



# MACo news

Vol. 36 No. 7 July 2007

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## 98th Annual Conference: DRAFT Agenda

September 23-27 at the Bestwestern Heritage Inn in Great Falls

### Sunday, September 23

9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Golf for anyone interested	8:30-10 a.m.	Open
1-5 p.m.	Registration	10 -10:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings
1-5 p.m.	Exhibitors set up	10:30-Noon	Coffee Break
3-5 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Noon-1:15	General Session
6-7 p.m.	President's Reception	1:15-2:15 p.m.	Lunch
7-9 p.m.	Sponsor/Vendor	2:15-2:45 p.m.	Workshops
	Appreciation Banquet	2:45-3:45 p.m.	Coffee break
9-10 p.m.	Entertainment: Patricia Ryan & Yellowstone	4-6 p.m.	Workshops
			Committee meetings

### Wednesday, September 26

7-8:30 a.m.	No-Host Prayer Breakfast	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Registration
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Registration	8 a.m.-Noon	Exhibits Open
8:30-10 a.m.	General Session	8:30-10 a.m.	Workshops
10-10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break	10:30-Noon	General Session
10:30-Noon	General Session	Noon-1 p.m.	Lunch
Noon-1:30	Lunch	1-4 p.m.	General Session
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Workshops	3:30-4 p.m.	General Session
2:30-3 p.m.	Coffee break	5-10 p.m.	No Host Social & Annual Banquet
3-4 p.m.	Workshops		
4-6 p.m.	Committee Meetings		

### Thursday, September 27

7:30 a.m.	New Board of Directors Meeting		
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Registration & Exhibits		<i>See Page 5 for Registration Form . . .</i>

## MACo Associate Member Program: A Partnership with Montana Counties

### What is the MACo Associate Member Program?

The MACo Associate Member Program is a program designed for companies and organizations who want to have a direct relationship with county elected officials in Montana's 56 counties.

### Why should I become a MACo Associate Member?

The MACo Associate Membership is the most efficient and cost-effective way to showcase your company to purchasing decision makers for Montana's 56 counties for an entire year.

This affiliation can play a major role in your marketing efforts, and it benefits counties by identifying potential suppliers in a broad range of services. MACo Associate Members include architectural/engineering firms, financial advisors, consultants, retirement planners, law firms, computer hardware/software, office products, construction equipment/heavy equipment and other such firms.

Associate membership is available at six levels – something for every marketing need and budget. Please go to MACo's Website, [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us), to view a breakout of each level's benefits and costs.

### How do I become a MACo Associate Member?

Becoming an Associate Member is easy! First, you will need to decide the level of membership that works best for your company. Then, simply fill out the form on MACo's Website, [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us), and mail it to MACo with your payment.



# MACo News

## Mark Your Calendars

<b>July</b>	
July 12 - 18, 2007	NACo Annual Conference, Richmond, VA
<b>August</b>	
Aug. 7 - 10, 2007	Western Planners Association Conference, Dickinson, ND
Aug. 20 - 24, 2007	Montana Clerk & Records Association Annual Conference, Great Falls
<b>September</b>	
Sept. 17 - 19, 2007	Montana Treasurers Annual Conference, Missoula
Sept. 23 - 26, 2007	MACo Annual Conference, Great Falls
Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2007	Magistrates Fall Conference
<b>February</b>	
Feb. 11 - 15, 2008	Mid-Winter Conference, Holiday Inn, Billings

## Contractor's Tax

Montana Law provides for a 1% tax on public contractors, on the value of all public works contracts over \$5,000. Section 15-50-101(3)(a) MCA defines a Public Contractor as any person who enters into a construction contract with a public entity when the contract cost, value, or price exceeds the sum of \$5,000. This includes work done by subcontractors.

This tax does not apply to the purchase of materials alone. An example might be if a county purchases 10,000 yards of gravel from a supplier for \$10/yard, for a total cost of \$100,000. No tax is due because the transaction is a purchase of materials. On the other hand, if a county enters into a contract with a contractor to haul and apply 10,000 yards of gravel at \$20.00/yard for a total contract price of \$200,000, the tax applies because it falls under the definition in 15-50-101 MCA of performing public construction work.

The tax imposed is equal to 1% of the gross receipts which is defined in 15-50-101(2) MCA to include the total value of all considerations, including materials, labor, interest and all other expenses, whatsoever, but does not include any discounts or sales refunds that the contractor may receive from suppliers. It is the responsibility of the contractor to pay the tax due to the Department of Revenue, however, pursuant to 15-50-206(2) MCA, it is also **the responsibility of the public agency** for whom the contractor is performing work, **to withhold the tax due** and to remit the amount withheld to the Department of Revenue at the same time as a payment to a contractor is made. The withholding form is available at: <http://mt.gov/revenue/formsandresources/forms/PC2.pdf>

## MACo News Invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint, or suggestion, please let us know!

Please include your name and county with your letter, and email your thoughts to:



Phone:  
406.444.4380

[macopb@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:macopb@maco.cog.mt.us)  
or  
Send directly to MACo News, 2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602 -1213.

## PILT 2007

The Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management has distributed Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Federal Fiscal Year 2007 to counties. On the following page (page 3) is a spreadsheet comparing the 2007 and 2006 payments and acres for each Montana County. Overall Montana saw a decline of over \$83,000.

The state total payment decreased slightly (-\$83,179) while the acres increased slightly (20,267). However there were some significant changes for several counties. Most of these changes are due to changing acreage.

The PILT formula provides for two methods for calculating of the payment, with each county receiving the higher of the two. The calculated payment amount is higher than the amount appropriated by Congress therefore each county's actual payment is a percentage of the authorized amount. The amount appropriated by Congress was the same this year as last. The net effect is that when one county's calculated amount increases because of increased acreage, all other county's payments are decreased. It is simply a matter of the pie being of a fixed size and the size of each county's slice changing annually. The total appropriation for both 2006 and 2007 was \$232,133,759 which is about 65% of the authorized amount. Approximately \$400,000 of the Congressional appropriation is retained by the department to administer the program. Full funding for PILT continues to be one of NACo's highest priorities.

You will note that there are significant differences on a per/acre basis. This is due to a population cap being part of the formula. Note that Glacier County received \$1.43/acre while Petroleum County only received \$0.14 per/acre. MACo continues to work with the Western Interstate Region and the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee to urge Congressional changes in the formula to make the per/acre distribution more equitable.

The BLM news release for this year is at: [http://www.doi.gov/news/07\\_News\\_Releases/070615.html](http://www.doi.gov/news/07_News_Releases/070615.html)

Additional information is available at: <http://www.doi.gov/pilt/>

**Note to new County Treasurers:** *PILT payments were distributed in September until a few years ago. When the payments began being distributed in June, some counties chose to recognize the revenue when received while others carried it as deferred revenue into the next fiscal year. You may want to review when the payment was booked last year in your county accounting system and do the same so you do not end up showing double revenue in one year.*

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at

Harold Blattie, Executive Director  
Montana Association of Counties

## Get a Wonderfully Crafted MACo Pin



Made by Montana Silversmiths for Only \$25



# MACo News

## Montana Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) 2006 and 2007

Data Source: <http://www.doi.gov/pilt/>

County	Payment			Acres			Per Acre	
	Jun-07	Jun-06	Change	Jun-07	Jun-06	Change	Jun-07	Jun-06
Anaconda Deer Lodge County	\$287,865	\$289,818	(\$1,953)	213,379	213,881	(502)	\$1.35	\$1.36
Beaverhead County	\$558,234	\$561,020	(\$2,786)	2,045,702	2,045,342	360	\$0.27	\$0.27
<b>Big Horn County</b>	<b>\$8,311</b>	<b>\$8,385</b>	<b>(\$74)</b>	<b>41,433</b>	<b>41,434</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Blaine County	\$339,023	\$332,555	\$6,468	451,657	451,891	(234)	\$0.75	\$0.74
<b>Broadwater County</b>	<b>\$368,070</b>	<b>\$369,374</b>	<b>(\$1,304)</b>	<b>281,274</b>	<b>280,767</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>\$1.31</b>	<b>\$1.32</b>
Carbon County	\$511,442	\$534,011	(\$22,569)	573,483	573,483	0	\$0.89	\$0.93
<b>Carter County</b>	<b>\$119,270</b>	<b>\$120,326</b>	<b>(\$1,056)</b>	<b>594,608</b>	<b>594,608</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Cascade County	\$287,829	\$289,333	(\$1,504)	215,467	215,467	0	\$1.34	\$1.34
<b>Chouteau County</b>	<b>\$191,935</b>	<b>\$191,383</b>	<b>\$552</b>	<b>155,746</b>	<b>155,746</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.23</b>	<b>\$1.23</b>
Custer County	\$470,002	\$471,272	(\$1,270)	333,735	333,735	0	\$1.41	\$1.41
<b>Daniels County</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Dawson County	\$12,830	\$12,943	(\$113)	63,960	63,960	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Fallon County</b>	<b>\$23,248</b>	<b>\$23,454</b>	<b>(\$206)</b>	<b>115,901</b>	<b>115,901</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Fergus County	\$667,059	\$676,413	(\$9,354)	483,896	483,796	100	\$1.38	\$1.40
<b>Flathead County</b>	<b>\$1,354,704</b>	<b>\$1,352,023</b>	<b>\$2,681</b>	<b>2,440,115</b>	<b>2,440,184</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>\$0.56</b>	<b>\$0.55</b>
Gallatin County	\$961,356	\$965,440	(\$4,084)	703,608	703,542	66	\$1.37	\$1.37
<b>Garfield County</b>	<b>\$116,070</b>	<b>\$119,388</b>	<b>(\$3,318)</b>	<b>814,977</b>	<b>814,977</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.14</b>	<b>\$0.15</b>
Glacier County	\$572,449	\$576,122	(\$3,673)	401,497	401,497	0	\$1.43	\$1.43
<b>Golden Valley County</b>	<b>\$42,619</b>	<b>\$42,805</b>	<b>(\$186)</b>	<b>31,537</b>	<b>31,537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.35</b>	<b>\$1.36</b>
Granite County	\$141,198	\$142,432	(\$1,234)	703,925	703,849	76	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Hill County</b>	<b>\$26,266</b>	<b>\$23,444</b>	<b>\$2,822</b>	<b>47,718</b>	<b>47,718</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.55</b>	<b>\$0.49</b>
Jefferson County	\$635,312	\$636,747	(\$1,435)	554,614	554,613	1	\$1.15	\$1.15
<b>Judith Basin County</b>	<b>\$176,650</b>	<b>\$174,792</b>	<b>\$1,858</b>	<b>308,662</b>	<b>308,662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.57</b>	<b>\$0.57</b>
Lake County	\$167,102	\$167,131	(\$29)	156,486	156,486	0	\$1.07	\$1.07
<b>Lewis &amp; Clark County</b>	<b>\$1,396,645</b>	<b>\$1,380,519</b>	<b>\$16,126</b>	<b>1,084,909</b>	<b>1,076,584</b>	<b>8,325</b>	<b>\$1.29</b>	<b>\$1.28</b>
Liberty County	\$30,950	\$35,100	(\$4,150)	33,656	33,656	0	\$0.92	\$1.04
<b>Lincoln County</b>	<b>\$350,628</b>	<b>\$353,740</b>	<b>(\$3,112)</b>	<b>1,748,017</b>	<b>1,748,057</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Madison County	\$540,907	\$543,762	(\$2,855)	1,051,768	1,051,621	147	\$0.51	\$0.52
<b>McCone County</b>	<b>\$171,259</b>	<b>\$170,447</b>	<b>\$812</b>	<b>274,105</b>	<b>274,105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.62</b>	<b>\$0.62</b>
Meagher County	\$124,380	\$124,854	(\$474)	482,440	483,557	(1,117)	\$0.26	\$0.26
<b>Mineral County</b>	<b>\$128,839</b>	<b>\$130,049</b>	<b>(\$1,210)</b>	<b>642,309</b>	<b>642,655</b>	<b>(346)</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Missoula County	\$694,021	\$687,639	\$6,382	720,350	716,815	3,535	\$0.96	\$0.96
<b>Musselshell County</b>	<b>\$109,569</b>	<b>\$111,854</b>	<b>(\$2,285)</b>	<b>87,517</b>	<b>87,517</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.25</b>	<b>\$1.28</b>
Park County	\$846,375	\$849,045	(\$2,670)	945,504	945,503	1	\$0.90	\$0.90
<b>Petroleum County</b>	<b>\$45,499</b>	<b>\$48,514</b>	<b>(\$3,015)</b>	<b>335,040</b>	<b>335,040</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.14</b>	<b>\$0.14</b>
Phillips County	\$276,227	\$278,672	(\$2,445)	1,377,099	1,377,099	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Pondera County</b>	<b>\$132,098</b>	<b>\$139,410</b>	<b>(\$7,312)</b>	<b>107,919</b>	<b>107,919</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.22</b>	<b>\$1.29</b>
Powder River County	\$119,312	\$120,368	(\$1,056)	594,815	594,815	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Powell County</b>	<b>\$420,207</b>	<b>\$419,642</b>	<b>\$565</b>	<b>731,851</b>	<b>722,648</b>	<b>9,203</b>	<b>\$0.57</b>	<b>\$0.58</b>
Prairie County	\$86,149	\$86,912	(\$763)	429,486	429,486	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Ravalli County</b>	<b>\$1,469,669</b>	<b>\$1,475,188</b>	<b>(\$5,519)</b>	<b>1,115,516</b>	<b>1,115,520</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>\$1.32</b>	<b>\$1.32</b>
Richland County	\$10,905	\$11,002	(\$97)	54,366	54,365	1	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Roosevelt County</b>	<b>\$859</b>	<b>\$867</b>	<b>(\$8)</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Rosebud County	\$65,367	\$65,945	(\$578)	325,876	325,876	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Sanders County</b>	<b>\$183,489</b>	<b>\$185,112</b>	<b>(\$1,623)</b>	<b>914,761</b>	<b>914,761</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Sheridan County	\$357	\$360	(\$3)	1,781	1,781	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Silver Bow Census Cty</b>	<b>\$308,090</b>	<b>\$308,899</b>	<b>(\$809)</b>	<b>233,538</b>	<b>233,287</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>\$1.32</b>	<b>\$1.32</b>
Stillwater County	\$256,460	\$258,616	(\$2,156)	191,193	191,193	0	\$1.34	\$1.35
<b>Sweet Grass County</b>	<b>\$331,860</b>	<b>\$332,806</b>	<b>(\$946)</b>	<b>302,039</b>	<b>302,039</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>
Teton County	\$380,129	\$381,729	(\$1,600)	285,003	285,003	0	\$1.33	\$1.34
<b>Toole County</b>	<b>\$35,361</b>	<b>\$43,973</b>	<b>(\$8,612)</b>	<b>45,459</b>	<b>45,459</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.78</b>	<b>\$0.97</b>
Treasure County	\$150	\$151	(\$1)	748	748	0	\$0.20	\$0.20
<b>Valley County</b>	<b>\$430,566</b>	<b>\$440,952</b>	<b>(\$10,386)</b>	<b>1,122,620</b>	<b>1,122,620</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.38</b>	<b>\$0.39</b>
Wheatland County	\$87,427	\$87,774	(\$347)	65,924	65,924	0	\$1.33	\$1.33
<b>Wibaux County</b>	<b>\$5,415</b>	<b>\$5,463</b>	<b>(\$48)</b>	<b>26,995</b>	<b>26,995</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>
Yellowstone County	\$108,443	\$109,660	(\$1,217)	78,235	78,235	0	\$1.39	\$1.40
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17,186,456</b>	<b>\$17,269,635</b>	<b>(\$83,179)</b>	<b>27,148,703</b>	<b>27,128,443</b>	<b>20,260</b>	<b>\$0.63</b>	<b>\$0.64</b>



# Risk Management

## Sun Protection: It's Not Just for Summer

Provided by Federal Occupation Health, Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.foh.dhhs.gov/>

It's Summer! But before you grab your boogie-board and run to the beach, consider this. Skin cancer is the most common kind of cancer in the United States; accounting for approximately 50% of all cancers.

### What's the cause for this skin cancer epidemic?

Skin cancer is related to lifetime exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun as well as artificial sources (sunlamps, tanning booths). Anyone can develop skin cancer, but some people are at higher risk and should take special care to avoid UV exposure. If you have a family history of skin cancer, your risk for it increases. Also, at risk are those people who have fair skin that freckles easily; those with red or blond hair; and those with blue or light-colored eyes. Finally, you're at risk if you've had a history of sunburns early in life.

### What You Can Do

The good news is that prevention is as easy as using sun protection and limiting unprotected sun exposure. How much sun is too much? Not much. Unprotected skin can be harmed by UV rays in as little as 15 minutes. Start by incorporating these sun protection habits into your daily life:

- Avoid peak sun - seek shade and avoid the sun during midday hours
- Cover up - wear a hat, long-sleeved shirts, and pants
- Use sunscreen everyday – SPF 15 or higher (look for both UVA and UVB protection) The good news is that prevention is as easy as using sun protection and limiting unprotected sun exposure. How much sun is too much? Not much. Unprotected skin can be harmed by UV rays in as little as 15 minutes. Start by incorporating these sun protection habits into your daily life:

### So, you've had a few sunburns?

Start by avoiding further damage by following the sun protection tips above and monitor your skin regularly for signs of changes or new growths. Most importantly, see your doctor for regular skin exams. The cure rate for skin cancer could be 100 percent if concerns were brought to a doctor's attention early.

And before you plan any outdoor activities, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Global Solar UV Index [www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html), where you can check your local UV index forecasts by zip code.

Visit the Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of



Health for more information about skin cancer <http://www.cancer.gov/>.

As the hot summer sun continues to shine, we remind everyone to beware of heat-related illnesses too, and to take the simple precautions necessary to preventing them.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, excessive heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States between 1979 and 1999. The types of heat illnesses range from

minor to severe, from the painful heat cramps to the very fatal heat stroke, but all are fairly easy to prevent.

Those most at risk of heat related illnesses are people over 65, the very young, the obese, and those with blood or sweat-related illnesses or medications. This includes people with low blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, dehydration, or malnutrition. The risk is especially high when air conditioning is unavailable for long periods of time, and during heat waves.

Heat illness prevention centers on remaining out of extreme temperatures whenever possible and remaining fully hydrated. Here are a few tips for staying cool:

When outdoors, make sure to drink plenty of fluids, especially water. Try to avoid drinks with large amounts of caffeine, alcohol, or sugar, as these can inhibit your body's cooling process. Start drinking before you get thirsty. When temperatures get extremely high, make sure to go someplace cool, out of the heat. Even a few hours of air conditioning per day can prevent heat stroke. If you exercise outside, try to do it in the early morning or late evening, when temperatures are cooler. Wear lightweight, loose, light-colored clothing, including wide-brimmed hats.

**MACo**  
**Risk Management and Training**  
**Emelia McEwen**  
 Senior Loss Control Specialist  
**Fred Hansen**  
 Loss Control Specialist  
**Phone (406) 444-4370**  
**FAX (406) 442-5238**

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
 BEST WESTERN HERITAGE INN  
 1700 FOX FARM ROAD  
 GREAT FALLS, MONTANA  
 (406) 761-1900  
 SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

**CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION**

Name.....County/Agency.....

Position/Title..... **I am my county's voting delegate**

Spouse's name, if attending.....

	<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>On Arrival</u>	
<b>Convention Registration:</b> This fee includes three lunches, two banquets, registration materials and the cost of speakers and program.	\$160	\$175	\$ _____
Wednesday Night Banquet	___ Yes, I will attend	___ No, I will not attend	
Spouses	\$160	\$175	\$ _____
<u>For optional meal, send additional payment now:</u>			
Prayer Breakfast, Monday	\$ 13		\$ _____
		TOTAL:	\$ _____

Make checks payable to MACo, and send with this entire form to MACo at **2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602**. For information regarding the conference call Karen Houston at 444-4375.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION  
 IS REQUESTED BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN LODGING RESERVATIONS!!**

**Cut-off date for making room reservations at Heritage Inn is September 10.**

**FYI: Room Rates—\$60 for a Single and \$75 for a Double**

**Directions to Anaconda Hills Golf Course  
 from the Heritage Inn**

1. Leave Heritage Inn left onto Fox Farm Drive
2. Continue straight through light onto 6<sup>th</sup> Street South-west
3. Follow 6<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest to Northwest Bypass (Fair Grounds)
4. Right onto Northwest Bypass to join 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South-west
5. Follow 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Southwest to join Smelter Avenue
6. Smelter Avenue will take you to the entrance of the golf course

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# MACo News

## New Staff: Welcome to MACo!



Alyce Bailey  
Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist and  
Customer Service Representative

Alyce joined the staff in January 2007 and is involved in nearly all aspects of the MACoHCT administration. She brings strong customer service and administrative skills to the position from previous roles with Wells Fargo Bank, Wells Fargo Mortgage, and the Montana School Boards Association. She is also finishing a degree in Business at the UM-Helena campus.

A native of Chicago, Alyce relocated to Montana in 2000 and lives in Helena with her husband, Brandon. She enjoys spending time with family and pursuing outdoor activities such as snowboarding, mountain biking, and rock climbing.

This fall she is planning a trip to Washington and Oregon with her husband. They are also in the market for a new house, "But," she says, "We're very picky and still looking."



Owen Voigt  
Health Care Trust Administrator

Owen Voigt was instrumental in establishing the MACo Health Care Trust, which created a cost-effective health benefit solution for employees of Montana counties and county-related districts. As the Administrator, he works on the day to day administrative functions of the trust as well as all of the marketing functions. Prior to this, he was a member of the MSSF marketing department for the Montana Unified School Trust.

Owen holds a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as associates' degrees in claims and risk management. With over 20 years' experience in the insurance industry, he brings extensive customer service experience and knowledge to his work as a marketing and field services representative.

Owen and his wife, Becky, live near Helena and have three children. Owen enjoys hunting and other outdoor activities, and also was active in rodeo until retiring from the sport in 2005. This September he plans on hunting in Alaska.



Linda Taft  
Finance Officer/Office Manager

Linda recently moved to Helena from Great Falls and joined the staff in March 2007. She has over 15 years' experience in public accounting, having worked as a receptionist, office manager, payroll clerk, plan administrator, staff accountant and auditor.

Linda's most significant past career experience was at Hamilton Misfeldt Company from 2000-2005 (upon college graduation). She was assigned duties which enabled her to learn and grow. The Partners of Hamilton Misfeldt were very encouraging and allowed Linda time off when needed to attend her college courses. Without their flexibility a college degree would not have been attainable, because she had two children to support. When there was a tragic accident in her family, co-workers voluntarily (without her knowledge) donated sick leave.

Linda holds bachelors' degrees in fine arts, business administration, and accounting, and she is completing requirements for her CPA designation. Linda enjoys hiking, reading, and pursuing her interest in the fine arts.



Home, the spot of earth supremely blest,  
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.

-Robert Montgomery

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From MACo

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For Public Entities

**Greg Jackson**

JPIA/JPA

Marketing Director

Phone 444-4370

[macoim@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:macoim@maco.cog.mt.us)



# MACo News

## Calculation of FY 2008 Annual Payment Amount for Counties PRELIMINARY - May 31, 2007

County	FY 07 Entitlement Share Payment (Includes FY 07 Growth)		FY 08 County Share of Growth		FY 08 Entitlement Share Payment		FY 08 Quarterly Payment
Beaverhead County	341,427.62	-	10,414.97	=	351,842.59	/4=	87,960.65
Big Horn County	24,087.06	-	8,096.65	=	32,183.71	/4=	8,045.93
Blaine County	201,974.68	-	7,093.80	=	209,068.48	/4=	52,267.12
Broadwater County	354,256.54	-	8,411.20	=	362,667.74	/4=	90,666.93
Carbon County	460,720.22	-	13,148.86	=	473,869.08	/4=	118,467.27
Carter County	145,153.58	-	3,142.84	=	148,296.42	/4=	37,074.10
Cascade County	419,501.62	-	49,357.51	=	468,859.13	/4=	117,214.78
Chouteau County	598,375.23	-	12,964.00	=	611,339.23	/4=	152,834.81
Custer County	318,103.74	-	11,292.45	=	329,396.19	/4=	82,349.05
Daniels County	254,485.80	-	5,210.90	=	259,696.70	/4=	64,924.18
Dawson County	956,671.40	-	20,670.16	=	977,341.56	/4=	244,335.39
Deer Lodge (Consolidated Gov.)	1,046,533.84	-	37,836.39	=	1,084,370.22	/4=	271,092.56
Fallon County	275,258.72	-	6,083.43	=	281,342.15	/4=	70,335.54
Fergus County	266,167.22	-	10,647.47	=	276,814.69	/4=	69,203.67
Flathead County	3,084,150.82	-	98,545.37	=	3,182,696.19	/4=	795,674.05
Gallatin County	1,920,949.35	-	77,747.51	=	1,998,696.86	/4=	499,674.21
Garfield County	166,728.40	-	3,460.34	=	170,188.74	/4=	42,547.18
Glacier County	455,166.62	-	14,845.45	=	470,012.07	/4=	117,503.02
Golden Valley County	46,111.93	-	1,419.91	=	47,531.84	/4=	11,882.96
Granite County	270,870.47	-	6,165.49	=	277,035.96	/4=	69,258.99
Hill County	465,267.56	-	16,950.21	=	482,217.77	/4=	120,554.44
Jefferson County	668,370.75	-	17,278.89	=	685,649.64	/4=	171,412.41
Judith Basin County	274,271.99	-	5,761.35	=	280,033.34	/4=	70,008.34
Lake County	752,612.42	-	28,352.23	=	780,964.65	/4=	195,241.16
Lewis And Clark County	1,346,899.20	-	56,468.04	=	1,403,367.24	/4=	350,841.81
Liberty County	281,023.30	-	5,703.51	=	286,726.81	/4=	71,681.70
Lincoln County	672,289.82	-	21,433.45	=	693,723.27	/4=	173,430.82
Madison County	583,107.23	-	13,900.10	=	597,007.33	/4=	149,251.83
McCone County	245,016.52	-	5,035.45	=	250,051.97	/4=	62,512.99
Meagher County	114,495.08	-	3,006.14	=	117,501.22	/4=	29,375.31
Mineral County	280,556.81	-	6,885.57	=	287,442.38	/4=	71,860.60
Missoula County	3,276,252.24	-	111,728.91	=	3,387,981.15	/4=	846,995.29
Musselshell County	144,729.04	-	5,235.22	=	149,964.26	/4=	37,491.07
Park County	526,646.45	-	17,414.68	=	544,061.13	/4=	136,015.28
Petroleum County	46,868.40	-	1,035.95	=	47,904.35	/4=	11,976.09
Phillips County	226,764.61	-	5,961.47	=	232,726.08	/4=	58,181.52
Pondera County	367,178.04	-	9,510.57	=	376,688.61	/4=	94,172.15
Powder River County	312,748.88	-	6,196.73	=	318,945.61	/4=	79,736.40
Powell County	160,489.44	-	6,455.69	=	166,945.13	/4=	41,736.28
Prairie County	139,195.43	-	2,915.52	=	142,110.95	/4=	35,527.74
Ravalli County	1,107,186.25	-	41,526.02	=	1,148,712.27	/4=	287,178.07
Richland County	375,913.22	-	11,251.78	=	387,165.00	/4=	96,791.25
Roosevelt County	312,200.21	-	10,922.63	=	323,122.84	/4=	80,780.71
Rosebud County	2,289,876.38	-	43,737.97	=	2,333,614.35	/4=	583,403.59
Sanders County	899,637.12	-	21,744.61	=	921,381.73	/4=	230,345.43
Sheridan County	423,856.31	-	8,931.08	=	432,787.39	/4=	108,196.85
Silver Bow (Consolidated Gov.)	3,291,297.46	-	124,832.28	=	3,416,129.75	/4=	854,032.44
Stillwater County	735,799.43	-	17,132.69	=	752,932.12	/4=	188,233.03
Sweet Grass County	261,050.72	-	6,412.11	=	267,462.83	/4=	66,865.71
Teton County	389,797.53	-	9,850.52	=	399,648.05	/4=	99,912.01
Toole County	475,922.10	-	10,787.28	=	486,709.38	/4=	121,677.35
Treasure County	93,265.62	-	1,924.13	=	95,189.75	/4=	23,797.44
Valley County	163,769.56	-	6,521.02	=	170,290.58	/4=	42,572.64
Wheatland County	128,079.66	-	3,191.83	=	131,271.49	/4=	32,817.87
Wibaux County	249,725.07	-	4,677.61	=	254,402.68	/4=	63,600.67
Yellowstone County	2,008,237.10	-	110,888.52	=	2,119,125.62	/4=	529,781.41
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31,359,260.51</b>		<b>1,025,447.82</b>		<b>32,384,708.33</b>		<b>8,096,177.09</b>



# MACo News

## Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) 2007

By Melanie Denning, VEBA Officer

Montana has defined in statute a specific set of benefits which may be paid from a VEBA trust set up for eligible Montana public employees. That purpose is to pay for qualified health care expenditures as defined by the IRS. The goal is to assist eligible public employees in accumulating assets for the purpose of paying for health care benefits.

The 2007 Legislature passed SB 168, which allows the inclusion and conversion of accrued vacation leave, in addition to the conversion of sick leave payouts to a VEBA account. Though the bill states it is effective July 1, 2007, the VEBA administration is required to apply with the IRS for the tax-free exemption to include vacation leave. We hope to have this approval in time for December 2007 retirees if the IRS provides the approval in time to implement the changes in the program.

When the approval is granted, the following must take place to amend the group benefit :

- 1) A new election must be held where employees of the group agree to the vacation leave contribution to the VEBA Account. The decision to use vacation leave as a contribution will be made prior to a group vote. This will ensure agreement as to the use of this new funding source before a vote for uniform application to each member at separation for service.
- 2) Since the new language in SB 168 provides for "all or part of" sick leave to be contributed - the amount of the

leave contributed must be defined and voted on, unless the IRS approves more latitude in defining the range of sick leave that each individual may select . For example - unless the VEBA receives approval for more flexibility, the ballot has to contain the language "contribute 50% of sick leave" etc.

- 3) Elections can only be held annually - either on or after the previous election date. Therefore, if your "group" held an election in August authorizing retirees to contribute sick leave to VEBA, you would need to hold a new election in August with the new group benefit definitions, such as vacation leave and the portion of sick leave to be contributed.

Retirees that have already separated are grand-fathered and their benefit will not change.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Melanie Denning, VEBA Officer  
MT Department of Administration  
Health Care and Benefits Division  
PO Box 200130  
Helena, MT 59620-0130  
Phone: (406) 444-3745  
Fax: (406) 444-0703  
E-mail: [mdenning@mt.gov](mailto:mdenning@mt.gov)

## MACo Directory Corrections and Additions

Big Horn County: Sheriff Lawrence Big Hair's email is [lbighair@co.bighorn.mt.us](mailto:lbighair@co.bighorn.mt.us).

Butte-Silver Bow County: Commissioner Michael Mulcahy's email is [rmulcahy@cccscorp.com](mailto:rmulcahy@cccscorp.com).

Chouteau County: Fort Benton Road Personnel Russell Albers' email address is [river2@mtintouch.net](mailto:river2@mtintouch.net).

Custer County: Commissioner Jack Nesbit's email is [j.nesbit@co.custer.mt.us](mailto:j.nesbit@co.custer.mt.us) and Gary Matthews' email is [g.matthews@co.custer.mt.us](mailto:g.matthews@co.custer.mt.us)

Dawson County: Clerk & Recorder Maurine Lendhardt's email is [mldawclerk@midrivers.com](mailto:mldawclerk@midrivers.com).

Fergus County: Attorney Thomas Meissner's email is [fcatty@co.fergus.mt.us](mailto:fcatty@co.fergus.mt.us).

Flathead County: Road Personnel Guy Foy replaced Charles E. Johnson. His email address is [gfoy@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:gfoy@co.flathead.mt.us).

Glacier County: Commissioners' phone number is 873-5063 and the extensions follow as John ext. 3602, Mike ext. 3603, and Ron ext. 3601

Granite County: Commissioner Maureen Connor's email is [mconnor@co.granite.mt.us](mailto:mconnor@co.granite.mt.us).

Hill County: Mike Wendland replaced Commissioner Doug Kaercher. His email is [wendlandm@co.hill.mt.us](mailto:wendlandm@co.hill.mt.us), and his phone number is 406-265-5481 Ext. 227.

Liberty County: Their website is [www.co.liberty.mt.gov](http://www.co.liberty.mt.gov).

Powder River County: Ray Traub's email is [rtraub@rangeweb.net](mailto:rtraub@rangeweb.net).

Powell County: Treasurer Dalice M. (Cook) Rodgers retired and was replaced by Lisa Smith. Her email is [lismith@co.powell.mt.us](mailto:lismith@co.powell.mt.us).

Prairie County: Their website is [www.prairie.mt.gov](http://www.prairie.mt.gov).

Ravalli County: Attorney George H. Corn's phone number is 375-6750. Road Supervisor David Ohnstad's email is [dohnstad@ravallicounty.mt.gov](mailto:dohnstad@ravallicounty.mt.gov).

The county now has five commissioners:

Carlotta Grandstaff replaced Commissioner Howard Lyons. Her phone numbers are 406-363-4054 (home) and 406-375-6503 (office), and her email is [cgrandstaff@ravallicounty.mt.gov](mailto:cgrandstaff@ravallicounty.mt.gov).

Jim Rokosch's phone number is 406-375-6509, and his email is [jrokosch@ravallicounty.mt.gov](mailto:jrokosch@ravallicounty.mt.gov).

Kathleen Driscoll's phone number is 406-365-6510, and her email is [kdriscoll@ravallicounty.mt.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@ravallicounty.mt.gov).

Richland County: Commissioner Henry T. Johnson's email is [hjohnson@richland.org](mailto:hjohnson@richland.org).

Rosebud County: Road Supervisor Wayne Buck's email is [wbuck@rosebudcountymt.com](mailto:wbuck@rosebudcountymt.com).

Sweet Grass County: Commissioner Philip Hathaway's email is [phil.hathaway@hotmail.com](mailto:phil.hathaway@hotmail.com).

Wibaux County: Treasurer Sandra F. Evans' email is [wibauxtrs@midrivers.com](mailto:wibauxtrs@midrivers.com).

Senator Jon Tester's new address is 204 Russell Senate Office Building (SOB), Washington, DC, 20510.



# County Spotlight

## Who is Cynthia Johnson?

Cynthia Johnson: Pondera County Commissioner

**If you have a spouse, what is his name?**

Ken

**How many years have you been in public service?**

16 years as a volunteer on the boards, etc. and 7 years as an elected official

**What is your occupation(s)?**

Ag Producer and Environmental Steward

**What did you do professionally before becoming a commissioner?**

Administered/managed long term care facilities and then worked as a CSR for Property, Casualty, Life, and Health Insurance

**Education. Where and what did you study?**

Science and Accounting at MSU Bozeman and Billings as well as Health Care Administration in Aberdeen South Dakota at Presentation College

**What is the hardest thing you've ever done?**

Bury a child

**Name three people (living or dead) you'd invite to dinner? (can be anyone)**

Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, and my father

**What is a dream you have?**

To become an artist—learn to paint and sculpt

**What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?**

I love to wood lathe and build stuff

**What is the most adventurous thing you've ever**



Surprised?

Commissioner Cynthia Johnson used to drag race snow mobiles on ice competitively for three years!

**done?**

Drag-raced snow mobiles on ice competitively for 3 years

**What is your favorite way to relax?**

Camping, boating, and fishing

**What are you most proud of?**

Beautiful children and a wonderful marriage

**What is something you read every morning and/or night?**

The news—in the paper or

online

**What is your favorite meal?**

Happy Hour? Actually, I love to cook but have never learned to cook for fewer than 8 people. My favorite food to eat is anything spicy or hot.

**What is your pet peeve?**

People who don't take personal responsibility for their own decisions or actions.

**What is your motto?**

"There's always a way to make it work."

**What was the last book you read?**

*The World is Flat*

**What is your favorite movie?**

Anything Disney

*If you would like to contact Commissioner Cyndi Johnson, she can be reached by phone or email: 406-627-2205 or 406-271-3725 (home), 406-271-4010 (work), [cyn-dij@starband.net](mailto:cyn-dij@starband.net).*



# County Spotlight

## Dawning of a New Day: Newly-Elected Ravalli County Commissioners Take Seats

By Anthony Quirini, Ravalli Republic

Three new Ravalli County commissioners took office June 13, 2007, signaling a new era in the county's local government.

The recently expanded five-member board is now equally split with two Democrats, two Republicans and one Independent. And, two women will sit on the board for the first time in county history.

Bright and early on June 13, in front of more than 50 citizens, the three new county officials received their titles as county commissioners. Independent Carlotta Grandstaff and Democrats Jim Rokosch and Kathleen Driscoll took oaths and settled into their new positions after soundly defeating their Republican opponents last week.

"It is truly your government," Rokosch said. "I am going to hope and pray that you continue to engage yourself in your government. As one elected official, every citizen in this county is a constituent. This is the epitome of public service.

"What do you want us to do?" Grandstaff said as she settled into her new chair and position in county government.

And while the presumption during the elections was that the commissioners would draw straws to determine

term lengths, county officials decided to leave it up to the court to decide. Grandstaff, Driscoll, and Rokosch are gearing up for four-year terms until a judge tells them otherwise.

"After consulting with the commissioners elect and reviewing the law on this matter, there is no need to determine term lengths at this time due to the fact that the civil case is still pending," Clerk and Recorder Regina Plettenberg said.

In her statement before commissioners were sworn in, Plettenberg noted if another ruling does not come down 30 days prior to the opening of candidacy filing for the 2008 primary election, a drawing of straws will commence.

Essentially, two of the new commissioners will have four-year terms, and one will have a two-year term.

Back in November voters chose to increase the size of the board and shorten term lengths, and a provision of the recommendations made by a group elected to recommend changes in local government included ousting all sitting commissioners. The issue was challenged in court and yet to be decided.

A Missoula judge halted the election for sitting commissioners Alan Thompson and Greg Chilcott, both Republicans, but hasn't said when their terms might end. Chilcott's term will be over in 2008 anyway, but Thompson was elected to a term ending in 2010.

In that same election, voters elected Howard Lyons, who took office in January but had to run again to retain his seat after a District Court judge ruled in the matter. He was defeated by Independent Carlotta Grandstaff in the recent election.

Ravalli County has the only five-member commission form of government in the state.

*Reporter Anthony Quirini can be reached at 363-3300 or [aquirini@ravallirepublic.com](mailto:aquirini@ravallirepublic.com).*



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## WIR Conference: Fairbanks, Alaska

By Kathy Bessette, Hill County Commissioner

### Rural Obesity Initiative

Casey Dillon, Program Assistant at NACo's Center for Sustainable Communities, led the discussion on youth obesity and related illnesses at the 7 a.m. breakfast meeting. Diabetes has become a major problem, not only in urban areas but also in small towns and rural America. Urban areas are able to access resources and services, but rural communities are unable to provide many of these services. The goal of this initiative is to attract financial and technical resources to assist rural county leaders to create healthier communities.

Commissioner Peggy Beltrone is active on this committee so contact her for more information.

### Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Chairman Keith Langenhahn welcomed all committee members to Fairbanks. He reported on the Rural Action Caucus fly-in, which focused on the Farm Bill. He said 12 commissioners flew into Washington, D.C., and over 80 visits were made to individual members of Congress, asking for support for the Farm Bill. Commissioners also requested support for new dollars for rural development, not taking away from existing programs.

Commissioner Peggy Beltrone updated the committee on the progress that the 25 X 25 project has made and encouraged all counties to pass the resolution supporting the goal: "by 2025, America's agricultural, forestry, and working lands will provide 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States from renewable sources, while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber." At the present time 25 X 25 has been endorsed by 425 organizations, consisting of non-profits, local governments, 24 governors, over 100 members of Congress, agriculture groups, environmental groups, and universities. Tax credits will be available relating to geothermal energy development, stated Beltrone.

Bob Kidd, a representative for the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching, talked about CARET, which is a national grassroots organization created in 1982 by the Division of Agriculture. The mission of the group is to enhance national support and under-

standing of the land-grant university system's food and agriculture research, extension, and teaching programs in order to achieve a better standard of living for all people. Kidd requested support from the Ag Committee for the CARET program. This will be discussed at the Annual conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Julie Ufner, NACo Waters Advocacy Coalition, spoke to the group about the importance of opposing H.R. 2421. This bill proposes to change language in the Clean Water Act from "navigable" to "waters of the US." This change would force county governments to apply for a CWA permit for any project that would impact or indirectly affect "waters of the US," which due to its broad definition, includes county roads and manmade ditches, to mention a few. The CWA permitting process is overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers and they are already behind in processing permits. It is estimated that there are more than 15,000 permits awaiting approval so one can only imagine the time frame required.

Langenhahn urged all committee members to support the Secure Rural Schools bill and make an effort to urge all Congressional delegates for their state to support this legislation.

I attended several workshops, including one regarding treating offenders with mental illness when those individuals have ended up in county jails. An estimate of 16% of county jail population is there because of their mental illness rather than the result of criminal intent. This is a community problem and many more community-based services are needed to assist law enforcement with this issue.

Other workshops I attended included dealing with the changes Alaska's northern communities are encountering as a result of new extreme and seasonal climatic conditions—i.e. global warming—how the Farm Bill helps the West, specifically which programs within the 2002 Farm Bill benefited the West; the impact of Methamphetamine in Alaska and how the Boroughs are developing a statewide project to deal with the effects of meth (similar to the Montana Meth project).

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## NACo Applauds House for \$20 Million Boost in PILT Funds

By Jim Philipps, NACo,

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today applauded the House of Representatives for passing an amendment to fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment appropriations bill which would increase funds for the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program by more than \$20 million. Increased funding for the PILT program is a legislative priority for NACo.

The amendment was offered by Rep. Chris Cannon (R-Utah), who is a senior member of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee. The measure would redirect funds from the Department of the Interior's Office of Secretary to PILT, effectively increasing PILT appropriations to \$253 million for fiscal 2008. The amendment passed by voice vote.

Specifically, the amendment would decrease funds for the Office of the Secretary by \$23,148,000 and in turn increase funds for the PILT programs by \$20,148,000. The enacted fiscal 2006 appropriation is \$233 million. If the amendment becomes law, the fiscal 2007 appropriation for PILT would be \$253 million.

Earlier this month, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees included \$233 million for PILT in

their reported bill, which is the same level appropriated in fiscal 2006 and 2007. The administration has threatened to veto the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill should it exceed the administration's recommended spending level. Currently, the \$27.6 billion measure exceeds the president's spending request by \$2 billion.

"On behalf of the nation's counties, I applaud Rep. Cannon and all members who support the PILT program," said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake. "These payments are critical to help counties provide police and firefighting services, search and rescue missions, and infrastructure improvements to transportation and public school systems."

The PILT program, enacted in 1976, was developed to offset county losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries. PILT payments help counties provide vital services to their communities including education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, fire fighting, parks and recreation and other important county services.

Contact Jim Philipps at 202-942-4220 or [jphilipps@naco.org](mailto:jphilipps@naco.org).

## NACo RX Discount Program

Submitted by Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

At the recent district meetings we discussed the NACo RX discount program. The total savings by Montana consumers during the month of May, with only 16 counties participating, was over \$30,000. That is over \$360,000 a year! The savings, if all counties were to participate, could exceed a million dollars per year.

If you are interested in participating, you can do it in two ways: 1) by directly entering into an agreement with

NACo—if you do this, cards will be printed with your county name on them; 2) use the MACo cards. We have them in stock and the only requirement is that we notify NACo 30 days before distribution so they can contact the pharmacies in your county.

If you have questions or want to enroll, please call me at 444-4360 or send me an e-mail to [blattie@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:blattie@maco.cog.mt.us).



The National Association of Counties (NACo), in Partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), and state associations of counties, provides county employees with a Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program.

Since its inception in 1980, NACo's 457 Deferred Compensation Program has grown to become the largest supplemental retirement program available to county employees.

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# Announcements & Reminders

## The 2007 Governor's Award for Civic Engagement Montana's Premier Award for Civic Engagement

Submitted by Ed Tinsley, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner

The Montana Commission on Community Service established the Governor's Award for Civic Engagement to honor organizations and individuals for their efforts to engage their communities and achieve results that influence the way of life at the state or local level. This award is Montana's premier award for civic engagement. It will represent the best in positive community change through service, volunteerism and community leadership.

The purpose of this award is to recognize organizations and individuals of all ages and backgrounds who, through their dedication and commitment to community service and volunteerism have embodied the true spirit of civic engagement in Montana.

### Guidelines

- Nominees may not be salaried for the service performed
- Nominees must be residents of the State of Montana
- National Service members must have served in Montana
- Incomplete nomination forms will not be considered

### Criteria

- Nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Personal commitment to service in Montana
- Level of civic engagement fostered in the community or state
- Significance of impact or change in the community or state
- Significance of legacy that remains in the community or state
- Perseverance through obstacles of all types
- The 2007 Governor's Award for Civic Engagement
- Nomination Form is attached, or follow this link: <http://mt.gov/mcsn/grantsawards/govAwardCivic.asp>

### Please Contact:

Sue Tinsley  
 Governor's Office of Community Service  
 PHONE: 406-444-1391  
 EMAIL: [stinsley@mt.gov](mailto:stinsley@mt.gov)  
 P.O. Box 200801  
 Helena, MT 59620-0801

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Motor Boat Facility Grant

**Grant Money Is Available for Local Motor Boat Projects.** Cities, towns, and counties can now apply to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for grants of up to \$35,000 for improvements at their public motorboat recreation facilities. A total of \$100,000 in grant money is available. Funds are available to construct or improve public motorboat facilities throughout Montana. Typical projects include boat ramps, launching facilities, on-site latrines, boat trailer parking areas, boating facility access roads, boat docks, and facility improvements for disabled motorboat users. The grant may provide up to 80 percent of a local project's total costs.

To apply, the project sponsor must have the total project costs committed and be prepared to match the grant with the

use of paid and volunteer hours and cash. Expenses for preliminary work such as environmental compliance, permitting and engineering can be reimbursed at up to 15 percent of the total project cost. The application deadline is November 16. Applications require legible maps of the project location, letters of support from the public and, in cases where private lands are included in the project, copies of completed, current legal easements or agreements. Application details are available on the FWP Website: <http://fwp.mt.gov/parks/grants/default.html>, or by calling 406-444-3750.

Please contact Walter Timmerman, FWP Recreation Bureau Chief with any questions regarding this grant program: (phone) 406-444-3753, (email) [wtimmerman@mt.gov](mailto:wtimmerman@mt.gov).



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# Announcements & Reminders

## Sopris Annual Conference Innovative Ideas for a New West

### New Practices for Growing Communities of the Intermountain West

- WHAT:** A forum to learn best practices applicable to mid-sized communities of the Intermountain West
- WHERE:** Missoula Montana — Wilma Theatre
- WHEN:** July 13-15, 2007
- WHO:** elected officials, entrepreneurs, ranchers and farmers, planners, concerned citizens, members of the philanthropic community from the Intermountain West

Register here: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevalD=132978>. There is a group rate for teams of 4 of \$175 each person.

The Sopris Foundation promotes a self-sufficient and innovative West.

Come to talk about the future of a place we are proud of. People came West for the mountains, rural lifestyle, vibrant towns. And, Westerners benefit simply by the chance to live here. A local economy, strong community, and fresh ideas build a meaningful life. But ranches subdivide. Commutes lengthen. Mom and Pops close. Communities fail. So what do we do to protect and enhance all that made this place special? Sopris Foundation believes that good ideas speak. Come listen.

Demand for a foothold in desirable places of the West is boundless. Consequently, we must balance the liveliness of established communities with the impact of such change. The places we hallow have optimistic futures, so long as we center our policy, economy, and culture on established traditions and local community.

Westerners are known for rogue efforts and pluck. We solve problems with grit and imagination. Combating climate change, promoting rural economies and local agriculture, strengthening communities, and equitable access to transit, are pieces of a Western manifesto we can preserve and amplify. We are not isolated towns competing amid scarcity, but a team, drafted to preserve the assets that first brought us.

“Innovative Ideas for a New West” is by invitation to elected officials, planners, ranchers and farmers, grantmakers, and entrepreneurs.

Join us July 13-15 to share ideas on waking up the West.

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# Conclusions: County Tid Bits

## County Officials

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Commissioner Mike McGinley recently received a certificate of appreciation and a plaque for his three years of service on the Governor's Commissioner for Community Service.

BROADWATER COUNTY's former Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, Election Administrator, and Clerk of Court, Judy Gillespie, was honored for her 15 years of service to the county with a thornless cockspur hawthorn tree, which was planted at the Broadwater County Courthouse.

FLATHEAD COUNTY's former County Attorney Patrick M. Springer passed away June 10 in his home in Kalispell from prostate cancer. He was 68 years old.

PARK COUNTY Undersheriff Gary Tanascu recently celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year of work with the Sheriff's Office.

## Jails

RAVALLI COUNTY commissioners unanimously approved a contract geared to help inmates that have drug and alcohol addictions.

VALLEY COUNTY officials are reviving plans to build a \$5.4 million, 132-bed jail north of Glasgow. The jail's two years of planning were put on hold, until a recent attorney general opinion.

## Miscellaneous

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY commissioners voted to change the name of the Opportunity Ponds to the Atlantic Richfield Waste Management Area, after some debate over whether it should be attributed to Atlantic Richfield or British Petroleum, and whether it was proper to designate it a waste management or land management area.

CASCADE COUNTY commissioners approved the \$560,000

purchase of the second floor of the former Tribune building as part of a reorganization of departments that county officials say will lead to better service and savings.

FLATHEAD COUNTY Sheriff Mike Meehan wants to hire five extra deputies, and he asked the county commissioners for roughly \$400,000 to do so.

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners voted to dissolve the current 911 Administrative Board, responsible for running combined city-county 911 dispatch services and com-

posed of city and county law enforcement and fire protection personnel; as of July 1, the board will be replaced with a seven-member 911 Advisory Board.

HILL COUNTY commissioners granted initial approval to a request to change 26 acres of private land zoned for agricultural use west of Havre to commercial use.

RAVALLI COUNTY received a \$100,000 renewable resource grant from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and conservation to digitally map the topography of the northern half

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 Wendy Sesselman, Senior Claims Adjuster  
 Dennis Jupka, Senior Claims Adjuster  
 Bonnie Knopf, Claims Adjuster  
 Christine Holling, Asst. Claims Adjuster  
 Laurie Goltry, Claims Assistant

**MACo HCT**

Owen Voigt, Plan Administrator  
 Linda Taft, Finance Officer/Office Manager  
 Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist & Customer Service Representative

**DISTRICT CHAIRS**

- Richard Dunbar, Phillips County
- Mark Rehbein, Richland County
- Donald Reiger, Fallon County
- Harvey Worrall, Chouteau County
- Arnold Gettel, Teton County
- Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
- Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
- Tom Lythgoe, Jefferson County
- Bernie Lucas, Meagher County
- Paddy Trusler, Lake County
- Judy Stang, Mineral County
- Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

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 MT County Road Supervisors (MACRS)  
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 Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena  
 Norman Grosfield, Attorney, Helena  
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