



Highlights

Pages 2-5, 8-10

Fed. Forest/PL 106-393 Tables

Pages 6, 11

SRCSA Reauthorization

Page 7

MACo Health Care Trust

Pages 12-13

Mid-Winter Conference Info

Page 10

Elected Officials Training/
Commissioners Certification

Page 16

Commissioners Resolutions

Pages 18-19

County News

Pages 21-23

NACo News

Page 24

Around Our Counties

Advertisers

Page 6

NorthWestern Energy

Page 7

MACo Health Care Trust

Page 11

MDU Resources

Page 17

Arthur J. Gallagher

Page 18

Great Plains Towers, Inc.

Page 19

MT Correctional Ent., Lane &
Associates Inc., Morrison-Maierle

Page 20

Wells Fargo, Get 'Er Done Wiest,
Robert Peccia & Associates

Pages 21-22

U.S. Communities, Roscoe Steel
& Culvert, Nationwide Retirement
Solutions, MACo JPIA

Page 23-24

Stahly Engineering, Joint Powers
Trust, MACo JPIA/JPA,
MACo Risk Management

U.S. Senate abandons counties, schools

By Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

That's a pretty harsh headline, but that is exactly what Congress has done by its failure to fund the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-determination Act (SRSCA) this session. This is the program that currently funds the full payment amount under PL 106-393, which was originally enacted in 2000 and came about because of a precipitous decline in Forest Reserve payments to counties. Following the passage of PL 106-393, counties were allowed to either stay with the previous formula that allocated 25 percent of the revenues generated from activities on the National Forests to counties or to "opt-in" and receive a full-payment amount, which was an average of previous year's amounts, a significantly higher amount.

Every eligible county in Montana has opted-in and has been receiving payments based upon the higher amounts. The original act was scheduled to sunset last year, however, Congress passed a one-year extension, which means the amount you received on Dec. 27th, will be the final SRSCA payment, then we will revert to the 25-percent formula. Based upon the most recent data available (FFY [Federal Fiscal Year]-06) from the U.S. Forest Service, the loss will be about \$10 million in Montana. The Forest Service has told me it will be able to provide FFY-07 data by mid-January and I anticipate it will show an even greater loss.

Congress failed to include an appropriation for SRSCA or to fully fund PILT in spite of three opportunities in the last weeks before the break to do so; the Energy Bill, the Farm Bill and the Omnibus Appropriation Bill. The payments were in-

cluded in the Energy Bill with U.S. Sen. Max Baucus playing a key role in its inclusion; however, when a test vote in the Senate lacked a 60-vote majority (both Senators Baucus and Jon Tester voted yes) due to objections over increased taxes to pay for parts of the Energy Bill, these appropriations were stripped from the final version. In the days that followed, Congress considered the Farm Bill, and could have included this money in it, as well as the Omnibus Appropriations Act, where it could have also been included. Congress demonstrated an ability to do this by taking other parts of the Energy Bill and amending them into subsequent bills.

We all have seen the press releases of late that listed \$111.6 million for more than 120 projects across Montana that were included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. All

of these appropriations are important to those projects, regions, and communities that directly benefit; however, SRSCA and PILT are important to EVERY county, EVERY school, EVERY community and EVERY TAXPAYER in Montana.

Congressional staff members have assured me our Congressional members remain committed to finding a funding solution when Congress re-convenes after the first of the year. It's important our representatives hear from EVERY COUNTY IN MONTANA to reinforce the fact not only will the devastating impacts be felt in counties receiving forest payments but in EVERY Montana county due to the connection with the PILT formula. Yes, EVERY county, even Daniels County, which receives neither SRSCA nor PILT money

(Please see "Congress..." on Page 6)

*"SRSCA and PILT are important to EVERY county, EVERY school, EVERY community and EVERY TAXPAYER in Montana."
-Harold Blattie,
MACo Executive Director*



MACo News

Federal Forest Reserve Payment Comparison of FY 2006 Allocation to 25% Allocation Based on FFY 2006 Actual Receipts

| County | Actual FY 2006 Fed. Govern- ment Receipts | 25% of FY 2006 Fed. Govern- ment Receipts | PL 106-393 Act. FY 2006 County Revenue | 25% of Act. Re- ceipts vs. FY 2006 Co. Rev. | Percent Co. Chose Title II & III Projects | Co. Portion % X Act. FY 2006 Payment | Co. Portion 15- 20% FFR \$ Not Dist. On Mills |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Beaverhead | \$152,880 | \$38,220 | \$219,235 | (\$181,015) | 80% | \$175,388 | \$43,847 |
| Broadwater | \$86,880 | \$21,720 | \$85,877 | (\$64,157) | 100% | \$85,877 | \$0 |
| Carbon | \$155,825 | \$38,956 | \$54,079 | (\$15,122) | 100% | \$54,079 | \$0 |
| Carter | \$41,462 | \$10,366 | \$14,601 | (\$4,236) | 100% | \$14,601 | \$0 |
| Cascade | \$27,779 | \$6,945 | \$50,185 | (\$43,240) | 100% | \$50,185 | \$0 |
| Chouteau | \$4,789 | \$1,197 | \$8,653 | (\$7,455) | 100% | \$8,653 | \$0 |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,909 | \$11,727 | \$46,616 | (\$34,889) | 100% | \$46,616 | \$0 |
| Fergus | \$14,787 | \$3,697 | \$26,715 | (\$23,018) | 100% | \$26,715 | \$0 |
| Flathead | \$4,371,670 | \$1,092,917 | \$1,602,246 | (\$509,329) | 85% | \$1,361,909 | \$240,337 |
| Gallatin | \$371,789 | \$92,947 | \$116,810 | (\$23,863) | 85% | \$99,289 | \$17,522 |
| Glacier | \$4,430 | \$1,108 | \$8,004 | (\$6,896) | 100% | \$8,004 | \$0 |
| Golden Valley | \$3,712 | \$928 | \$6,706 | (\$5,778) | 100% | \$6,706 | \$0 |
| Granite | \$587,149 | \$146,787 | \$437,497 | (\$290,710) | 80% | \$349,998 | \$87,499 |
| Jefferson | \$241,556 | \$60,389 | \$192,629 | (\$132,240) | 80% | \$154,103 | \$38,526 |
| Judith Basin | \$46,218 | \$11,555 | \$83,498 | (\$71,943) | 100% | \$83,498 | \$0 |
| Lake | \$358,165 | \$89,541 | \$127,842 | (\$38,301) | 85% | \$108,666 | \$19,176 |
| Lewis & Clark | \$417,702 | \$104,425 | \$451,017 | (\$346,592) | 85% | \$383,365 | \$67,653 |
| Lincoln | \$3,808,101 | \$952,025 | \$6,041,790 | (\$5,089,765) | 85% | \$5,135,522 | \$906,269 |
| Madison | \$166,877 | \$41,719 | \$150,988 | (\$109,269) | 80% | \$120,790 | \$30,198 |
| Meagher | \$104,082 | \$26,020 | \$142,660 | (\$116,639) | 80% | \$114,128 | \$28,532 |
| Mineral | \$1,058,767 | \$264,692 | \$764,890 | (\$500,199) | 80% | \$611,912 | \$152,978 |
| Missoula | \$1,301,440 | \$325,360 | \$751,803 | (\$426,443) | 85% | \$639,033 | \$112,770 |
| Park | \$489,604 | \$122,401 | \$154,773 | (\$32,373) | 85% | \$131,557 | \$23,216 |
| Pondera | \$16,583 | \$4,146 | \$29,960 | (\$25,814) | 100% | \$29,960 | \$0 |
| Powder River | \$157,863 | \$39,466 | \$55,593 | (\$16,127) | 100% | \$55,593 | \$0 |
| Powell | \$895,748 | \$223,937 | \$486,601 | (\$262,664) | 85% | \$413,611 | \$72,990 |
| Ravalli | \$168,936 | \$42,234 | \$385,474 | (\$343,240) | 85% | \$327,653 | \$57,821 |
| Rosebud | \$44,533 | \$11,133 | \$15,683 | (\$4,550) | 100% | \$15,683 | \$0 |
| Sanders | \$2,730,099 | \$682,525 | \$1,738,092 | (\$1,055,567) | 85% | \$1,477,378 | \$260,714 |
| Silver Bow | \$80,310 | \$20,077 | \$67,274 | (\$47,197) | 100% | \$67,274 | \$0 |
| Stillwater | \$86,303 | \$21,576 | \$30,392 | (\$8,817) | 100% | \$30,392 | \$0 |
| Sweet Grass | \$160,730 | \$40,183 | \$52,565 | (\$12,382) | 100% | \$52,565 | \$0 |
| Teton | \$36,519 | \$9,130 | \$65,976 | (\$56,846) | 85% | \$56,080 | \$9,896 |
| Wheatland | \$9,878 | \$2,470 | \$17,846 | (\$15,376) | 100% | \$17,846 | \$0 |
| Totals | \$18,250,074 | \$4,562,519 | \$14,484,571 | (\$9,922,052) | | \$12,314,627 | \$2,169,944 |

Source: OBPP 2/2/2007



MACo News

Federal Forest Reserve Payment Loss to County Road Fund Based on FFY 2006 Actual Receipts

| County | Actual FY 2006 Fed. Government Receipts | 25% of FY 2006 Fed. Receipts | PL 106-393 Act. FY 2006 Co. Revenue | Title I Portion of FFY 2006 Payment | Co. Road Portion of FFY 2006 Payments | Co. Road Portion of Act. 25% | LOSS to County Road Fund |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Beaverhead | \$152,880 | \$38,220 | \$219,235 | \$175,388 | \$115,172 | \$25,481 | (\$89,691) |
| Broadwater | \$86,880 | \$21,720 | \$85,877 | \$85,877 | \$56,393 | \$14,481 | (\$41,912) |
| Carbon | \$155,825 | \$38,956 | \$54,079 | \$54,079 | \$35,512 | \$25,972 | (\$9,540) |
| Carter | \$41,462 | \$10,366 | \$14,601 | \$14,601 | \$9,588 | \$6,911 | (\$2,677) |
| Cascade | \$27,779 | \$6,945 | \$50,185 | \$50,185 | \$32,955 | \$4,630 | (\$28,325) |
| Chouteau | \$4,789 | \$1,197 | \$8,653 | \$8,653 | \$5,682 | \$798 | (\$4,884) |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,909 | \$11,727 | \$46,616 | \$46,616 | \$30,611 | \$7,819 | (\$22,792) |
| Fergus | \$14,787 | \$3,697 | \$26,715 | \$26,715 | \$17,543 | \$2,465 | (\$15,078) |
| Flathead | \$4,371,670 | \$1,092,917 | \$1,602,246 | \$1,361,909 | \$894,325 | \$728,648 | (\$165,677) |
| Gallatin | \$371,789 | \$92,947 | \$116,810 | \$99,289 | \$65,200 | \$61,968 | (\$3,232) |
| Glacier | \$4,430 | \$1,108 | \$8,004 | \$8,004 | \$5,256 | \$738 | (\$4,518) |
| G. Valley | \$3,712 | \$928 | \$6,706 | \$6,706 | \$4,403 | \$619 | (\$3,784) |
| Granite | \$587,149 | \$146,787 | \$437,497 | \$349,998 | \$229,833 | \$97,863 | (\$131,970) |
| Jefferson | \$241,556 | \$60,389 | \$192,629 | \$154,103 | \$101,195 | \$40,261 | (\$60,934) |
| Judith Basin | \$46,218 | \$11,555 | \$83,498 | \$83,498 | \$54,830 | \$7,703 | (\$47,127) |
| Lake | \$358,165 | \$89,541 | \$127,842 | \$108,666 | \$71,358 | \$59,697 | (\$11,661) |
| L&C | \$417,702 | \$104,425 | \$451,017 | \$383,365 | \$251,744 | \$69,620 | (\$182,124) |
| Lincoln | \$3,808,101 | \$952,025 | \$6,041,790 | \$5,135,522 | \$3,372,343 | \$634,715 | (\$2,737,628) |
| Madison | \$166,877 | \$41,719 | \$150,988 | \$120,790 | \$79,319 | \$27,814 | (\$51,505) |
| Meagher | \$104,082 | \$26,020 | \$142,660 | \$114,128 | \$74,944 | \$17,348 | (\$57,596) |
| Mineral | \$1,058,767 | \$264,692 | \$764,890 | \$611,912 | \$401,824 | \$176,470 | (\$225,354) |
| Missoula | \$1,301,440 | \$325,360 | \$751,803 | \$639,033 | \$419,634 | \$216,917 | (\$202,717) |
| Park | \$489,604 | \$122,401 | \$154,773 | \$131,557 | \$86,390 | \$81,605 | (\$4,785) |
| Pondera | \$16,583 | \$4,146 | \$29,960 | \$29,960 | \$19,674 | \$2,764 | (\$16,910) |
| P. River | \$157,863 | \$39,466 | \$55,593 | \$55,593 | \$36,506 | \$26,312 | (\$10,194) |
| Powell | \$895,748 | \$223,937 | \$486,601 | \$413,611 | \$271,606 | \$149,299 | (\$122,307) |
| Ravalli | \$168,936 | \$42,234 | \$385,474 | \$327,653 | \$215,160 | \$28,157 | (\$187,003) |
| Rosebud | \$44,533 | \$11,133 | \$15,683 | \$15,683 | \$10,298 | \$7,423 | (\$2,875) |
| Sanders | \$2,730,099 | \$682,525 | \$1,738,092 | \$1,477,378 | \$970,150 | \$455,039 | (\$515,111) |
| Silver Bow | \$80,310 | \$20,077 | \$67,274 | \$67,274 | \$44,177 | \$13,386 | (\$30,791) |
| Stillwater | \$86,303 | \$21,576 | \$30,392 | \$30,392 | \$19,958 | \$14,384 | (\$5,574) |
| S. Grass | \$160,730 | \$40,183 | \$52,565 | \$52,565 | \$34,518 | \$26,790 | (\$7,728) |
| Teton | \$36,519 | \$9,130 | \$65,976 | \$56,080 | \$36,826 | \$6,087 | (\$30,739) |
| Wheatland | \$9,878 | \$2,470 | \$17,846 | \$17,846 | \$11,719 | \$1,646 | (\$10,073) |
| Totals | \$18,250,074 | \$4,562,519 | \$14,484,57 | \$12,314,627 | \$8,086,646 | \$3,041,831 | (\$5,044,816) |



MACo News

Federal Forest Reserve Payment Loss to County Schools Based on FFY 2006 Actual Receipts

| County | Actual FY 2006 Fed. Govern- ment Receipts | 25% of FY 2006 Fed.Receipts | PL 106-393 Act. FY 2006 Co. Revenue | Title I Portion of FFY 2006 Payment | Co. Schools Por- tion of FFY '06 Payments | Co. Schools Portion of Act. 25% Pymnts | LOSS to County Schools |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Beaverhead | \$152,880 | \$38,220 | \$219,235 | \$175,388 | \$58,462 | \$12,739 | (\$45,723) |
| Broadwater | \$86,880 | \$21,720 | \$85,877 | \$85,877 | \$28,625 | \$7,239 | (\$21,386) |
| Carbon | \$155,825 | \$38,956 | \$54,079 | \$54,079 | \$18,026 | \$12,984 | (\$5,042) |
| Carter | \$41,462 | \$10,366 | \$14,601 | \$14,601 | \$4,867 | \$3,455 | (\$1,412) |
| Cascade | \$27,779 | \$6,945 | \$50,185 | \$50,185 | \$16,728 | \$2,315 | (\$14,413) |
| Chouteau | \$4,789 | \$1,197 | \$8,653 | \$8,653 | \$2,884 | \$399 | (\$2,485) |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,909 | \$11,727 | \$46,616 | \$46,616 | \$15,538 | \$3,909 | (\$11,629) |
| Fergus | \$14,787 | \$3,697 | \$26,715 | \$26,715 | \$8,905 | \$1,232 | (\$7,673) |
| Flathead | \$4,371,670 | \$1,092,917 | \$1,602,246 | \$1,361,909 | \$453,965 | \$364,269 | (\$89,696) |
| Gallatin | \$371,789 | \$92,947 | \$116,810 | \$99,289 | \$33,096 | \$30,979 | (\$2,117) |
| Glacier | \$4,430 | \$1,108 | \$8,004 | \$8,004 | \$2,668 | \$369 | (\$2,299) |
| G. Valley | \$3,712 | \$928 | \$6,706 | \$6,706 | \$2,235 | \$309 | (\$1,926) |
| Granite | \$587,149 | \$146,787 | \$437,497 | \$349,998 | \$116,665 | \$48,924 | (\$67,741) |
| Jefferson | \$241,556 | \$60,389 | \$192,629 | \$154,103 | \$51,367 | \$20,128 | (\$31,239) |
| Judith Basin | \$46,218 | \$11,555 | \$83,498 | \$83,498 | \$27,832 | \$3,851 | (\$23,981) |
| Lake | \$358,165 | \$89,541 | \$127,842 | \$108,666 | \$36,222 | \$29,844 | (\$6,378) |
| L&C | \$417,702 | \$104,425 | \$451,017 | \$383,365 | \$127,787 | \$34,805 | (\$92,982) |
| Lincoln | \$3,808,101 | \$952,025 | \$6,041,790 | \$5,135,522 | \$1,711,823 | \$317,310 | (\$1,394,513) |
| Madison | \$166,877 | \$41,719 | \$150,988 | \$120,790 | \$40,263 | \$13,905 | (\$26,358) |
| Meagher | \$104,082 | \$26,020 | \$142,660 | \$114,128 | \$38,042 | \$8,673 | (\$29,369) |
| Mineral | \$1,058,767 | \$264,692 | \$764,890 | \$611,912 | \$203,969 | \$88,222 | (\$115,747) |
| Missoula | \$1,301,440 | \$325,360 | \$751,803 | \$639,033 | \$213,009 | \$108,442 | (\$104,567) |
| Park | \$489,604 | \$122,401 | \$154,773 | \$131,557 | \$43,852 | \$40,796 | (\$3,056) |
| Pondera | \$16,583 | \$4,146 | \$29,960 | \$29,960 | \$9,986 | \$1,382 | (\$8,604) |
| P. River | \$157,863 | \$39,466 | \$55,593 | \$55,593 | \$18,531 | \$13,154 | (\$5,377) |
| Powell | \$895,748 | \$223,937 | \$486,601 | \$413,611 | \$137,869 | \$74,638 | (\$63,231) |
| Ravalli | \$168,936 | \$42,234 | \$385,474 | \$327,653 | \$109,216 | \$14,077 | (\$95,139) |
| Rosebud | \$44,533 | \$11,133 | \$15,683 | \$15,683 | \$5,228 | \$3,711 | (\$1,517) |
| Sanders | \$2,730,099 | \$682,525 | \$1,738,092 | \$1,477,378 | \$492,455 | \$227,486 | (\$264,969) |
| Silver Bow | \$80,310 | \$20,077 | \$67,274 | \$67,274 | \$22,424 | \$6,692 | (\$15,732) |
| Stillwater | \$86,303 | \$21,576 | \$30,392 | \$30,392 | \$10,131 | \$7,191 | (\$2,940) |
| S. Grass | \$160,730 | \$40,183 | \$52,565 | \$52,565 | \$17,521 | \$13,393 | (\$4,128) |
| Teton | \$36,519 | \$9,130 | \$65,976 | \$56,080 | \$18,693 | \$3,043 | (\$15,650) |
| Wheatland | \$9,878 | \$2,470 | \$17,846 | \$17,846 | \$5,949 | \$823 | (\$5,126) |
| Totals | \$18,250,074 | \$4,562,519 | \$14,484,57 | \$12,314,627 | \$4,104,833 | \$1,520,688 | (\$2,584,145) |

* Schools portion is allocated to the 22 State Equalization High School Mills, 33 State Equalization Elementary Mills, County Transportation Fund, County High School Retirement Fund and County Elementary Retirement Fund, based on their relative portions of the total, in accordance with 17-3-213, MCA.



MACo News

PL 106-393

Loss to Title II and Title III Projects Based on FFY 2006 Actual Payments

| County | PL 106-393 Actual FY 2006 Co. Revenue | Percent Counties Chose for Title I | Percent Counties Chose for Title II and III Projects | LOSS to Title II and III Projects |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Beaverhead | \$219,235 | 80% | 20% | \$43,847 |
| Broadwater | \$85,877 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Carbon | \$54,079 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Carter | \$14,601 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Cascade | \$50,185 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Chouteau | \$8,653 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,616 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Fergus | \$26,715 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Flathead | \$1,602,246 | 85% | 15% | \$240,337 |
| Gallatin | \$116,810 | 85% | 15% | \$17,522 |
| Glacier | \$8,004 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Golden Valley | \$6,706 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Granite | \$437,497 | 80% | 20% | \$87,499 |
| Jefferson | \$192,629 | 80% | 20% | \$38,526 |
| Judith Basin | \$83,498 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Lake | \$127,842 | 85% | 15% | \$19,176 |
| Lewis & Clark | \$451,017 | 85% | 15% | \$67,653 |
| Lincoln | \$6,041,790 | 85% | 15% | \$906,269 |
| Madison | \$150,988 | 80% | 20% | \$30,198 |
| Meagher | \$142,660 | 80% | 20% | \$28,532 |
| Mineral | \$764,890 | 80% | 20% | \$152,978 |
| Missoula | \$751,803 | 85% | 15% | \$112,770 |
| Park | \$154,773 | 85% | 15% | \$23,216 |
| Pondera | \$29,960 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Powder River | \$55,593 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Powell | \$486,601 | 85% | 15% | \$72,990 |
| Ravalli | \$385,474 | 85% | 15% | \$57,821 |
| Rosebud | \$15,683 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Sanders | \$1,738,092 | 85% | 15% | \$260,714 |
| Silver Bow | \$67,274 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Stillwater | \$30,392 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Sweet Grass | \$52,565 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Teton | \$65,976 | 85% | 15% | \$9,896 |
| Wheatland | \$17,846 | 100% | 0% | \$0 |
| Totals | \$14,484,571 | | | \$2,169,944 |



MACo News

SRCSA reauthorization key to county road, education funding

By Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

On the previous four pages, we have placed comprehensive charts that show the amount each Montana county received last year under the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRCSA) and the amount that would have been received under the 25-percent formula.

All of the forest payment dollars under the 25-percent formula and the Title I portion of the payment under SRCSA are distributed two-thirds to the county road fund and one-third to education, spread across the state and county-wide levies. Part of the overall loss will be backfilled because some of the education levies are permissive; therefore the local schools will not realize a real loss in revenue because the lost dollars will be made up by local property tax payers.

The amount that goes to the state general fund will not be backfilled because they are fixed mill amounts.

The portion that goes to the road fund will be pure lost revenue, with no means to recover the loss other than voted levies. This amount alone will be more than \$5 million. These are dollars that won't be available for infra-

U.S. Senate abandons counties, schools

Continued from Page 1

because it probably would get a PILT payment under a fully-funded PILT appropriation.

Because of this uncertainty, every county should look closely at this year's budget rather than waiting until next budget year to determine if reduced spending should be considered immediately, and to consider how each of you will need to address the revenue deficiency in years to come. Should you purchase that piece of equipment this year if you will not have staff to operate it next year?

I urge every county in Montana to call write or e-mail members of Congress again, and again, and again, to encourage them to find a means to fund SRCSA and PILT and to remind them this is the single most important issue before Congress to all of Montana's counties.

Let your schools know that it may be more difficult to pass voted levies if property taxes go up to backfill the lost revenue due to permissive mill levies. You should also contact your suppliers and contractors to let them know how your purchases will be affected without these appropriations and encourage them to also let members of Congress know how it will impact their businesses.

structure projects, road maintenance, equipment purchases and road personnel.

Does your county receive PILT? SRCSA is important to **every county** in Montana. If SRCSA is not reauthorized, recipient counties will revert to the 25-percent payment formula under the Forest Reserve Act. This is a \$10-million direct impact to those counties but it also means there will be \$10 million that will not count as prior year payments for PILT calculations for those counties not under the population cap in the PILT formula.

The directly affected counties will be partially backfilled through the PILT formula but when SRCSA and PILT payments are considered together, the result would be an overall loss in Montana of some \$6-8 million, with a significant amount being in PILT.

Because the PILT appropriation is of a fixed size and subject to annual appropriation by Congress, **PILT dollars will be reallocated nationwide** in accordance with the PILT formula, meaning counties receiving PILT but not SRCSA will absorb the largest share of the overall loss in PILT payments.

MACo has a second home in cyberspace!
Visit our new blog at
www.macochat.blogspot.com



Delivering a Bright Future

NorthWestern Energy is one of the largest providers of electricity and natural gas in the Upper Midwest and Northwest, serving approximately 640,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Our utility operations consist of regulated electric and natural gas distribution, transmission, energy supply and nonregulated electric operations.

J. Michael Pichette
Director-Government Relations/Montana
208 N. Montana, Suite 104, Helena, MT 59601
406/443-8996 michael.pichette@northwestern.com
www.northwesternenergy.com

ASSISTING MONTANA COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



MONTANA ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES



MACo News

2007 was full of positive change, growth for Health Care Trust

By Owen Voigt, Health Care Trust Administrator

While walking across a field with snow on the ground, have you ever looked back at your tracks and then ahead where you're going and noticed how your tracks are not in a straight line? I once read horses will walk a nearly perfect straight path while humans wander considerably.

By the time you read this, it will be 2008. Seems like the perfect time to look back at 2007 to see where we went and prepare to enter the field with the idea to walk as straight as we can and do the best job possible.

During 2007, MACo took the HCT in house, hiring three staff people. It took an immense amount of work on our part and diligence and patience on your part. The HCT saw a very tough period of claims in the first few months of 2007, followed by a very positive claim trend for the last eight months ending the year in the strongest financial position the trust has been in to date.

Our growth this year was nothing short of amazing. Six counties joined the trust during 2007 with numerous special districts coming on through the year. We even added a city and another town to the trust.

The HCT changed its pharmacy benefit management company to Caremark on July 1. The change was definitely for the better, with better service, a great group of folks to work with, and better pricing. This has been one time when a company promised something and delivered it every time.

Providing multiple plan options, not just different deductibles, turned out to be a great offering and they were received very positively. Many groups added plans to

Committee applications outnumber positions

By Cyndi Johnson, MACo President and Pondera Co. Commissioner

2007 has slipped right on by and there's still so many things on the "to do" list. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday with family and friends. The New Year is upon us and we begin, with renewed energy, to work on projects and legislation significant to us all, in particular Secure Rural Schools.

MACo committee memberships have been assigned and commissioners who designated a committee preference by the end of the MACo 2007 annual conference were placed on a committee. This year, there were 140 requests for 120 committee positions. If you had previously served on a committee and requested reappointment, I attempted to honor that request. If you have been a commissioner for one year or less or you made your request after the end of the annual conference, you may not have received a committee appointment. Should any committee position become vacant, every effort will be made to re-appoint a commissioner to that position if interest had previously been expressed. We are also in the process of creating a new Energy Committee and there are a few positions remaining. If you have a strong desire to be an active member of this committee, please contact the MACo office or mine. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

their employee offerings this past year.

One of the best things that happened in 2007 was when HCT staff coordinated with the MACo workers compensation staff to provide a member with seamless medical benefit coordination for a major surgical procedure. Who ever thought a body part replacement procedure could be part workers compensation and part degenerative but replacement of the whole part was required?

The best part of the year for me was clearly the relationships; meeting members, commissioners, county and district staff; discussing health issues, hunting, rodeo, ranching, roads, whatever, it was fun. Who else but the Prairie County road department would show HCT's Alyce Bailey how to drive its new grader?

I would be remiss in talking about relationships though if I did not talk about Alyce and Laurie Goltry coming into the life of the HCT. Many of you have met Alyce and a few have met Laurie; I think most everyone has talked to them at one time or another. The HCT could not have two more personable and great people.

As we look forward to 2008 and all that happened last year, I am excited about what the future brings to Montana's counties, special districts, and the Health Care Trust.

It is good know where you have been and points you to where you are going. We hope you had a merry Christmas, and wish you the best for 2008. I also hope 2007 was a good year for you and you're ready to walk that straight line next year.

Health Care Trust Calendar of Events

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Jan. 1-Feb. 15 | March open enrollment period |
| Jan. 3 | March renewal rates mailed to counties and groups |
| Feb. 8 | March renewal rates deadline |
| Apr. 11 | July renewal rates mailed |
| Apr. 18 | July open enrollment notice mailed to counties and groups |
| May 1-June 15 | July open enrollment period |
| May 13 | July renewal rates deadline |
| Oct. 17 | January open enrollment notice mailed |



MACoHCT

MACo Health Care Trust

A Cost-Effective Alternative for Health Insurance Benefits
for Counties and County-Related Boards and Districts
Welcome to Dawson County and Prairie County !

406.443.8102 ♦ Fax: 406.443.8103

Email: ovoigt@macohct.com ♦ Web: www.macohct.com



MACo News

Federal Fiscal Year 2006 PL 106-393 Reserve Payments December 2006

| County | Principal | Title I | Title II Not sent to County Held @ Fed. Treasury | Title III | Title I & III Sent to Cnty. Treas. 12/22/05 | COUNTY ROADS & SCHOOLS SPLIT | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | Title I-66 2/3% County Roads 17-3-213, MCA | Title I-33 1/3% County Roads 17-3-213, MCA |
| Beaverhead | \$219,235.40 | \$175,388.32 | \$10,961.77 | \$32,885.31 | \$208,273.63 | \$116,926.13 | \$58,456.93 |
| Broadwater | \$85,877.11 | \$85,877.11 | | | \$85,877.11 | \$57,251.69 | \$28,622.84 |
| Carbon | \$54,078.78 | \$54,078.78 | | | \$54,078.78 | \$36,052.70 | \$18,024.46 |
| Carter | \$14,601.27 | \$14,601.27 | | | \$14,601.27 | \$9,734.23 | \$4,866.60 |
| Cascade | \$50,185.11 | \$50,185.11 | | | \$50,185.11 | \$33,456.91 | \$16,726.70 |
| Chouteau | \$8,652.61 | \$8,652.61 | | | \$8,652.61 | \$5,768.44 | \$2,883.91 |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,615.92 | \$46,615.92 | | | \$46,615.92 | \$31,077.44 | \$15,537.09 |
| Fergus | \$26,714.92 | \$26,714.92 | | | \$26,714.92 | \$17,810.04 | \$8,904.08 |
| Flathead | \$1,602,246.32 | \$1,361,909.37 | \$240,336.95 | | \$1,361,909.37 | \$907,944.12 | \$453,924.39 |
| Gallatin | \$116,810.18 | \$99,288.65 | | \$17,521.53 | \$116,810.18 | \$66,192.76 | \$33,092.91 |
| Glacier | \$8,003.66 | \$8,003.66 | | | \$8,003.66 | \$5,335.80 | \$2,667.62 |
| Golden Valley | \$6,705.77 | \$6,705.77 | | | \$6,705.77 | \$4,470.54 | \$2,235.03 |
| Granite | \$437,497.40 | \$349,997.92 | \$43,749.74 | \$43,749.74 | \$393,747.66 | \$233,333.11 | \$116,654.31 |
| Jefferson | \$192,628.64 | \$154,102.91 | | \$38,525.73 | \$192,628.64 | \$102,735.79 | \$51,362.50 |
| Judith Basin | \$83,497.65 | \$83,497.65 | | | \$83,497.65 | \$55,665.38 | \$27,829.77 |
| Lake | \$127,842.26 | \$108,665.92 | | \$19,176.34 | \$127,842.26 | \$72,444.31 | \$36,218.35 |
| Lewis & Clark | \$451,017.09 | \$383,364.53 | \$67,652.56 | | \$383,364.53 | \$255,577.63 | \$127,775.40 |
| Lincoln | \$6,041,790.31 | \$5,135,521.76 | \$747,973.64 | \$158,294.91 | \$5,293,816.67 | \$3,423,698.29 | \$1,711,669.40 |
| Madison | \$150,987.96 | \$120,790.37 | \$30,197.59 | | \$120,790.37 | \$80,527.32 | \$40,259.43 |
| Meagher | \$142,659.85 | \$114,127.88 | | \$28,531.97 | \$142,659.85 | \$76,085.63 | \$38,038.82 |
| Mineral | \$764,890.38 | \$611,912.30 | \$76,489.04 | \$76,489.04 | \$688,401.34 | \$407,943.57 | \$203,950.37 |
| Missoula | \$751,803.32 | \$639,032.82 | | \$112,770.50 | \$751,803.32 | \$426,024.01 | \$212,989.64 |
| Park | \$154,773.48 | \$131,557.46 | | \$23,216.02 | \$154,773.48 | \$87,705.41 | \$43,848.10 |
| Pondera | \$29,959.65 | \$29,959.65 | | | \$29,959.65 | \$19,973.20 | \$9,985.55 |
| Powder River | \$55,592.99 | \$55,592.99 | | | \$55,592.99 | \$37,062.18 | \$18,529.14 |
| Powell | \$486,600.94 | \$413,610.79 | \$72,990.15 | | \$413,610.79 | \$275,741.91 | \$137,856.48 |
| Ravalli | \$385,473.60 | \$327,652.56 | \$57,821.04 | | \$327,652.56 | \$218,436.13 | \$109,206.60 |
| Rosebud | \$15,682.85 | \$15,682.85 | | | \$15,682.85 | \$10,455.29 | \$5,227.09 |
| Sanders | \$1,738,092.24 | \$1,477,378.40 | \$201,618.70 | \$59,095.14 | \$1,536,473.54 | \$984,923.86 | \$492,410.22 |
| Silver Bow | \$67,274.02 | \$67,274.02 | | | \$67,274.02 | \$44,849.57 | \$22,422.43 |
| Stillwater | \$30,392.28 | \$30,392.28 | | | \$30,392.28 | \$20,261.62 | \$10,129.75 |
| Sweet Grass | \$52,564.58 | \$52,564.58 | | | \$52,564.58 | \$35,043.23 | \$17,519.77 |
| Teton | \$65,976.12 | \$56,079.70 | | \$9,896.42 | \$65,976.12 | \$37,386.65 | \$18,691.36 |
| Wheatland | \$17,846.00 | \$17,846.00 | | | \$17,846.00 | \$11,897.39 | \$5,948.07 |
| Totals | \$14,484,570.66 | \$12,314,626.83 | \$1,549,791.18 | \$620,152.65 | \$12,934,779.48 | 8,209,792.27 | \$4,104,465.12 |

NOTE: See "County Distribution Worksheet" on page 10. This worksheet, available on the MACo Web site, will allow you to calculate the apportionment of the Title I amount correctly. Insert your county's Title I amount in the indicated cell to determine the dollar amount to deposit to your county road fund. Next, you will need to insert the number of mills levied in your county for your county-wide elementary and high school retirement funds and your county-wide transportation levy for the current year. The worksheet is pre-populated with the number of mills for the state-wide levies that receive a portion of this money. The worksheet will then calculate the amount to be distributed to all other funds receiving an allocation.



MACo News

Federal Fiscal Year 2006 PL 106-393 Reserve Payments December 2007

| County | Principal | Title I | Title II Not sent to County Held @ Fed. Treasury | Title III | Title I & III Sent to Cnty. Treas. 12/27/07 | COUNTY ROADS & SCHOOLS SPLIT | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | Title I-66 2/3% County Roads 17-3-213, MCA | Title I-33 1/3% County Roads 17-3-213, MCA |
| Beaverhead | \$218,785.47 | \$175,028.38 | \$10,939.27 | \$32,817.82 | \$207,846.20 | \$116,686.17 | \$58,336.96 |
| Broadwater | \$85,700.87 | \$85,700.87 | | | \$85,700.87 | \$57,134.20 | \$28,564.10 |
| Carbon | \$53,967.80 | \$53,967.80 | | | \$53,967.80 | \$35,978.71 | \$17,987.47 |
| Carter | \$14,571.30 | \$14,571.30 | | | \$14,571.30 | \$9,714.25 | \$4,856.61 |
| Cascade | \$50,082.12 | \$50,082.12 | | | \$50,082.12 | \$33,388.25 | \$16,692.37 |
| Chouteau | \$8,634.85 | \$8,634.85 | | | \$8,634.85 | \$5,756.60 | \$2,878.00 |
| Deer Lodge | \$46,520.24 | \$46,520.24 | | | \$46,520.24 | \$31,013.65 | \$15,505.20 |
| Fergus | \$26,660.09 | \$26,660.09 | | | \$26,660.09 | \$17,773.48 | \$8,885.81 |
| Flathead | \$1,598,958.08 | \$1,359,114.36 | \$239,843.71 | | \$1,359,114.36 | \$906,080.77 | \$452,992.82 |
| Gallatin | \$116,570.45 | \$99,084.88 | | \$17,485.58 | \$116,570.46 | \$66,056.92 | \$33,024.99 |
| Glacier | \$7,987.23 | \$7,987.23 | | | \$7,987.23 | \$5,324.85 | \$2,662.14 |
| Golden Valley | \$6,692.01 | \$6,692.01 | | | \$6,692.01 | \$4,461.36 | \$2,230.45 |
| Granite | \$436,599.54 | \$349,279.63 | \$21,829.98 | \$65,489.93 | \$414,769.56 | \$232,854.25 | \$116,414.90 |
| Jefferson | \$192,233.31 | \$153,786.65 | | \$38,446.66 | \$192,233.31 | \$102,524.95 | \$51,257.09 |
| Judith Basin | \$83,326.29 | \$83,326.29 | | | \$83,326.29 | \$55,551.14 | \$27,772.65 |
| Lake | \$127,579.89 | \$108,442.91 | | \$19,136.98 | \$127,579.89 | \$72,295.63 | \$36,144.02 |
| Lewis & Clark | \$450,091.47 | \$382,577.76 | \$49,510.05 | \$18,003.65 | \$400,581.41 | \$255,053.12 | \$127,513.17 |
| Lincoln | \$6,029,390.93 | \$5,124,982.28 | \$698,203.47 | \$206,205.19 | \$5,331,187.47 | \$3,416,671.94 | \$1,708,156.59 |
| Madison | \$150,678.11 | \$120,542.50 | \$30,135.62 | | \$120,542.50 | \$80,362.07 | \$40,176.82 |
| Meagher | \$142,367.07 | \$113,893.66 | | \$28,473.41 | \$142,367.07 | \$75,929.49 | \$37,960.76 |
| Mineral | \$763,320.62 | \$610,656.49 | \$76,332.06 | \$76,332.06 | \$686,988.55 | \$407,106.36 | \$203,531.81 |
| Missoula | \$750,260.41 | \$637,721.35 | | \$112,539.05 | \$750,260.40 | \$425,149.69 | \$212,552.53 |
| Park | \$154,455.85 | \$131,287.48 | | \$23,168.38 | \$154,455.86 | \$87,525.42 | \$43,758.12 |
| Pondera | \$29,898.16 | \$29,898.16 | | | \$29,898.16 | \$19,932.21 | \$9,965.06 |
| Powder River | \$55,478.90 | \$55,478.90 | | | \$55,478.90 | \$36,986.12 | \$18,491.12 |
| Powell | \$485,602.30 | \$412,761.95 | | \$72,840.35 | \$485,602.30 | \$275,176.01 | \$137,573.56 |
| Ravalli | \$384,682.50 | \$326,980.13 | \$57,702.38 | | \$326,980.13 | \$217,987.84 | \$108,982.48 |
| Rosebud | \$15,650.66 | \$15,650.66 | | | \$15,650.66 | \$10,433.83 | \$5,216.36 |
| Sanders | \$1,734,525.21 | \$1,474,346.42 | \$242,833.54 | \$17,345.25 | \$1,491,691.67 | \$982,902.53 | \$491,399.66 |
| Silver Bow | \$67,135.95 | \$67,135.95 | | | \$67,135.95 | \$44,757.52 | \$22,376.41 |
| Stillwater | \$30,329.91 | \$30,329.91 | | | \$30,329.91 | \$20,220.04 | \$10,108.96 |
| Sweet Grass | \$52,456.70 | \$52,456.70 | | | \$52,456.70 | \$34,971.31 | \$17,483.82 |
| Teton | \$65,840.72 | \$52,672.58 | | \$13,168.14 | \$65,840.72 | \$35,115.23 | \$17,555.77 |
| Wheatland | \$17,809.38 | \$17,809.38 | | | \$17,809.38 | \$11,872.98 | \$5,935.87 |
| Totals | \$14,454,844.39 | \$12,286,061.87 | \$1,427,330.08 | \$741,452.45 | \$13,027,514.32 | \$8,190,748.87 | \$4,094,944.42 |

NOTE: See "County Distribution Worksheet" on page 10. This worksheet, available on the MACo Web site, will allow you to calculate the apportionment of the Title I amount correctly. Insert your county's Title I amount in the indicated cell to determine the dollar amount to deposit to your county road fund. Next you will need to insert the number of mills levied in your county for your county-wide elementary and high school retirement funds and your county-wide transportation levy for the current year. The worksheet is pre-populated with the number of mills for the state-wide levies that receive a portion of this money. The worksheet will then calculate the amount to be distributed to all other funds receiving an allocation.



MACo News

Distribution Worksheet for Title I Forest Reserve Payments (17-3-213 [5], MCA)

Please Enter Appropriate Number in Box Indicated
 Formula will calculate appropriate amounts to be distributed

Enter Title I amount from Payment Detail worksheet for your county \$ _____
 Amount to County Road Fund (2/3) Fund 2110 \$ _____
 Amount to School Levies (1/3) See below \$ _____

Enter Mills Levied for Each Fund Below

| | Fund | Mills | Percentage | Amount |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Elementary Equalization | Fund 7530 | 33 | 60% | \$ _____ |
| High School Equalization | Fund 7532 | 22 | 40% | \$ _____ |
| Countywide Equalization | Fund 7820 | — | 0% | \$ _____ |
| Elementary Retirement | Fund 7840 | — | 0% | \$ _____ |
| High School Retirement | Fund 7830 | — | 0% | \$ _____ |
| Total Education Levies | | 55 | 100% | \$ _____ |

- Note 1:** If the amount in any fund exceeds the appropriation in that fund, see special rules in 17-3-213, MCA.
- Note 2:** If your county has any road districts (created in accordance with 7-14-2121, MCA, not RSIDs), see special rules in 17-3-213, MCA.
- Note 3:** Appropriate BARS fund numbers are indicated above. If your county has a Title III allocation, that amount should be deposited to fund #2902-Forest Reserve Title III Projects, and may only be expended for certain types of projects authorized in PL 106-393. Irrespective of the fund the money is allocated to, the appropriate revenue account code is #333010.

EXAMPLE Distribution Worksheet for Title I Forest Reserve Payments (17-3-213 [5], MCA)

Please Enter Appropriate Number in Box Indicated
 Formula will calculate appropriate amounts to be distributed

Enter Title I amount from Payment Detail worksheet for your county \$100,000.00
 Amount to County Road Fund (2/3) Fund 2110 \$66,700.00
 Amount to School Levies (1/3) See below \$33,300.00

Enter Mills Levied for Each Fund Below

| | Fund | Mills | Percentage | Amount |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Elementary Equalization | Fund 7530 | 33 | 60% | \$19,980.00 |
| High School Equalization | Fund 7532 | 22 | 40% | \$13,320.00 |
| Countywide Equalization | Fund 7820 | 12.8 | 23% | \$7,749.82 |
| Elementary Retirement | Fund 7840 | 5.2 | 9% | \$3,148.36 |
| High School Retirement | Fund 7830 | 3.4 | 6% | \$2,058.55 |
| Total Education Levies | | 76.4 | 139% | \$46,256.73 |



MACo News

More than \$13 million sent to Montana counties under SRSCA

By Harold Blattle, MACo Executive Director

Payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA) were distributed to Montana Counties on Dec. 27, 2007. This is up slightly from last year's distribution due to an inflation adjustment and county changes in allocations between Title II and Title III projects. If a county receives more than \$100,000, it must allocate 15-20 percent to either Title II or Title III projects. Title II allocations are retained at the U.S. Treasury for specific projects and are not distributed to counties.

On the pages 8-10 are three spreadsheets. The first shows last year's data and the second is this year's distributions for each county for Title I, II and III, along with the split of the Title I amount between the county Road Fund and the Education levies as specified in 17-3-213 (5),MCA.

The third spreadsheet shows how the education amount is distributed to the various education levies. This spreadsheet will make the county-specific calculations necessary once the Title I amount and the actual number of mills levied for the each education fund listed is filled in.

It is posted on the MACo Web site and may be downloaded for use by each county.



Building a Strong America

Our company reflects a multi-dimensional enterprise comprised of regulated and non-regulated businesses operating in different geographic locations and offering a broad spectrum of high-quality products and services.

MDU Resources' lines of business include:

- Construction Materials and Mining
- Construction Services
- Electric and Natural Gas Utilities
- Natural Gas Pipeline and Energy Services
- Natural Gas and Oil Production

Gary Forrester, Government Affairs
2527 Gardiner St., Billings, MT 59101
406/259-7243 gary.forrester@mduresources.com
www.mduresources.com

MACo's Monro completes training

MACo JPIA/JPA Member Services Representative, Fran Monro has successfully completed two courses presented by the Society of Certified Insurance Representatives.

The courses, titled "Insuring Commercial Casualty Exposures," and "Agency Operations," are part of an overall curriculum that when completed will earn Monro the designation of "Customer Service Representative."

As part of her expanded duties, Fran is underwriting quotes for prospective entities as well as providing certificates of coverage. She also has completed Microsoft Excel classes and will be the primary contact with agents to maintain the property listing schedules for all insureds.

Congratulations, Fran!

Mileage reimbursement rate to increase

The Internal Revenue Service recently announced the standard reimbursement rate for mileage will increase to 50.5 cents per mile effective Jan. 1, 2008. This is an increase from the present rate of 48.5 cents per mile.

Section 2-18-503, MCA, provides that public officers and employees shall be reimbursed at the standard IRS rate in effect for the first 1,000 miles traveled in a calendar month and three cents less, or 47.5 cents per mile actually traveled, thereafter.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile.

For more information on the MCA, visit <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca/2/18/2-18-503.htm>. To learn more about the IRS mileages rates, visit <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-07-70.pdf>.

JPIA/JPA membership meetings set

The annual membership meetings of the Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) property and liability pool and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) workers compensation pools are scheduled to take place during the MACo Mid-Winter Conference in Billings next month.

Both meetings will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13; the JPIA meeting is set for 1-2 p.m., and the JPA meeting follows at 2-3 p.m. There is a joint JPIA/JPA meeting at 3:30-4:30 p.m. following a short break.

There will be more information to come regarding specific agendas for each membership meeting.

For more information, contact Greg Jackson, JPIA/JPA trust administrator, at 406/444-4370 or gjackson@maco.cog.mt.us.

To Advertise in *MACo News*, Please Contact
Mike Harbour, Communications Officer
at macopb@maco.cog.mt.us or (406) 444-4380



MACo News

Commissioners, elected officials to benefit at 2008 Mid-Winter Conference

The 2008 edition of the annual MACo Mid-Winter Conference, set for Feb. 11-15 at the Billings Holiday Inn, again will be a great opportunity for county elected officials to learn more about state and local government issues.

The event is packed with seminars focusing on a variety of timely and critical subjects relevant to every participant.

For more information, call MACo at (406) 444-4360 or visit the MACo site at <http://maco.cog.mt.us>.

MACo's 2008 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 11-15, 2008 BILLINGS HOLIDAY INN PRELIMINARY AGENDA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008

- 10 a.m.-12 noon Board of Directors' and Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 11 a.m. Registration opens
- 1-5 p.m. All MACo committees meet
- 5 p.m. Hard Rock Mining Counties Meeting
- 5 p.m. Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties Meeting
- 5 p.m. Urban Counties Meeting
- 6 p.m. HCT Trustees dinner meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008 – EMPLOYMENT LAW DAY

- 7 a.m. Reservation Counties Meeting
- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30-10 a.m. Taxable Fringe Benefits—Presenter: Dwayne Jacobs, IRS
- 10-10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. Independent Contractor Laws and How They Affect Employment Matters
- 11:15 a.m.-12 noon Wage and Hour Law Update—Presenters: John Andrew and Jim Weber
- 12 noon Lunch
- 1-1:45 p.m. Employment Discrimination—Presenter: Marieke Beck
- 1:45-2:30 p.m. Avoiding Mistakes in Terminating Employees
- 2:30-3 p.m. Break
- 3-4 p.m. Internal Controls Fraud Detection Training—Presenter: Rick Reisig, CPA, Misfeldt & Company PC
- 4 p.m. Coalition of Forest Counties Meeting
- 4 p.m. Six County Fort Peck Lake Group Meeting
- 6 p.m. JPIA Trustees dinner meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. General session—Topics: Subdivision Fire Regulations; Impact Fees; Floodplain Stream Site Setback Regs
- 12 noon-1 p.m. Lunch
- 1-2 p.m. JPIA Trustees Membership Meeting
- 2-3 p.m. JPA Trustees Membership Meeting
- 3-3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. JPIA/JPA Joint Membership Meeting
- 6 p.m. JPA Trustees Dinner Meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

- 8-10 a.m. Disaster and Emergency Services
- 10-10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m.-12 noon General session—Topics: District Court Council—Courtroom Security & Workload Study; Digital TV; HCTV Accomplishments; Weeds; Records Retention—E-records
- 12 noon-1 p.m. Lunch
- 1-3 p.m. General Session Topics, continued
- 3 p.m. Conference ends



MACo News

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES MIDWINTER CONFERENCE HOLIDAY INN GRAND MONTANA - BILLINGS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11– THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Title _____

County (or other agency) _____

Spouse's Name if attending _____

| | <u>Pre-Registration</u> | <u>On Arrival</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| _____MACo Midwinter Meeting (Monday Afternoon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Registration fee covers three lunches, coffee breaks & registration materials. | \$150.00 _____ | \$165.00 |
| _____Spouse Activities – Wednesday Registration fee covers one lunch, workshop & tour. | \$ 50.00 _____ | \$55.00 |

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to MACo and send with this entire form to MACo, 2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602. If you have questions regarding the Mid-Winter Conference, contact Karen Houston at (406) 444-4375 or macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION
IS REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 6, 2008



MACo News

Commissioners, elected officials attend second training phase

More than 35 attendees took advantage of Phase II of MACo's annual elected officials training/commissioner certification program held Dec. 10-13 in Helena.

Courses were taught on numerous topics, from building county budgets and managing finances to special

boards governance and courthouse relations.

As in previous years, course instructors were experts in their respective fields, and come from city, county, and state government, the legal profession, MACo, and the Local Government Center at MSU-Bozeman.

Elected Officials Training/ Commissioner Certification Attendees

| Name | Title | County |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Larry Anderson | Commissioner | Missoula |
| Mike Anderson | Commissioner | Hill |
| Joe Cristiaens | Commissioner | Pondera |
| Maureen Connor | Commissioner | Granite |
| Clark Conrow | Commissioner | Mineral |
| Maureen Davey | Commissioner | Stillwater |
| Ann Marie Davis | Commissioner | Prairie |
| Vickie Delger | Commissioner | Roosevelt |
| Mike DesRosier | Commissioner | Glacier |
| Kathleen Driscoll | Commissioner | Ravalli |
| Jerry Friend | Commissioner | Stillwater |
| Carlotta Grandstaff | Commissioner | Ravalli |
| Rebecca Guay | Chief Executive | Anaconda-Deer Lodge |
| Glenda Hall | Clerk & Recorder | Glacier |
| Jim Hart | Commissioner | Madison |
| Dennis Hoyem | Commissioner | Stillwater |
| Andy Hunthausen | Commissioner | Lewis & Clark |
| Dale Lauman | Commissioner | Flathead |
| K.C. Lynn | Commissioner | Broadwater |
| Gary Matthews | Commissioner | Custer |
| Dave Miller | Commissioner | Toole |
| Vickie Miller | Commissioner | Blaine |
| Marlo Moehr | Commissioner | Treasure |
| Mike Murray | Commissioner | Lewis & Clark |
| Jack Nesbit | Commissioner | Custer |
| Beverly Nile | Commissioner | Rosebud |
| John Ray | Commissioner | Glacier |
| Rick Reed | Commissioner | Sweet Grass |
| Marilyn Ross | Commissioner | Madison |
| Jim Shanks | Commissioner | Roosevelt |
| Danny Sioux | Commissioner | Rosebud |
| Jamie Smith | Treasurer | Prairie |
| Don Swenson | Commissioner | Blaine |
| Gail Vennes | Commissioner | Broadwater |
| Mike Wendland | Commissioner | Hill |
| Steve White | Commissioner | Gallatin |
| Janet Wolff | Commissioner | McCone |



Images from Elected Officials Training/Commissioner Certification

(Clockwise from upper left): Glacier County Commissioner Michael DesRosier; Nedra Chandler of Cadence, Inc.; MSU Community Development Extension Specialist Paul Lachappelle; program attendees; MSU Local Government Center Director Jane Jelenski; and Madison County Commissioner Marilyn Ross.





MACo News

Risk management conference will feature variety of vital topics

Behavior-based safety, sign vandalism, and terrorist bombing incident response are just a few of the topics to be shared at MACo's annual Risk Management Loss Control Conference next January in Bozeman.

The three-day event, set for Jan. 15-17, will have programs and sessions tailored to safety, roads, and law enforcement personnel.

Safety seminars will include the MACo Early Return to Work effort, implementing stretching programs, and even a self-defense course.

Road Day subjects will include work zone safety, proper sign placement, and road safety audits.

For law enforcement and EMS participants, an anti-terrorism program is planned. Peace Officer Standards and Training credits will be awarded to law enforcement attendees.

The Best Western GranTree Inn, located near I-90 and within minutes of Bozeman's airport, will host the conference.

To pre-register, use the form on the next page (page 9). For information about the conference, contact Emelia McEwen at (406) 444-4370 or macorma@maco.cog.mt.us. For questions on registration, contact Karen Houston at (406) 444-4375 or

RISK MANAGEMENT LOSS CONTROL CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

**Montana Association of Counties
Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
&
Local Technical Assistance Program
January 15-17, 2008**

Best Western GranTree Inn
1325 North 7th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-5261

Name: _____

County or Agency: _____

Position/Title: _____

Pre-Registration
\$75

On Arrival
\$85

Paid

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BOXES BELOW:

- Yes, I will be attending the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, January 15, 2008
- No, I will not be attending the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Registration fee includes two luncheons, coffee breaks, registration materials, and the cost of speakers and program. 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 Emelia McEwen at 444-4370 and for information regarding registration, call Karen Houston at 444-4375.

**REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION
IS REQUESTED BY JANUARY 11, 2008**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN LODGING RESERVATIONS!



MACo News

Commissioners should start 2008 with these resolutions

By Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director

With the New Year upon us, we would like to provide you with some reminders of certain duties and requirements for commissioners. The first commission meeting of the year is a good time to adopt policies and set guidelines. Please consider the following recommended resolutions and actions (from the Montana Code Annotated):

1. Adopt a resolution setting commissioner meeting dates (7-5-2122, Meetings of board of county commissioners):

(1) The governing body of the county shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date.

(2) The governing body of the county, except as may be otherwise required of them, may meet at the county seat of their respective counties at any time for the purpose of attending to county business. Commissioners may, by resolution and prior 2 days' posted public notice, designate another meeting time and place

2. Elect a chairman of the board (7-4-2109, Chairman of board): The board of county commissioners must elect one of its members chairman. The chairman must preside at all meetings of the board and in case of his absence or inability to act, the members present must by an order select one of their number to act temporarily as chairman.

In 7-3-403, Role of chairman of commission (commission form of government), the chairman of the commission, who may be referred to as the mayor, shall be the presiding officer of the commission. All members of boards and committees shall be appointed by the chairman with the consent of the commission. The chairman shall be recognized as the head of the local government unit and may vote as other members of the commission.

3. Establish office hours (7-4-102, Office hours):

(1) Unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays.

(2) County and city treasurers may, in the interest of the safekeeping of funds, securities, and records under their control, close their offices during the period from noon to 1 p.m. every day.

4. Appoint commissioner liaisons to county boards:

This is a good opportunity for you to appoint your representatives to county boards and commissions.

5. Set and/or modify per diem/travel rates: It is recommended that counties adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel. For information on these rates, please refer to 2-18-501, Meals, lodging, and transportation of persons in state service; 2-18-502, Computation of meal allowance; and 2-18-503, Mileage – allowance.

The Internal Revenue Service announced that on Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rate will be 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven. For more information, visit the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov).

The state lodging rate is \$70, other than those specifically listed as high cost areas: Gallatin County, Silver Bow County, Lewis & Clark County, Missoula County, Lake County, and Flathead County. Please visit the General Services Administration site (www.gsa.gov), and select "Per Diem Rates" in the "Travel Resources" window.

6. Establish county classification: At your September meeting, you should have adopted your county classification effective Jan. 1, 2008. If you did not adopt this resolution in September, we suggest you do so as soon as possible. For more information, visit the MACo Web site (www.maco.cog.mt.us).

In 7-1-2112, Designation of county classification by county commissioners, (1) The several boards of county commissioners must, at their regular session in September of each year, make an order designating the class to which such county belongs, as determined by the taxable valuation of such county for the year in which such order is made, under and in accordance with the provisions of 7-1-2111, and (2) Such classification shall not change the government of the county then in existence until the next succeeding first Monday in January.

7. Conduct a bond inspection (7-4-2213, Inspection of official bonds): (1) At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners in March and September of each year, the board of county commissioners shall carefully examine all official bonds of all county and township officials then in force and effect and investigate the qualifications and financial condition and liability of all sureties thereon and their sufficiency.

It is recommended that you note in your minutes that you have reviewed your bonds, and if applicable, found them to be covered within your insurance policies.

As always, if you have any questions on these or any other matters, please don't hesitate to contact MACo.





County News



Gallagher

Public Entity & Scholastic Division

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

What Events Are Covered?, part 2

Third in a series

The question of what events are covered is answered through several supporting questions, which can allow you to find the specific information necessary to answer the main question.

The supporting questions also include:

5) What are the locations covered?

In general, the insuring agreement contains clauses that clarify where coverage applies and

where it does not. For instance, property that is in transit may not be covered under standard property policies, unless endorsements or additional coverage is added. Specific addresses and locations will be itemized in the declarations page.

6) What is limited or excluded?

Most insurance policies will contain specific sections that limit or exclude types of property,

amounts of coverage, or events that trigger coverage. For example, in a property policy, "antennas" are normally excluded from all coverage, while money and securities are usually limited to no more than \$100 in any one occurrence. In a liability policy, any requirements of a worker's compensation law, unemployment law, or similar type of law are specifically excluded.

7) Do any special conditions apply?

The conditions section of the policy may contain certain information about the events covered and any contract analysis should include a look at the conditions section to determine whether any conditions alter coverage described elsewhere on the contract.

To be continued...

We are a leader in providing Risk Management solutions to Public Entity and Scholastic organizations.

We provide:

- First Dollar or Deductible Programs
- Pools, Captives, or Risk Retention Groups

Large or small, we'll be your partner in providing Risk Management services for your Public Entity.

Please contact Richard Terlecki or Debbie Young at (800) 524-0191 for more information.

Arthur J. Gallagher

7380 Sand Lake Road, Suite 390, Orlando, FL 32819

(800) 524-0191, Ext. 3512

www.ajg.com



County News

DES program to feature training, tours

If you want to learn more about the state Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) Division, then be sure to attend the state's three-day training program at the Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Harrison on Jan. 8-10.

Topics to be covered include the Local Government Disaster Information Manual and state functions during an emergency or disaster.

Course participants will have the opportunity to meet and visit with state DES staff, tour the headquarters building, meet with other emergency managers and public officials and share your experiences and concerns in the field of emergency management. This course is for all disciplines that work together in planning for or responding to emergencies.

The course was developed during the past ten years by county and state emergency managers to provide an introduction and overview to how the emergency management system works in Montana. Intended for state, tribal and county officials who are responsible for emergency management functions, the primary objective of the program is to provide you with an overview of the emergency management system in Montana, expectations, the people that work within the system and the resources that are available to assist you.

For more information, visit www.mt.gov/dma/des and click on "Training," or contact Fred Naeher, training and exercise manager at (406) 841-3968 or fnaeher@mt.gov.

F.F. "Bunk" Huckins, 1912-2007

Former two-time Powder River County Commissioner Bunk Huckins, 95, died in early December in Miles City. Huckins, a Montana native and rancher, served as county commissioner six years each in the 1950s and 1980s.

Huckins, who lived on his Broadus ranch most of his life until health reasons forced him to move in 2004, also was a member of the Powder River County Republican Committee. He also served on the boards of Henry Malley Memorial Library and the rural school district.

Summit to address emergency issues

By Dan McGowan, Disaster & Emergency Services

The business of emergency management has changed since 9/11 and county commissioners play a critical role regarding public safety and protection of the citizenry before, during, and after an event, so don't miss the 2008 Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings in April.

The summit, held only during even-numbered years, will bring together all the disciplines involved in incidents, emergencies, or disasters (federal, state, local, tribal, private, first responders and voluntary agencies) to facilitate an understanding of the issues and the interface necessary between all the potential participants. The intent is to build the partnerships and networks now that will promote the most effective mechanisms possible to deal with any future event.

The agenda is packed with workshops on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery issues that affect each and every one of our disciplines. Thursday will highlight a "Senior Officials Workshop" and Incident Command Position Awareness.

The 2006 summit provided an opportunity for over 500 participants to begin networking. At this year's summit, plans call for more than 50 vendors to help you stay abreast of all the new technologies that can assist with your emergency management efforts.

For more information, contact Dan McGowan, Disaster and Emergency Services administrator, at (406) 841-3911 or dmcgowan@mt.gov.

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, then send it to:



Call us at:
(406) 444-4380

macopb@maco.cog.mt.us

or
MACo News
2715 Skyway Dr.
Helena, MT 59602-1213

GREAT PLAINS TOWERS, INC.
126 SIXTH STREET WEST
WEST FARGO, ND 58078-1536

E-MAIL kreski@greatplaintowers.com
www.greatplaintowers.com

OFFICE 701-282-2236
FAX 701-282-2148
OFFICE 800-853-2236

NATE
National Association of Tower Erectors
Founding Member



County News

Watersheds, property rights to be subject of No Adverse Impact conference

The safe and proper development of land subject to a hazard, such as riverfront property in Montana, is always a challenge, but it's the objective the No Adverse Impact (NAI) approach to be featured at a conference given by the Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC) in February.

The two-day event, sponsored by several counties, state agencies, and environmental groups, will detail the NAI methodology of floodplain and stormwater management as developed by Edward A. Thomas, a former floodplain manager, disaster specialist, and attorney.

Targeted especially to county elected officials, as well as builders, developers, landowners, and state legislators and managers, the conference will address a variety of topics. Among them: legal roots of a do no harm in developing land; how efforts to safely regulate can be challenged; tools for implementing NAI; and federal disaster assistance and mitigation.

The event will be held Feb. 21-22 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. The early registration deadline is Feb. 8, and a limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. In addition, conference sponsorships are available.

A block of rooms also is available at the resort; to receive the special rate, reservations also are due Feb. 8.

For more information, call BHWC's Jill Luebeck at (406) 494-6216.

Local Gov't Center seeks director

The MSU Department of Political Science and MSU Extension seek a dynamic and innovative individual for the position of director of the Local Government Center in Bozeman.

Through visionary leadership, the director will play a critical role in planning and implementing broad-based initiatives that support outreach and training efforts for local government officials and employees in the state of Montana.

The position will be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy and plan for the Local Government Center. Specific duties include but are not limited to:

- Organize and conduct training workshops for local government officials and employees
- Engage in applied research and publication consistent with the Local Government Center's role and scope
- Secure grant and contract funding to support both the Center's outreach and applied research missions
- A teaching component may be included depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate.

Requirements for the position are a graduate degree in a related field, experience or academic specialization in local government or equivalent, and the ability to organize and conduct workshops and for-credit certificate programs.

Preferred skills desired include experience in grant writing and fiscal management, as well as a demonstrated record of successful experience in outreach training and providing technical assistance at the local government level.

The Local Government Center, located within the Department of Political Science, provides research services, technical assistance, and training for local government and officials in Montana.

For more information, contact Mary Fran San Soucie, HR coordinator, at (406) 994-6648 or visit <http://extn.msu.montana.edu/Jobs/currentjobs.html>.



Producing and delivering quality products and services

Jack Hinkle, Sales and Marketing
300 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Phone 406-682-7718 FAX 406-682-7712

LANE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Drug & Alcohol Testing • Consortium Management

www.laneds.com
Email: trlane@3rivers.net

SERVING ALL OF MONTANA

T.R. Lane Sr. President 14 Fish Hatchery Rd South, NBR 27
Ennis, MT 59729

MORRISON - MAIERLE

ENGINEERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

Providing resources in partnership with clients to achieve their goals

Billings • Bozeman • Helena • Kalispell • Great Falls • Missoula • Phoenix



Phone: 406-442-3050
Fax: 406-442-7862
Web page: www.m-m.net





State News

Counties should take initiative in tackling floodplain management issues, says DNRC

By Traci Sears-Tull, Montana DNRC National Flood Insurance Program coordinator

Communities are taking a harder look at development in floodplain and flood prone areas. While most states are dealing with existing structures in the floodplains, much of our floodplain work involves dealing with new development in the floodplains. We have a unique opportunity to manage the state's floodplain and flood-prone areas.

The nation is dealing with an estimated \$6 billion annually in flood damages which do not include financial figures from Hurricane Katrina. To help reduce their financial responsibility, FEMA, insurance agencies, and lenders are taking a closer look at how areas are mapped and how communities regulate their floodplains.

The old perception that an "area will not flood because it has not flooded for decades" is no longer creditable. Even Montana, which is experiencing drought conditions, has not been immune to flooding in 2007. The Crow Nation, along with Valley and Powder River counties, experienced flooding not seen in decades. If these communities were more populated, the total amount of flood damages could have been in the millions.

FEMA and property owners are expecting Montana to be proactive when it comes to preventing unwise development in floodplains. Flood events can cripple a community economically and cause serious health and safety issues. Communities have now become liable for neglecting to properly manage development in and around floodplain and flood prone areas. It is important to convey the need for flood insurance to property owners that live in or

near a flood prone area or behind a levee. Understand that a building permit is not a floodplain permit. Floodplain administrators are required to issue floodplain permits. We should be learning from the mistakes made in other states rather than repeating them.

Managing a community's floodplain can be a daunting, overwhelming, and thankless task. Consistency is the key to good management, especially floodplain management. Most communities are unaware of assistance available throughout the state. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has regional engineers who can review floodplain and subdivision applications. The DNRC Floodplain Program office in Helena can assist in technical questions about the program. The conservation districts throughout Montana can provide valuable information along the State's creeks, streams and rivers. The Association of Montana Floodplain Managers has an informative website and conducts an annual conference. Communities should focus on agency cooperation between the communities, DNRC, conservation districts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The point is that communities are not alone in this struggle to adequately manage floodplain programs. Steer the course of common sense. Take the time to ask questions, promote community flood education, be proactive in adequately managing your floodplain programs and get involved.

WELLS FARGO
The Next StageSM

Here To Serve Your County

We specialize in developing business banking strategies for public entities. And, to help manage your business finances, we offer a full range of treasury management to checking account to credit solutions.

Contact your local Wells Fargo Business Banking Team to discuss the right financing for you.



This Space Could Be Yours!

For Advertising in *MACo News*,
Please Contact:
Mike Harbour, Communications Officer
macopb@maco.cog.mt.us
(406) 444-4380

Before



Get 'Er Done Wiest
RURAL
Hedge, Brush, or Tree Removal
Fuels Reduction

561 Wiest Road, Brady, MT 59416
Ph. **406-753-2393**
Fax: **406-753-2395**

After



ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Civil, Transportation & Environmental
Engineering - Surveying & SUE
(Subsurface Utility Engineering)



Helena 1-800-667-8160
Kalispell 1-866-420-2023
www.rpa-hln.com



Achievement Award Program applications due by February

By the National Association of Counties

NACo's Achievement Awards Program gives national recognition to innovative county government programs which modernize and streamline county government and increase services to its citizens, and applications for the 2008 awards are due Feb. 15.

Begun in 1970 and administered by the Research Division, the annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs called County Model Programs. Created as a part of NACo's *New County, USA* campaign, the Achievement Award Program continues to embody the grassroots and local government energy the program was designed to promote. The main emphasis of the *New County, USA* campaign was to modernize and streamline county government and to increase its services to its citizens; goals that are still the main emphasis of the Achievement Award Program today.

County governments across the country, working alone and in cooperation with other governments at the municipal, state and national levels, continue to develop innovative and successful programs in a wide range of service areas, including arts and historic preservation, children and youth, community and economic development, corrections, county administration, emergency management, environmental protection, health, human services, libraries, parks and recreation, transportation, volunteers and much more.

The Achievement Awards Program gives national recognition to county accomplishments, and has enabled NACo to build a storehouse of county success stories that can be passed on to other counties.

If you have any questions about the application process or would like additional application forms, contact Deseree Gardner at (202) 942-4228 or dgardner@naco.org, or fax your inquiry to the NACo Research Division at (202) 737-0480. Additional copies of the application may also be obtained from www.naco.org.

Nationwide fixed annuity scores high

NACo's deferred compensation program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, is a voluntary program that gives county employees the opportunity to save regularly for their retirement on a pre-tax basis. One investment option available to participants is a fixed annuity that offers county employees the opportunity to earn an investment return at a fixed rate established quarterly by Nationwide. Also, on an annual basis, Nationwide sets an investment rate minimum (or floor) for the year.

According to a study conducted by an independent consulting firm, the 2006 return on this investment option placed highest among its competitors. The report was released at the fall meeting of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee held in California. This study has been conducted every year since 1989, and the NACo program has always come out on top.

"We are delighted that our 27-year partnership with NRS continues to deliver such a quality program that helps county employees save for a more comfortable retirement," said Larry Naake, NACo executive director.

The competitive interest rate test concluded Nationwide met its contractual requirement to equal or exceed the top one-third of its competitors. The study reviewed the fixed annuity option offered by Nationwide and its nine largest competitors.

In addition to evaluating the competitiveness of the fixed option offered to county employees, the consultants also reviewed the creditworthiness of Nationwide Insurance and concluded that it is a strong, stable insurer.

For more information, contact NACo's Lisa Cole at (202) 942-4270 or lcole@naco.org.

Register online for legislative conference

Online registration for NACo's 2008 Legislative Conference, March 1-5, 2008, in Washington D.C., is now open. When you register online, you'll receive a \$25 discount. To access the registration form, go to <https://www.exposoftevents.com/secure/shows/NACOLEG08/public/regfull.asp>. To learn more about the conference, visit www.naco.org/legislativeconference.



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.

MACo JPIA Property and Casualty Insurance for Public Entities Personnel Services

Jack Holstrom
Attorney at Law

(800) 471- 6304

macops@maco.cog.mt.us
<http://www.maco.cog.mt.us>



MACo wins NACo grant for local jail diversion program

By the National Association of Counties

MACo, along with four other recipients, was given a grant by NACo as part of the national group's Mental Health Diversion Grants Program to develop or expand local jail diversion programs. The grants will be used to help counties assist people suffering from mental illness who commit non-violent offenses as a result of their untreated mental illness.

MACo and four counties from across the U.S. were competitively awarded a \$5,000 seed grant to develop or expand a program to divert non-violent offenders with mental health needs from jails to treatment services. Funding for this grant program is provided by Eli Lilly.

In Montana, MACo will work with Yellowstone County to bring the Community Crisis Center, the first licensed mental health center in Montana, into a statewide crisis response facility. MACo will coordinate with Yellowstone County in providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for emergency providers and local law enforcement personnel throughout the state at the Community Crisis Center in Billings.

In Pennsylvania, key stakeholders within the Erie County criminal justice and service provider systems have formed a steering committee that will utilize the grant funding to conduct a "Root Cause Analysis" of the key factors that are contributing to individuals with mental illness being incarcerated or recidivating back into the local corrections system. The steering committee will work with Mercyhurst College Civic Institute to carry out this assessment so that they can offer more effective and integrated case management and diversion programs to reduce the number of mentally ill in jail.

Jefferson County is a rural county in Southwest Mississippi. Its leaders plan on establishing a research team to start collecting data on mentally ill individuals who come in contact with the criminal justice system locally, contract a grant writer to help leverage additional funding, and develop better outreach to mentally ill offenders and their families during their adjudication process in the local

courts system.

In Nebraska, the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program of Lancaster County works to move individuals with severe or persistent mental illness who have committed non-violent misdemeanor offenses from the Lancaster County Jail into community-based treatment. The program has existed since 2003 and funding has been secured to continue programmatic efforts. However, through NACo's funding, the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program will be able to continue the extensive evaluation efforts that have been in place the last four years to show the local community results in terms of public safety and cost savings.

Thurston County, Wash., has been developing a crisis response to individuals with mental illness over the past couple of years that has included the establishment of a Mental Health Court. To ensure that the Mental Health Court is used effectively and the maximum number of non-violent mentally ill individuals are diverted from jail Thurston County will use NACo's funding to hold trainings for prosecuting and defense attorneys to better understand mental illness and the opportunities provided by the Mental Health Court.

NACo has called on the U.S. Attorney General to create a national commission to study and make recommendations to all levels of government on the jailing of non-violent offenders with mental illness in county jails.

"NACo believes that nonviolent offenders suffering from mentally illness should not be in county jails," said NACo President Eric Coleman, commissioner, Oakland County, Mich. "It is extremely costly for counties and taxpayers and county jails are not the appropriate place for those who need mental health services to receive them. We are pleased to provide these grants to communities to assist them with their jail diversion programs."

For more information about the Mental Health Diversion Grants Program, visit www.naco.org or contact Justin Carmody at 202-942-4279.

U.S. Communities
Government Purchasers

SAVING YOU MONEY
Over 7,000 public entities purchase quality products with the most favorable government pricing.
YOU CAN TOO!

All contracts are competitively solicited, non-exclusive and require no charge to participate.

- Office and School Supplies
- Office Furniture
- Technology Products
- Carpet and Flooring
- Procurement Card
- Electrical and Communication
- Data Supplies
- School/Classroom Furniture
- Janitorial Supplies
- Tools and Materials Handling

Contact: wwwinfo@uscommunities.org
www.uscommunities.org



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

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

406 / 542-0345
5405 Momont Road
Missoula, MT 59802
www.roscoebridge.com





Restore the Partnership to address key county issues

By the National Association of Counties

NACo has embarked on a mission to remind our nation's leaders of the singular importance of Federalism to the American system of government. We call this effort "Restore the Partnership." Through it, we hope to strengthen the relationships between counties and the federal government to better serve the American people. Our 2008 Key Legislative priorities reflect this overarching theme, focusing on those goals most essential to reestablishing the historic tradition and practice of Federalism.

The priorities follow continuing legislative matters left to be resolved from the first session of the 110th Congress. Restore the Partnership means looking at these issues in light of the responsibility elected officials have undertaken in seeking common solutions to America's problems. NACo's eleven steering committees, Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC), and Rural Action Caucus (RAC) have adopted several key priorities, including those listed below, which are consistent with our efforts to restore the partnership and will be advocating these priorities and other important issues throughout the year.

Opposition to unfunded mandates/preemptions: A mainstay of restoring our partnership is to be constantly vigilant against legislative or regulatory initiatives that undermine local government decision making. The partnership with federal policy makers should recognize local government roles and not preempt county authority in issues such as land use, rights of way and other local functions. In addition, administering and bearing the costs of accurate and secure elections for local, state and federal office has always been primarily the responsibility of county officials. NACo opposes federal efforts to dictate specific practices for administering elections. Adequate federal financial assistance should be provided for this key responsibility.

Maintaining and increasing the financial partnership: Restore the Partnership means a renewed commitment to maintaining, restoring and increasing the financial partnership to our counties. NACo opposes any restrictions in the federal financing of Medicaid that shifts costs to states

and localities and places further stress on systems of care. Specifically, Congress should extend the moratorium on the CMS rule restricting Medicaid payments to public providers.

Providing funding for programs such as PILT/CDBG/HOME/JAG/Homeland Security/WIA/Transportation and water infrastructure development and many other domestic programs that are the backbone of our ability to jointly provide for our citizens, is essential. Funding for the PILT Program should be provided for at the fully authorized level of \$350 million. Funding for the Community Development Block Grant formula program should be no less than \$4.1 billion, with a goal of doubling the program over the next five years, and for the HOME formula grant program at no less than \$2 billion. Funding for county programs has been in decline as a result of a lack of commitment to the partnership. NACo supports enhanced appropriations for these and other domestic programs.

Tax issues: NACo seeks the repeal of onerous legislation that is contrary to the principle of a sound federal-local partnership. We oppose the mandate contained in Section 511 of PL 109-222 requiring local government to collect a three-percent withholding tax for goods and services contracts for us to send to the IRS. We also oppose the preemption of county telecommunications and other taxing authority and efforts to require county employees to collect federal taxes or enforce immigration policy. County employees should not be acting as IRS agents. Also, the deductibility of state and local taxes, as well as interest on tax exempt bonds, should be protected.

Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act/PILT Funding: Providing assistance to our rural counties is important in order to restore the partnership. Following the one-year extension for FY 2007 passed last year, NACo continues to advocate for a multi-year reauthorization. When and if it is approved, NACo will focus its work on a long term solution for the forest counties.

For more information, visit www.naco.org.



Engineers and Land Surveyors

3530 Centennial Drive, Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-8594

7585 Shedhorn Drive, Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-9526



From complete, turn-key full coverage health plans to pooling stop loss for self-funded plans, the JPT can assist!

We invite you to compare us with your current health plan!

JOINT POWERS TRUST
Vern Peterson, Plan Administrator
396 Montsen Lane
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 866.886.8612
Email: jpt@twb.midrivers.com



Around Our Counties

County Officials

ROSEBUD COUNTY Superintendent of Schools Sharyn Thomas retired in December. Thomas, who was first elected as superintendent in 1990, said she left the post for personal reasons.

GALLATIN COUNTY Coroner Duncan MacNab retired in December after serving in the coroner's office for almost two decades. He began his career in forensics as deputy coroner, then was elected to coroner nine years ago. Following his departure, the coroner's office was to be moved under the supervision of the sheriff.

DAWSON COUNTY Clerk & Recorder Maurine Lenhardt resigned last month after almost 15 years of service to the county. Lenhardt was elected to the clerk and recorder position in 1995, and also served as chief election administrator for the county.

Zoning

RAVALLI COUNTY's implementation of settlement agreement with 11 developers over a lawsuit that claimed the county missed its own subdivision review deadlines in early 2007 has been stopped by the Montana Supreme Court. The state's highest judicial body stayed the agreement pend-

ing review by a lower court.

MADISON COUNTY Planning Board members approved a plan to add almost 400 homes and condos at Moonlight Basin Ranch, an upscale ski development in Big Sky. Construction at the 8,000-acre resort would last through 2016.

CASCADE COUNTY Planning Board members narrowly approved a plan to rezone 660 acres of land where several rural electric co-ops and the city of Great Falls want to build a power plant. The 5-4 vote came at the end of an almost eight-hour-long meeting on the Highwood Generating Station. The vote, pending commissioner approval, would change the zoning from agricultural to heavy industrial.

Law Enforcement

JEFFERSON COUNTY has two new deputies: Donald Hill and Michael Wharton. The law enforcement veterans, hired in November, will be based in the Whitehall area.

VALLEY COUNTY commissioners' plans for their new detention center were further dashed in late November when the Montana Attorney General issued a draft opinion that noted state law prohibits the facility from taking

out-of-state prisoners. The opinion was issued to answer a question originated by the city of Hardin's Two Rivers Authority on whether its new detention center could accept out-of-state and federal prisoners.

STILLWATER COUNTY sheriff's deputies, along with officers from the Columbus Police Department, the Montana Highway Patrol, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks, attended a day-long class on changing laws and procedures. The training, arranged by county Sheriff Cliff Brophy, covered a variety of topics, including use of force, biased law enforcement, and special tactics.

CARBON COUNTY had a new teleconference system installed in late October that allows its judges in Red Lodge and its jail inmates in Billings to see and talk to each other. The system, paid for by the Montana Supreme Court and one of several already installed in the state, will save the county from transporting inmates between the two cities.

Miscellany

LINCOLN COUNTY Board of Health received a \$1.5 million check from the Department of Public Health and Human Services to help finance treatment for asbes-

tos-related diseases. The money came from the 2007 Legislature for Libby residents affected by asbestos dust from the ex-W.R. Grace vermiculite mine nearby.

FLATHEAD COUNTY commissioners in November helped contribute funds to complete a state wildlife underpass on Montana 206 east of Kalispell. The project was in jeopardy until the county, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and concerned citizens funded the shortage. Construction on the underpass, which will cost more than \$225,000, is set to start in March.

MISSOULA COUNTY commissioners, along with their counterparts from Ravalli County, held a joint commission meeting in late November to discuss zoning, open lands, and other issues. It was the third such meeting between the counties, and the commissioners agreed to meet again quarterly.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY fire and emergency services workers will have digital radio equipment soon, thanks to a \$251,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The new system will replace analog-based equipment that left radio dead spots throughout the county.

MACo
Property and Casualty Insurance
 &
Workers' Compensation Insurance

For Public Entities

Greg Jackson
 JPIA/JPA
 Trust Administrator
 Phone (406) 444-4370
macoim@maco.cog.mt.us

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



Announcements & Reminders

2008 HOLIDAYS

The following is a list of legal holidays in 2008 and the dates they will be observed by most state employees.

| Legal holidays | Observed |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| New Year's Day | Tues., Jan. 1 |
| Martin Luther King, Jr., Day | Mon., Jan. 21 |
| Lincoln's & Washington's Birthday | Mon., Feb. 18 |
| Memorial Day | Mon., May 26 |
| Independence Day | Fri., July 4 |
| Labor Day | Mon., Sept. 1 |
| Columbus Day | Mon., Oct. 13 |
| State General Election Day | Tues., Nov. 4 |
| Veterans' Day | Tues., Nov. 11 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Thurs., Nov. 27 |
| Christmas Day | Thurs., Dec. 25 |

NOTE: If the holiday occurs on a weekend, the workday closest to the holiday is treated as the holiday for pay and leave purposes.

Mark Your Calendars

January

| | |
|------------|---|
| Jan. 7 | State Admin. and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee* |
| Jan. 7-11 | Regional JPIA/JPA Mid-Policy Year Meetings, Various |
| Jan. 10-11 | Law and Justice Interim Committee* |
| Jan. 11 | Fire Suppression Subcommittee* |
| Jan. 14-15 | Environmental Quality Council* |
| Jan. 15 | Water Policy Committee, Hamilton |
| Jan. 15-17 | Risk Management Loss Control Conference, Bozeman (see page 15 of this issue for more information) |
| Jan. 16-17 | State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee* |
| Jan. 21-25 | Regional JPIA/JPA Mid-Policy Year Meetings, Various |
| Jan. 24 | Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee* |
| Jan. 25 | Children, Families, Health, and Human Services* |

February

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb. 11-15 | MACo Mid-Winter Conference, Billings |
|------------|--------------------------------------|

*All meetings are held in Helena unless noted.

To view additional important dates, please see the MACo Health Care Trust calendar on page 7.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Cynthia Johnson,
Pondera County
1st Vice President Mike McGinley,
Beaverhead County
2nd Vice President Carl Seilstad,
Fergus County
Fiscal Officer Allan Underdal, Toole Co.
Urban Representative Greg Chilcott,
Ravalli County
Past President John Prinkki,
Carbon County

MACo ADMINISTRATION

Harold Blattie, Executive Director
 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director
 Karen Houston, Meeting Planner
 Tom Swindle, Finance Officer
 Mike Harbour, Communications Officer
 Sara McGowan, Accounting Technician
 Wilma Brassard, Admin. Assistant

MACo INSURANCE TRUSTS

Greg Jackson, JPIA/JPA Trust
Administrator
 Emelia McEwen, Sr. Loss Control Specialist
 Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist
 Jack Holstrom, Personnel Svcs. Admin.
 Fran Monroe, Member Services Rep.
 Keith Stapley, Claims Manager
 Wendy Sesselman, WC Claims Supervisor
 Dennis Jupka, Senior Claims Adjuster
 Bonnie Knopf, Data Specialist
 Christine Holling, Claims Adjuster
 Liz Krzan, Asst. Claims Adjuster

Kerissa Lyman, Claims Assistant
 Owen Voigt, Health Care Trust
Administrator
 Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility
Specialist/Customer Service Rep.
 Laurie Goltry, Admin. Enrollment Asst.

DISTRICT CHAIRS

1. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County
2. Mark Rehbein, Richland County
3. Donald Reiger, Fallon County
4. Harvey Worrall, Chouteau County
5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County
6. Jerome Kolar, Judith Basin County
7. Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
8. Tom Lythgoe, Jefferson County
9. Bernie Lucas, Meagher County
10. Gary Hall, Flathead County
11. Judy Stang, Mineral County
12. Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark Co. Attorney
 Cyndy Maxwell, Big Horn County
Clerk & Recorder
 Marilyn Hollister, Rosebud County
District Court Clerk
 Richard Brown, Fergus Co. County Coroner
 Gary Olsen, Broadwater County
Justice of the Peace
 Diane Inbody, Teton County
Superintendent of Schools
 Gregory Hintz, Missoula Co. Sheriff's Office
 Jo Anne Johnson, Ravalli County Treasurer

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Diamond Sponsors

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Orlando, FL

Silver Sponsors

MDU Resources, Bismarck, ND
 NorthWestern Energy, Helena

Bronze Sponsors

Allied Waste Services, Missoula
 MT Dept. of Corrections, Helena
 Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena

Copper Sponsors

Beck Consulting, Red Lodge
 Norman Grosfield, Atty., Helena
 Life Care Services, Missoula
 Tractor & Equipment Co., Billings

Other Sponsors

MT County Road Supervisors
 (MACRS)

MACo NEWS

Phone: (406) 444-4360

Fax: (406) 442-5238

Email: macopb@maco.cog.mt.us