ravalli County and offers solutions for combating the invasive and unwanted plants.

The website is part of the Ravalli County Weed Board's effort to educate the public about the growing problem of noxious weeds and to encourage people to join the fight in reducing noxious weed numbers, according to Bryce Christiaens, Ravalli County Weed Coordinator.

"Education is key for combating weeds," Christiaens said. "With the website, it's easy for us to educate people about noxious weeds and how the weeds affect them."

In parts of the County, new noxious weeds have been found in recent years, according to Margaret Sharp of MSU Extension.

"Blueweed, common bugloss and yellow flag iris have been spreading around and education will help stop the spread of these weeds," she said. "Knapweed affects everyone in this county--learning these weeds and taking care of your land is crucial."

Excerpt from Ravalli Republic

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Half-time position; will work with the Director to plan and provide research, training and technical assistance for Montana's municipal and county officials. Screening begins July 3, 2006. For more information and application procedure, go to "jobs" <http://www.montana.edu>, or contact Mary Fran San Soucie, Personnel Specialist, MSU Extension, PO Box 172230, Bozeman, MT 59717-2230, (406) 994-6648, maryfran@montana.edu. **ADA/EO/AA/Veterans Preference.**

PAINT-THE-STATE PROJECT IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

With over 1,000 entries to date, the Paint-the-State Project is receiving an overwhelming response. County commissions should have received information from Peg Shea, MT Meth Project, with judges' login and passwords. If not, please contact Peg at pshea@siebel.org.

Some important dates to remember are:

July 3 Deadline for Entries

July 11 Begin viewing entries online at www.paintthestate.org in the judges area.

July 15 Online voting will be in the judges area of the website (www.paintthestate.org)

July 24 Submit your recommendations for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place to the Montana Meth Project by **Noon.**

August 9 Statewide Awards Event in Helena (please attend if possible)

MACo INSURANCE TRUST BUILDING PROGRESS



Thursday, June 8 2006
MACo Board tour

Friday
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Friday
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Friday
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GREENS COVERS

The Fallon County Commission is accepting sealed bids for nine (9) large golf course greens covers. Deadline is July 14, 2006 at 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Eric Kary at (406) 978-3167. Bids are to be submitted to Fallon County Commission, PO Box 846, Baker, MT 59313. Please mark the envelope "**SEALED BID-GREENS COVERS-JULY 17, 2006**". Bids will be opened and read aloud at 4:00 PM on July 17, 2006 in the Fallon County Commission Office.

VIBRATING SCREEN PLANT

The Fallon County Commission is accepting sealed bids for a 1976 Kolberg Vibrating Screen Plant. Deadline is July 14, 2006 at 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Alba at (406)-778-2019. Submit bids to Fallon County Commission, PO Box 846, Baker, MT 59313. Please mark the envelope "**SEALED BID-SCREEN PLANT-JULY 17, 2006**". Bids will be opened and read aloud at 3:00 PM on July 17, 2006 in the Fallon County Commission Office.

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National Forest Counties &
Schools Coalition

Notice for Fly-In

FLY-IN September 13 & 14, 2006

<http://www.forestco.net>

Fly-In Registration Deadline - July 14, 2006

The National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition (NFCSC) will host its first annual Save Our Rural Schools and Communities - Washington, DC Fly-In on September 13--14. NFCSC needs over 150 forest county citizens to come to Washington, DC for the Fly-In.

The Fly-In will involve participants 8:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. The goal is to meet with all 100 U.S. Senate offices and all 435 U.S. Representative offices. All participants will be given a Kelly green polo shirt with a "Save Our Rural Schools and Communities" slogan and logo. No previous advocacy experience is necessary as each participant will be placed on a team led by an experienced Capital Hill advocate.

We must tell how important reauthorization of PL 106-393 in 2006 is to counties.

Registration for the Fly-In will be free. Blocks of hotel rooms have been held at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn (cut-off date 7/14/06) and Marriott Hotel, Rosslyn (cut-off date 8/24/06). Participants will need to call and reserve their own rooms. The cost for hotel and flights to and from Washington, DC will be the responsibility of each participant and/or their sponsoring agency.

This is the last major opportunity to convince Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Act (PL 106-393) before it expires on September 30, 2006. Please sign-up today - NFCSC needs your help!

Submitted by NFCSC

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Greg Jackson

Marketing Director

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FROM: Bill Hansell, NACo President

**Bob Douglas, President
Forest Counties & Schools Coalition**

**Ted Anderson, Chair
NACo Public Lands Committee**

As you know, the current funding through PL 106-393 for both Title II and III projects will expire unless reauthorized or extended by Congress. Reports from throughout the country indicate that these funds continue to be desperately needed to support essential services in counties and schools throughout the country.

To assist in the reauthorization effort, **the most important thing is to communicate your successes through Title II and Title III projects to your Congressional representatives, their staff, and the public at large.** At the same time you need to share information on what will happen if these funds are eliminated or drastically reduced.

A great opportunity for you to communicate the importance of continuing PL 106-393 funding is during the July 4th and August Congressional Recesses, when virtually all of the members of Congress will be in their home districts. This is an excellent time to meet with them, but better yet to invite them to visit excellent Title II or Title III projects in your county. It is critical that they know of your successful implementation of the Bill as well as your support for the full reauthorization of PL 106-393 as currently embodied in HR 517 and S267. Please ask your member of Congress to recommend to leadership that PL 106-393 reauthorization be placed on the list of legislation that must be passed in the 2006 Session of Congress.

Your effort now to communicate support for reauthorization will save you and your staff countless hours in the future, should this measure not be fully refunded. A call to your Congressional office and arrangements for a visit during the July or August recess are an excellent place to start. *Please don't let the July and August recesses slip away as an opportunity for reauthorization advocacy for PL 106-393.*

MACo VP JOHNSON AT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK

by Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County

County Leadership Institute 2006 was co-sponsored by the NACo and NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Over period of four days, county leaders from 24 locations around the nation had opportunities to gain a better understanding of personal leadership styles and to develop skills to be more effective at exercising leadership on county issues.

The primary lecturer for the 06 Institute was Marty Linsky, author of Leadership on the Line. Linsky serves on the faculty at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and is a principal of Cambridge Leadership Associates, a leadership development consulting practice. He led the group to learn to distinguish between exercising authority and exercising leadership and explored the adaptive approach versus the technical approach to leadership. Commissioners and state executives also explored their individual roles in leadership challenges and engaged in an interactive exercise in effective press strategies.

Prior to attending, all participants completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Sharon Benjamin, Adjunct Assistant Professor at NYU Wagner, reviewed the results and helped us embrace alternative approaches to leadership as a tool for problem solving.

The other sessions included collaboration and negotiation, peer consultation, a sponsor roundtable, and a site visit to the New York City Office of Emergency Management. While the schedule was rigorous and the topics were sometimes sensitive, the overall experience was incredible. The next institute will be held the spring of 2007 and all commissioners or any local government leaders are encouraged to apply.

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Counties Save Energy and Taxpayer Money

By Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Community Services

The cost of operating county government facilities has not been spared from the latest rise in energy costs. Each year, taxpayer dollars are used to pay for the operation of county facilities, including the lighting, heating, air conditioning, and the remainder of basic utility needs.

One-third of the energy used to operate government facilities goes to waste annually, according to the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR program. Energy savings can be found in each facility - from courthouses to office buildings to jails, police stations, public libraries, etc..

Two Montana counties are already participating in the cost-free ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign through NACo: **Carbon and Hill Counties**. In total, 91 counties across 37 states are participating in the Campaign, working to address energy use in their courthouses and other buildings.

These counties are provided with training, technical assistance and peer-to-peer networking to create and to implement county energy management strategies, to assess and to track energy use, to find opportunities for financing energy upgrades, and to communicate these savings to constituents. The results save thousands of taxpayer dollars annually and help improve the environment, while not compromising comfort or health. The program also facilitates county involvement in the national EPA ENERGY STAR program (www.energystar.gov).

Graybar Energy Management

By Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Community Services

In a new partnership between the National Association of Counties (NACo) Energy Management program, the NACo Financial Services Center, and the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, counties can save even more on their energy efficiency efforts.

Now, not only can counties save on their utility costs by participating in the NACo ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign and learning how to become more energy efficient, but counties purchasing energy-efficient products from Graybar through U.S. Communities will see even more of a savings.

As a contracted supplier of U.S. Communities, through a solicitation done by Los Angeles County, Graybar provides a full line of electrical and communication products to participating counties.

Did you know that lighting typically accounts for thirty to forty percent of an office building's energy bill, yet many areas of the building are unoccupied for large parts of the day? Lighting occupancy sensors can save an office building thirty to ninety percent in energy when installed in places such as corridors and restrooms.

**To learn more about these programs and savings contact Kelly Zonderwyk
kzonderwyk@naco.org
 202.942.4224.**

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Life Care Services, Missoula
Montana Co. Road Supervisors (MACRS)
Montana Contractors Association, Helena
Montana Dakota Utilities
Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena
MSU Extension Service, Bozeman
Norman Grosfield, Attorney, Helena
NorthWestern Energy, Helena
PBS & J, Bozeman
Roscoe Steel & Culvert, Billings
Stahly Engineering, Helena
Tractor & Equipment Company, Billings

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Phone (406) 444-4380

Fax (406) 442-5238

Email: macopb@maco.cog.mt.us

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