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Johnson bids farewell to MACo presidency

By Cyndi Johnson, MACo President and Pondera County Commissioner

My husband reminds me often that my favorite phrase, while functioning as the farm hired hand, is “now what?” This whirlwind of a year found me without any opportunity to ask “now what?” and somewhere between heaven and harvest, I realize the time has passed too quickly. Serving as the president of this great organization has been such an honor.

This past year has been one of increased participation on the part of commissioners across the state in interim legislative issues such as wildfire protection, revising special districts, and medical expenses of inmates and at the national level on issues such as Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and funding of PILT. All through the state, the impact of no longer receiving SRS money is being felt in local government budgets. This next fiscal year will be a challenge to most counties in spite of many commissioners' efforts on the national level.

Montana commissioners have represented Montana well in the National Association of Counties organization. This year, fifteen commissioners sat on NACo steering committees. Four of those positions are sponsored through a contract or partnership with a state agency, Department of Commerce, Secretary of State, Department of Labor, and ITSD. Two of those positions are sponsored directly by county coalitions – Forest Counties and the Montana Association of Oil and Gas Counties. Three more positions are funded by the commissioner's county – Yellowstone, Rosebud, and Prairie.

These partnerships speak volumes; first, about the dedication of these individual commissioners to stand up and speak for Montana, and second, about the state-wide recognition of the value of having a

seat at the table on the national level. Truly the world is run by those who show up.

MACo continues to grow in service to members with the addition of legal staff and the transition of the MACo employees of the Health Care Trust into the new MACo building. The one sure thing is change. As members of MACo, we are fortunate to have a wealth of resources at our fingertips. Executive Director Harold Blattie and Associate Director Sheryl Wood are always available to every member, often without regard to time of day or holiday, for that matter.



Cyndi Johnson, MACo President and Pondera County Commissioner

If I need to leave you with a message, it is to ENGAGE. Engage your constituents, engage your fellow commissioners, and engage yourself in the issues that impact local government. Today's commissioner is not just about roads and bridges and meeting once a month to make sure the bills are paid. You are the first line of defense for your taxpayers; don't plan on sitting behind your desk when you're desperately needed on the front! Budgets are tight – all the more reason to become involved.

The Montana Association of Counties is a force to be reckoned with and the strength of this organization is directly proportional to the level of commitment of the members. MACo is you, the elected official, and it is about you – not simply the leadership team or the management team, but you. By committing to engage actively in your communities, your local partnerships, your state relationships, and your national issues, you become the catalyst for positive change.

With able staff at the helm of this ship, we look forward to pulling her into the harbor once again at our annual meeting. As I

Please see “Johnson...” on page 4



Ostlund sole 2nd VP candidate

How long have you been a county commissioner?

I was elected, and started, as a Yellowstone County commissioner in 2002. I'm running unopposed this year for the 2009 term.

Please summarize your MACo participation:

I have been active in district meetings, board meetings, and legislative matters. I chair the Transportation Committee.

Please summarize your community involvement:

I retired in 2002 from 30 years of service as the road and bridge superintendent for Yellowstone County. I am past president of the Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (2000). I am now involved in the Big Sky Economic Development Authority, Yellowstone County Park, and METRA Park boards. My past board experience includes Council on Aging and Billings Chamber of Commerce.



John Ostlund, candidate for MACo 2nd Vice President and Yellowstone County Commissioner

I also am involved in many aspects of the aviation community and hold a commercial pilot certificate. I fly a Cessna 182 for business and pleasure, and own and operate a retail aviation fuel station and commercial aircraft storage hangars at the Laurel airport with several partners. I have participated in the Young Eagles program for many years and have donated flights to kids who may otherwise not have an opportunity for an airplane ride.

Please detail your special knowledge, skills, abilities and education:

I'm a graduate of Billings Senior High (1970), and I have a strong background in transportation as a retired county road supervisor. I enjoy legislative issues and have participated with MACO in following, tracking and

Please see "Ostlund..." on page 4

Delegate assembly rules

Rule 1

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

Rule 2

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

Voting Procedures

Rule 3

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

Rule 4

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

Rule 5

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

Rule 6

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

Suspension of Rules

Rule 7

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

MACo Annual Conference early registration to end soon

MACo's 2008 Annual Conference, to be held in Hamilton on Sept. 21-25, is just around the corner, so if you haven't registered yet, early registration ends Sept. 10.

After that date, an additional \$25 fee will be assessed to the \$165 registration cost. You may register at MACo's new registration site until Sept. 18. Spouses may be registered, too, and several payment options are offered.

All functions, except those for spouses, will be at the First Interstate Pavilion Events Center. Spouses will meet at the Bitterroot River Inn lobby Monday through Wednesday at 9 a.m. where they'll be taken to breakfast and their events. A spouse agenda is online at the Web site.

Also, exhibit booth space at the conference is going quickly, so if your company would like to display its products or services to our membership of county elected officials, act now.

Booth spaces are reserved on a first-paid, first-served basis. To select your booth location, you must register choosing one of the three options at our online registration Web site. Also, you must register for the trade booth separately; the cost is \$500. Exhibitors will receive a complimentary Sunday night banquet ticket.

For more information, contact Karen Houston at (406) 444-4375 or macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us.



MACo News

2008-2009 MACo resolutions

The following resolutions were introduced during the 2008 District Meetings. The MACo Resolutions Committee will meet on Monday, Sept. 8, to review the resolutions and make their recommendations to the Board, Committees and Membership. The text of the resolutions will be posted on the MACo Web site as it becomes available and will be included in the Annual Conference registration packets.

- Youth Detention Funding
- Clean Water Restoration Acct
- Metal Mines License Tax
- 6 Mill University Levy
- Southern Route Passenger Rail Service
- Licensed Establishment Fee
- Technology Districts
- Bison Management Plan in the CMR
- Mosquito District Dissolution
- Detainee Medical
- County Four-Day Work Weeks
- Montana Alberta Tie Line
- Wind Farm and Turbine Permitting
- EPA Environmental Finance Center
- Election Costs
- Absence of Officers from State
- State PILT
- Conservation District Levy Authority
- Termination Leave Liability Fund
- Statewide Cost Allocation Plan

The following is a list of resolutions from prior years that will be carried forward for reconsideration. Note: resolutions with an asterisk (*) were reaffirmed with recommendation for amendments.

- 2000-25 Detention Costs
- 2004-11 Clarify the Status of Fences Attached to Bridges
- 2004-15 Equitable PILT Distribution
- 2004-27 Delisting the Gray Wolf in Montana
- 2004-28 Uniform Penalties for Violation of Zoning Regulations
- 2006-06 Interim Zoning
- 2006-07 Exempt Threshold for Solid Waste Sites
- 2006-08 Older Americans Trust Law *
- 2006-11 Mail Ballot Elections *
- 2006-13 Appointment Rights to an Airport Authority *
- 2006-14 Summer Youth Employment
- 2006-27 Amend and Simplify Collection of Impact Fees
- 2006-37 Presumptive Eligibility
- 2007-01 FSA Office Closures
- 2007-02 Montana Split State
- 2007-03 Buffer Zone *
- 2007-04 Noxious Weeds on DNRC Lands
- 2007-15 Wilderness Study Areas

2008 proposed bylaw amendments

AMENDMENT #1

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. MEMBERS

a) The Board shall consist of the four elected officers, the Past President, the Class 1A Representative and the elected chairperson from each of the twelve regional districts specified in Article VIII.

b) In addition to the members identified in Subsection (a), other county elected official associations with no fewer than 29 county members may each designate a member to serve as ~~a non-voting representative~~ members on the Board.

(This amendment would allow county elected official association representatives to be voting members on the MACo Board of Directors.)

AMENDMENT #2

ARTICLE IV -BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

k) function as the nominating committee and select ~~at least two~~ candidates ~~each~~ for the office of Second Vice President and Fiscal Officer. No candidate can be nominated and run for two offices simultaneously. Nominations may be made at district meetings of county commissioners and submitted to the Board;

(This amendment would eliminate the requirement that there be a minimum of two candidates nominated for the offices of Second Vice President and Fiscal Officer.)

AMENDMENT #3

ARTICLE VI-STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 2. TAX, BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Tax, Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of at least five members. Members shall be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

(This amendment would incorporate the work the Committee does in reviewing and recommending legislative tax policy issues.)

AMENDMENT #4

ARTICLE IX-ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND PROCEDURES

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

These by-laws having been duly amended by a majority vote of the members cast at the ~~97th 99th~~ Annual Conference, held in ~~Bozeman, MT on September 28, 2006~~ Hamilton, MT on _____, 2008. These by-laws will be effective upon the adjourning of the annual conference with all provisions for compliance in regard to the elected officers of the Association having been provided for by action on the floor of the Association.

(This amendment would incorporate the most recent amendments to the bylaws.)



MACo News

After 40-plus years, Jesse, Houghton still serve counties

By Mike Harbour, MACo Communications Officer

In an age where people spend less time working for the same employer than previous generations, Ken Jesse and Elsie Houghton are bucking the trend. With a combined 86 years of county service and counting, the duo stands out among public sector employees.

Part of the reason for his longevity, according to Jesse, who was first elected Powder River County coroner in 1966, is nobody wants his job.

"That's about it," he says with his trademark laugh. "I don't have anybody who's really interested in it."

The 84-year-old Montana native also is quick to say health insurance benefits are another reason he continues running for re-election, but it's apparent Jesse has a sense of public duty that keeps him there.

Houghton, who's been a fixture in the Stillwater County courthouse since 1968 in a variety of office roles, seems to have that same sense of duty.

"I enjoyed meeting the people and working with them," says the 85-year-old, who moved to Montana as a teenager. "I've always said our job was to take care of the taxpayer, no matter what we thought; that was our job."

While Houghton knew what she was signing up for when she went to work in the clerk and recorder's office in September 1968, Jesse admits he got into the corner business by happenstance.

"I was the International Motors truck dealer here in Broadus," he says. "We bought it in 1957, and then we got into the wrecker business, and then we got into school buses, so when the ambulance service became available, the coroner at that time wanted me to take it over, so we fell into that, too."

One of the duties occupied by the previous ambulance service owner was deputy coroner; Jesse served in that role from 1962 to 1966. After the coroner retired, Jesse ran for the office and won.

"I hadn't had any previous training or anything like that in this field, but as the years went by, we've had a lot of experiences," he says. "It comes by so slowly, you just kind of step into it."

At Stillwater County, Houghton gained a lot of experience, too, in her 40 years of service, and she's helped do everything from budgets to payroll. It wasn't all roses.

"When I first started, we had to write the letters to the people whose property was being taken for tax deeds," she says. "That was the one thing I did not enjoy."

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about both people is neither plans to retire any time soon.

"As long as my health stays good and I can get around," Houghton says, she'll remain at the courthouse. "I plan on keeping on as long as my mind works."

Johnson bids farewell to presidency

Continued from front page

turn over the wheel, I know I leave her in able hands and wise heads. Congratulations to all members and staff for another great year. As I said three years ago, any one of you can do this job. I am humbled by your decision to allow me to lead. Thank you, indeed, for the honor of being able to serve as your president.

Ostlund sole 2nd VP candidate

Continued from front page

testifying on bills of interest to commissioners.

What are your thoughts on MACo for the next year?

MACo will be busy in 2009 with the legislative session; some of the many issues that will be on the front burner will be the issuing of gravel pit permits by Department of Environmental Quality and the contractor association's desire to have their bonds released in a more timely manner. We also may have new district court judges for many counties as well as the detainee bill that could have expensive financial consequences for all counties. I plan to be very active in county road and transportation needs and will be involved in any other legislation the MACo board has reason to participate in.



Commissioners from MACo Districts 4 and 5 held a news conference on the Chouteau County courthouse steps in August to urge Gov. Brian Schweitzer to expedite approval of the Montana Alberta Tie Line (MATL) construction permit. The commissioners wrote to Schweitzer in support of the 215-mile-long transmission line for the multi-million-dollar impact it will have on North Central Montana.



MACo News

Allocation of Federal Mineral Royalties Received for Fiscal Year 2008

County	FY2007 Total Distribution	FY2007 By Percentage	FY2008 Total Distribution	FY2008 By Percentage	Increase or (Decrease)
Beaverhead	\$14,757.59	0.13	\$15,188.63	0.13	\$431.04
Big Horn	\$2,995,904.43	25.66	\$4,015,547.83	34.40	\$1,019,643.40
Blaine	\$251,060.01	2.15	\$272,066.27	2.33	\$21,006.26
Broadwater	\$0.26	0.00	\$12,333.46	0.11	\$12,333.20
Carbon	\$252,140.26	2.16	\$365,712.74	3.13	\$113,572.48
Carter	\$65,845.58	0.56	\$98,689.47	0.85	\$32,843.90
Cascade	\$1,677.52	0.01	\$1,650.87	0.01	(\$26.65)
Choteau	\$33,760.90	0.29	\$30,640.15	0.26	(\$3,120.75)
Custer	\$22,722.18	0.19	\$8,864.17	0.08	(\$13,858.00)
Daniels	\$1,341.69	0.01	\$1,310.11	0.01	(\$31.57)
Dawson	\$294,624.72	2.52	\$335,814.51	2.88	\$41,189.79
Fallon	\$1,962,176.65	16.81	\$2,472,270.57	21.18	\$510,093.91
Fergus	\$10,160.23	0.09	\$12,361.73	0.11	\$2,201.50
Flathead	\$249.79	0.00	—	0.00	(\$249.79)
Gallatin	\$2,938.14	0.03	\$2,478.40	0.02	(\$459.74)
Garfield	\$5,663.60	0.05	\$37,311.33	0.32	\$31,647.73
Glacier	\$5,368.85	0.05	\$7,637.38	0.07	\$2,268.53
Golden Valley	\$175.20	0.00	\$5,966.25	0.05	\$5,791.04
Hill	\$60,343.71	0.52	\$66,145.12	0.57	\$5,801.41
Lake	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
Lewis and Clark	\$10,424.05	0.09	\$6,891.62	0.06	(\$3,532.43)
Liberty	\$17,339.67	0.15	\$18,168.67	0.16	\$829.00
McCone	\$450.71	0.00	\$497.74	0.00	\$47.03
Meagher	\$1,565.74	0.01	\$3,715.29	0.03	\$2,149.54
Musselshell	\$4,249.90	0.04	\$24,203.84	0.21	\$19,953.94
Petroleum	\$7,522.54	0.06	\$15,673.16	0.13	\$8,150.62
Phillips	\$899,531.61	7.71	\$1,086,611.02	9.31	\$187,079.41
Pondera	\$10,015.62	0.09	\$19,364.97	0.17	\$9,349.34
Powder River	\$77,518.96	0.66	\$165,664.34	1.42	\$88,145.38
Prairie	\$79,265.12	0.68	\$111,651.99	0.96	\$32,386.86
Richland	\$238,398.99	2.04	\$377,550.30	3.23	\$139,151.31
Roosevelt	\$34,323.80	0.29	\$20,906.68	0.18	(\$13,417.12)
Rosebud	\$1,274,297.84	10.92	\$1,345,429.65	11.53	\$71,131.80
Sheridan	\$13,246.83	0.11	\$14,652.20	0.13	\$1,405.38
Stillwater	\$12,047.67	0.10	\$6,860.92	0.06	(\$5,186.75)
Sweet Grass	\$777.83	0.01	\$642.63	0.01	(\$135.21)
Teton	\$3,852.96	0.03	\$452.14	0.00	(\$3,400.82)
Toole	\$57,113.93	0.49	\$83,196.94	0.71	\$26,083.01
Treasure	\$139,853.08	1.20	\$110,872.23	0.95	(\$28,980.85)
Valley	\$89,561.53	0.77	\$94,084.51	0.81	\$4,522.98
Wheatland	\$372.99	0.00	\$174.20	0.00	(\$198.79)
Wibaux	\$332,772.58	2.85	\$403,071.38	3.45	\$70,298.80
Yellowstone	\$1,517.79	0.01	\$1,275.69	0.01	(\$242.10)
Total	\$9,286,933.06	100	\$11,673,601.09	100	\$2,386,668.03

Total Monies Received by State in FY 2007 Pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 191	\$46,696,404.39
25% County Share of the Total Monies Received	\$0.25
Total Monies Distributed to Eligible Counties	\$11,674,101.09



MACo News

2008 MACo 99th Annual Conference Agenda
First Interstate Pavilion Event Center, Sept. 21-25, Hamilton

Sunday, September 21

- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Golf at Hamilton Golf Course, 1004 Golf Course Road, Hamilton
- 1-5 p.m. Registration and exhibitor set up
- 1-3 p.m. Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 3-5 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 6-10 p.m. President's Reception & Dinner Sponsor/ Vendor Appreciation Night

Monday, September 22

- 7-8:30 a.m. No-Host Prayer Breakfast
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Exhibits open
- 8:30-10:30 a.m. MACo Opening General Session
- 10-10:30 a.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 10:30 a.m.-Noon Reports
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1-1:30 p.m. MT Assoc. of Disaster & Emergency Services
- 1:30-1:45 p.m. FEMA Mitigation Grant Program Opps.
- 1:45-2:30 p.m. MT Mental Health Oversight Adv. Council
- 2:30-3 p.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 3-3:30 p.m. Election Security
- 3:30-4 p.m. Personnel Issues
- 4-6 p.m. Urban Counties Meeting
- 4-6 p.m. Hard Rock Mining Counties Meeting
- 4-6 p.m. Oil, Gas & Coal Counties Meeting
- Dinner on your own

Tuesday, September 23

- 7-8:30 a.m. JPIA Trustees Breakfast Meeting
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Reservation Counties Meeting
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration and exhibits open
- 8:30-10 a.m. All MACo committees will meet. Attendees who are not MACo committee members are encouraged to participate in the meeting of the committee of their choice.
 - Agriculture Committee
 - Economic Development Committee
 - Health, Human & Labor Svcs. Committee
 - Information Technology Committee
 - Justice & Public Safety Committee
 - Land Use Planning & Dev. Committee
 - Public Lands Committee
 - Resolutions Committee
 - Taxation Finance & Budget Committee
 - Transportation Committee
- 10-10:30 a.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- Committee Chair Reports and Discussion:**
- 10:30-10:40 a.m. Agriculture
- 10:40-10:50 a.m. Budget & Finance
- 10:50-11 a.m. Economic Development
- 11-11:10 a.m. Energy
- 11:10-11:20 a.m. Health, Human Services & Labor
- 11:20-11:30 a.m. Information Technology

- 11:30-11:40 a.m. Justice & Public Safety
- 11:40-11:50 a.m. Land Use & Development
- 11:50-Noon Public Lands
- Noon-12:10 p.m. Transportation
- 12:10-12:20 p.m. Resolutions
- 12:20-1:30 p.m. Lunch: Speaker—The Honorable Teresa Altamus, NACo 1st Vice President
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Workshops:
 - A. No Adverse Impact Floodplain Mgmt.
 - B. Senior Housing Co-ops
- 2:30-3 p.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 3-3:30 p.m. Vendors and Sponsors Meeting
- 3-4 p.m. Workshops:
 - A. Montana Legacy Project
 - B. Opencut Mining Procedures
- 4-5:30 p.m. MACo Health Care Trust Membership Meeting (all counties are invited)
- 4-6 p.m. 6 County Fort Peck Lakes Group Meeting
- 4-6 p.m. MT Coalition of Forest Counties Meeting
- 6 p.m. MACo HCT Trustees Dinner Meeting
- Dinner on your own

Wednesday, September 24

- 7-8 a.m. JPA Trustees Breakfast Meeting
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration and exhibits open
- 8-9:30 a.m. MT Department of Commerce Community Technical Assistance Community Development Block Grants-Public Facilities/Housing Treasure State Endowment Prog. Update Coal Board Grant Update MACo Housing Issues/Updates INTERCAP Revolving Loan Program Short Term Investment Pool (STIP) Infrastructure Loan Program Intermediary Relending Loan Program Big Sky Economic Development Trust Certified Regional Development Corps. Community Development Block Grants-Economic Development
- 9:30-10 a.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 10-10:30 a.m. MT's Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- 10:30-11 a.m. Interoperability Montana
- 11:30 a.m.-Noon Mobile Home Taxation
- Noon-1 p.m. Lunch
- 1-2:30 p.m. Closing General Session
- 2:30-3 p.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 3-4 p.m. General Session, cont.
- 4 p.m. JPIA Claims Appeal Hearing
- 5:30 p.m. Social & Annual Banquet-Installation of Officers

Thursday, September 25

- 7:30-9 a.m. New Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting



MACo News

Montana Main Street conference set

Mark your calendars for the first Montana Main Street conference, Sept. 29-30, at the Finlen Hotel in historic Uptown Butte. The conference is sponsored by state Department of Commerce's Main Street Montana program.

Main Street is a historic preservation-based economic development program that has been used in thousands of rural and urban communities nationwide since 1980. Developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Main Street approach encourages communities to use their unique assets – distinctive architecture, pedestrian-friendly atmosphere, local ownership, and personal service – to rebuild their downtowns.

Topics at this year's conference:

- Producing Great Events: Linda McCarthy, Missoula Downtown Association, and George Everett, Main Street Butte
- Downtown Revitalization - Streetscapes & Great Public Spaces: Brent Campbell, and Jeremy Keene, WGM Group, Missoula
- BIDs, TIFs, and Other Acronyms: Paul Reichert, Helena, and Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Partnership
- A Primer on the Montana Legislature and the Legislative Process: Steve Doherty, Great Falls

For more information, visit www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov/conference.asp. To register online, visit Main Street Montana's Web site or call 841-2756. The cost is \$125 per person and includes all meals.

Local Gov't. Services seeks auditor

The Local Government Services Bureau of the state Department of Administration is hiring for an audit quality control reviewer (position no. 61166273) in Helena responsible for reviewing audits of Montana local governments and designing/implementing policies that ensure local government audits are conducted according to standards. Salary is \$33,852 to \$49,298, DOQ. For details, visit <http://mt.gov/statejobs/statejobs.asp> or Montana Job Service. State of Montana application required. Closing date is 5 p.m. on Sept. 10, 2008. EEO/ADA employer.

Law enforcement tops auto claims data

By Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist

Every 12 minutes, someone in the U.S. dies in a car accident and every 14 seconds someone is severely injured, according to the National Safety Council. That is 43,000 deaths and accidents per year. MACo has found the leading cause for fatalities in Montana's counties is auto accidents.

MACo Risk Management has seen an increase in auto claim frequency, or the number of claims, and auto claim severity, or total loss. During the last three years (from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008), the total number of auto collision/comprehensive claims is 385 claims with a severity of \$1,394,738. The prior three years there were 340 claims with a severity of \$1,120,328.

In addition, auto liability, or third party liability, claims have increased. The total number of auto liability claims for the last three years (from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008) is 298 claims with a severity of \$2,036,322. During the prior three years, there were 271 claims with a severity of \$1,753,961.

Law enforcement has the highest auto comprehensive/collision claim frequency and severity. MACo claims data shows 211 claims occurred in law enforcement with a severity of \$765,640. Road departments have the highest auto liability claim frequency (123 claims) and other activities (districts) have the highest claim severity of \$806,669. To learn more, see the accompanying charts.

MACo Risk Management would like the counties to be proactive in preventing auto claims. Many accidents can be prevented with defensive driving. Risk Management offers a National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course to counties. The course provides techniques that can help drivers avoid accidents and lessen their severity if they occur. Among the highlights covered in this course:

- Respect for the vehicle
- Your responsibility as a driver
- Proper/safe driving techniques

The counties may call MACo Risk Management and schedule training with Emelia McEwen, Senior Loss Control Specialist or Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist at (406) 444-4370.

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 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

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 of Tower Erectors
 Founding Member



MACo News

Building MACo, like building a barn, takes teamwork

By Owen Voigt, MACo Health Care Trust Administrator

The weekend of August 23-24 were momentous for our household. After months of planning, logging, sawing, and dirt and concrete work, we held the first and last annual barn raising at our place. My wife and I invited friends and interested folks to help us build a barn. Starting with concrete on Saturday morning, we had nearly completed the construction of a two-story, 2,200-square-foot barn by Sunday night. It was amazing. We had sawyers, contractors, framers, concrete workers, and folks who just cared and wanted to help.

I can still hardly believe it when I leave for MACo every morning. I look over to see the work accomplished with a common goal, for our benefit, in such a short amount of time by caring people with a common purpose.

I think of all the work and expertise those friends of ours provided to the building of our barn and the care and concern they put into the work they did to benefit us, without cost or obligation. I think of MACo and all its services and programs in the same context. It is simply amazing that we can call and ask friends to help build a barn and they do it and all they get is an investment in a relationship. Counties can contact MACo and basically do the same thing with the same response.

The Health Care Trust was started by MACo for MACo member groups to solve a need. Those who choose to participate have the opportunity to be involved in the operations and direction of the trusts. They also are invested in the trust by being a co-owner of the trust.

A member group's participation is good for the employees of that group and they know they are involved in an organization that has been in Montana for 100 years designed to serve them, their employees and the taxpayers of Montana. Did you know the MACo is celebrating its

100th anniversary next year? One hundred years of providing service to Montana counties is simply hard to comprehend. From the original MACo organization who provided legislative services to today's association who provide as much and in some cases more services than the more populated state associations. Services are designed and provided based on needs identified by members. Once a service is identified, then provided (such as the HCT) it is an investment for those member groups who choose to participate. The trust is owned and run by the member groups, (through representative commissioners).

MACo provides the following services:

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- Newsletter
- Elected officials training
- Lobbying

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Many other services designed solely to benefit Montana counties, special districts, staff and elected officials.

MACo staff recently returned from an excellent conference in Harrisburg, Penn., where the focus was on services performed and provided by statewide county associations. MACo is at the top of the list for the range of services provided by any association in the country.

A local county employee may have a question or concern and can work with their elected officials who use the expertise of the county staff, MACo staff and resources who then have access to the National Association of Counties with all their resources. Having all those resources available is really incredible when you consider all the people and organizations available to Montana counties and special districts in Montana through MACo.

My point is, ask questions, participate in MACo in whatever services benefit you, and know that your participation benefits everyone in Montana counties and special districts. Have a great end of summer and be careful, the kids are back in school.

Health Care Trust Calendar of Events

Oct. 10	January renewal rates mailed
Nov. 1-Dec. 15	January open enrollment period
Nov. 10	Annual MDCR Part D notice mailed
Nov. 14	January renewal rates deadline
Dec. 21-27	2009 Rx formulary mailed



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MACo/State News



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Sixth in a series

Plugging the Leaks

So, what can be done? Don't overlook the obvious; require strong user passwords that must be changed periodically, and require workstations to be locked when not in use. Enforce the following with software settings (don't rely on end users):

- Disable removable media per enterprise guidelines.
- Legal and privacy notices displayed when accessing the network.
- Use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) to protect all customer data.
- Ensure all web servers are "hardened" according to vendor and industry standards.
- Employ intrusion detection tools.
- Use encryption when storing and transmitting data to other servers.
- Review application development standards for security considerations.
- Develop and test backup and recovery procedures.

Other items to consider:

- Internet usage filtering to keep staff focused on "business use."
- Content filtering for all inbound and outbound email to block contaminated or unwanted messages.

- Proper auditing and reporting on servers and network access points to detect suspicious activity.
- Call-back policies for dial-up remote access.
- Explore new methods for attracting, screening, hiring, and retaining qualified IT and IT security personnel.
- Require industry certifications to ensure adequately trained IT technical and security personnel.
- Ensure that staff has adequate test lab facilities to verify that new hardware and software meet organizational security requirements.
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by Randy Land and John Krusemark, City of Scottsdale, Ariz., via PERI

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NACo committee report: Transportation Steering Committee

By Jaime Doggett, Meagher County Commissioner and NACo Transportation Steering Committee member

The Transportation Committee toured the local General Motors Fairfax assembly plant where the Chevrolet Malibu and Saturn Aura hybrid cars are assembled. It was a fascinating tour with much information on the new hybrid production process.

After the tour, each of the committee's subcommittees met; I was vice chair of the Highways/Highway Safety Subcommittee. Resolutions from each subcommittee were discussed and supported. The Transportation Committee and NACo membership adopted all proposed. Some of those of particular interest to Montana counties included support of the highway trust fund, the Railroad Competition Act, Small Community Air Service Development Program, funding Essential Air Service, Amtrak, reauthorization of the FAA program, and reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU (our current transportation program and funding sources for highways across the nation).

The Transportation Committee and NACo membership adopted a new major, and lengthy, policy resolution on the future of the federal surface transportation program. This policy resulted from numerous meetings held by the committee during the last year, including a leadership meeting in Alameda County, Calif., to complete the draft for resolution. Other national transportation committees also were formed (which included county members) to especially review the funding mechanisms for surface

transportation and their reports were integral to the final NACo policy.

It is the committee's belief that "there is a crisis in surface transportation in this country and it is time to challenge the traditional approach to the authorization of the federal surface transportation program." It is believed the federal program must be improved to solve the congestion and safety challenges of the 21st century and the financial integrity of the system must be addressed.

Counties are a key part of the nation's transportation systems and must be a part of the solution. A highway, a bridge and transit system must be developed for the future that focuses on reliability, system preservation, innovative solutions and partnerships. There needs to be improved delivery of projects, improved federal accountability, and flexibility within programs. Counties across the nation own 1.8 million miles of roads, 256,000 bridges, and one-third of the country's transit systems. We must be included in the decision-making process.

The current SAFETEA-LU became law in 2005 and needs be reauthorized by September 2009. It provides \$287 billion in highway and transit funding, which is financed by the 18.3-cent fuel tax. That funds the highway trust that is now operating in the red.

Issues the committee also considered included the inadequacy of the funding mechanism against the mammoth needs of our transportation infrastructure. There was much discussion on potential funding opportunities, including a restructuring of the present "gas tax."

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MACo/NACo News

NACo committee report: Public Lands Steering Committee

By Alan Thompson, Ravalli County Commissioner and NACo Public Lands Steering Committee member

The Federal Lands Payment Subcommittee was chaired by Vice Chair Roger Mancebo, Pershing County (Nev.) commissioner. After welcome and introductions, we moved to a re-write of the public lands platform. There is a general consensus our platform is too wordy, and for the last year, a committee has tried to make it more concise. Most agreed with the concept but would still like to see language that expounds a particular area dear to their hearts. Some language was added and revised. The new platform soon will be available for assessment.

The section on cattle grazing was changed to "domestic livestock" and a sentence added that "grazing assists in reducing fire dangers by keeping fuel loading to a manageable level."

The main areas of focus we discussed were (in no particular order of importance): BLM range improvement fund; increase federal mineral lease payments; concessionaire taxes; and reauthorization of SRS and PILT.

Once again, talk involving PILT centers on equitable payments and eliminating prior year payments from the formula. There was general discussion of each issue and motions were made to support each resolution and move it onto the whole committee.

Federal Lands Management Subcommittee

This committee's chair is Alan Gardner, Washington County, Utah, but because of other business, it was opened and chaired by our very own Mike Murray. The first item on the agenda was a discussion of urging Congress to approve an oil shale leasing program so we can achieve energy independence. The presentation was by Vernal County (Utah) Commissioner McKee, whose county is located in the northeast corner of the state. Utah, Wyoming and Colorado contain about 1.2 trillion barrels of recoverable oil.

Most of the Colorado contingent was opposed to any development for fear of contaminating the water. Discussion was that we must move slowly and assurances were given by the sponsors that the process could be expedited and still be environmentally safe. Talking to various

people during the conference who know about this situation, I was told oil could be recovered safely and put on the market for about \$54 per barrel and the reserves are twice that of Saudi Arabia. There was a minor change to the resolution asking Congress to expedite the process, but to do so in an environmentally responsible manner.

We moved to the various resolutions that have been presented in the past and those presented for consideration at this conference. There were 17 total resolutions to go over, and each one was discussed and some minor amendments were offered on many.

There were two different amendments offered on my hazardous fuels emergency resolution. A slight language change was proposed to leave NEPA consideration in effect but have it expedited and moved to a categorical exclusion basis. This was approved on a split vote.

A motion was made to remove the requirement of posting a 10-percent bond to file a lawsuit, but it wasn't approved, so the bond is still in place.

These meetings have become much more intense in the last few years and this particular meeting ran a half an hour over its allotted time.

Gateway Communities Subcommittee

This committee looked at its portion of the public lands platform and some minor changes were made to clarify language. Mainly, there is a need for the federal government to recognize it needs to share costs with local counties that are gateways to federal lands. The policy asks the federal government to provide sufficient funding to counties to maintain an adequate level of service.

An amendment was made to include timber leases in the platform that only references cattle grazing at the moment. This committee and the Lands Management Committee are both looking a language that would define policy dealing with military bases.

Public Lands Steering Committee

The full steering committee is chaired again this year by Coconino County (Ariz.) Supervisor Liz Archuleta. Af-

Please see "NACo committee report: Public..." on next page



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.

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NACo committee report: Public Lands Steering Committee

Continued from previous page

ter a welcome and introductions, NACo President Don Stapley of Arizona was introduced as was the candidate for second vice president of the organization. The first report was on the wildland-urban interface project that NACo started and the report was given by Jim Davenport, project manager. The project is just starting and he gave a brief report of what they hope to accomplish.

NACo Waters of the U.S. Task Force report

Umatilla County (Ore.) Commissioner Bill Hansell presented a proposed resolution for changes to the Clean Waters Act. Original language would remove navigable waters from the definition of Waters of the U.S. Problems arose that people would say all waters including gutters and roadside runoff would be included. There was a discussion that the bill is more encompassing than just removing the word navigable. Most objections were that the feds would control states rights to water.

There were three different resolutions introduced dealing with water and two of them passed while one that was overly restrictive and granted control of state water to the federal government was not approved.

USFS/ BLM grazing program, FS/DOI merge proposal

NACo liasons Randy Phillips, U.S. Forest Service, and Cynthia Moses-Nedd, BLM, provided a report that reported there is a movement coming forth to stop all federal grazing allotments. It's ironic that at a time when we want to assure sustainable agriculture there are organizations that would deprive ranchers what may be their ability to generate a profit and stay in business. Cynthia Moses-Nedd explained BLM's stance. Both presenters said there respective organizations were in favor of continued grazing on federal lands.

Subcommittee reports

All subcommittees gave a report of what was discussed in each of the meetings and resolutions that were looked at. At least half of the resolutions were proposed to be amended and most amendments came from the representatives of Colorado who are very much in favor of more restrictive environmental laws.

The resolutions dealing with changes to PILT funding

were moved to the PILT working group for more discussion and one resolution dealing with federal coordinative roads was tabled at the advice of an attorney. The only significant change made from the subcommittee reports was a change in language to our platform. Language was added to support grazing as a use of fire suppression within the policy. It was approved by a vote of 18-12.

An invitation was extended to the committee to attend a workshop in September at the Wisconsin Forest Lab. There will be workshops detailing new technology using small timber and biomass to make commercial products.

There is an off-road working group within our organization trying to formulate a policy we all can live with; its members gave a report, which was amended and passed.

Public lands legislative priorities update

I wish there was something new to report here but NACo's Ryan Yates had no new information for us. We still can't seem to get Congress to make headway with either funding for SRS or full funding of PILT. He was optimistic that something would be done in the next few months to get reauthorization of SRS, however, we have heard that time and again.

This was my last conference as your representative to NACo and once again I would like to thank the coalition for the opportunity to be on this board. I look forward to seeing each of you at our annual conference here in Hamilton and will answer questions and give a more detailed report at that time.

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NACo committee report: Agriculture Subcommittee

By Kathy Bessette, Hill County Commissioner and NACo Agriculture Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Abner Womack, Fred V. Heinkel Professor of agricultural economics and senior economist, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), was the speaker of the Agriculture Subcommittee meeting. Dr. Womack gave an overview of the Farm Bill, starting with the 2002 Farm Bill and including the 2008 Farm Bill.

The comprehensive bill covers commodity programs, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, and energy. New titles in the 2008 Farm Bill include horticulture, organic agriculture, livestock, crop insurance, disaster assistance programs, commodity futures, trade provisions and tax provisions. Part I-2008 Farm Bill has higher target prices for wheat, soybeans, barley, oats and minor oilseeds; a lower target price for upland cotton; higher loan rates for wheat, barley, oats, minor oilseeds, and sugar; and a reduction in the share of base acreage eligible for direct payments from 2009-2011.

Except for cotton with a lower target price, Womack expects small impacts to grain farmers because of high projected prices. For dairy farmers, Womack expects few payments because of high projected milk prices. As far as biofuel provisions, there is an extension of the ethanol-specific \$0.54 tariff and reduction in the ethanol tax credit from \$0.51 to \$0.45 per gallon through 2010.

The \$40,000 limit on direct payments and \$65,000 limit on counter-cyclical payment continues.

In 2009, producers are given the option of staying with the current program or switching to the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program for all commodities on their farm. Once they choose to enroll in the ACRE program, they must stay in the program through 2012. Womack said it appears the program will be more attractive to producers in northern states and the traditional program payments more applicable for southern states.

Dr. Womack also said average ACRE payments will exceed traditional programs by more than \$1 billion per year over the 2009-2012 period. Also, when prices are rising, ACRE payments may be less than the traditional program payments, while the average level of ACRE payments is relatively modest, the payments could vary dramatically from one year to the next.

Rural Development Subcommittee

Dr. Alan Barkema, senior vice president of regional, public and community affairs for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, was the speaker. He spoke about the resources the Federal Reserve provides for rural counties and especially how it works in his area. Kansas is experiencing the same problems that plague all rural states. Outward migration is taking young people off the farm, out of the state, to heavily populated areas where they can find good paying jobs. This movement is leaving

a much older population actively farming.

There are several reasons for the downdraft in the economy: high oil prices, the home mortgage dilemma, weak income, weak employment growth, globalization, and the longstanding shift from industrial to service industry. Barkema noted that people should be careful of their debt and he emphasized people are not saving enough.

Food Safety Subcommittee

Speaker for the meeting was Nancy J. Robinson, vice president, government and industry affairs for the Live-stock Marketing Association of Kansas. Ms. Robinson has worked hard to assure that COOL (Country Of Origin Labeling) legislation will finally be implemented. To simplify procedures to prove country of origin, Robinson's group recommends ranchers provide an affidavit stating "the cattle *in this shipment* were born and raised in the USA." Utilizing this procedure, stock growers would not have to produce a paper trail of origin for each animal at the time of sale, just a signed affidavit.

The committee leadership directed NACo to produce a press release reaffirming NACo's Food Safety Policy.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee

Harry Watts, managing director of governmental relations for Kansas Farm Bureau, related his group had

Please see "NACo committee report: Agriculture..." on next page



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NACo committee report: Agriculture Subcommittee

Continued from previous page

done a great job lobbying for farm issues, but needed to improve its members' roles as leaders in developing rural counties. Farm Bureau has lifted rural development to a national priority. At the local level they are working on a program with four main methods designed to strengthen rural communities.

They are leadership development, entrepreneurship (diversify the economy), retain our wealth (through community foundations and estate planning), and youth (recruit, retain and get back our youth).

The next speaker was Chuck Banks, Kansas director for USDA Rural Development. Banks worked in partnership with other federal agencies, plus state and local government, to assist a community in Kansas recover from a devastating tornado. He developed a model from the experience that can be used for distressed communities.

He recommended three tactics: leverage state and federal funding so they can work together; develop more emphasis on leveraging your dollars; and create a plan to be prepared before a disaster strikes.

Joel Leftwich, legislative assistant to Senator Pat Roberts (Kansas), provided an overview of the Farm Bill. He stated there are three food safety bills in Congress and that the issue appears to be big in the next session.

Resolutions

Commissioner Bill Hansell, chair of NACo's Waters of the U.S. Task Force, presented the Changes to the Clean Water Act (Waters of the U.S. Task Force Recommendations) resolution, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brett Hulse of the Environment, Energy and Land Use committee presented his resolution "Protect the Nation's Drinking Water Supply." The committee did not make a motion to vote on the resolution.

The following resolutions originating in the committee were approved unanimously: 1) To oppose cuts in rural development funding; 2) Support of full funding for the 2008 Farm Bill's rural development title; and 3) To protect the property rights of horse owners and support horse management authority of federal agencies.

Green government gaining ground

Two recent NACo surveys, released at the Annual Conference, gauge the level of green government practices in the nation's counties. One survey was conducted by NACo in June, the other was a joint effort with the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The NACo and AIA survey, *Local Leaders in Sustainability: Green Counties*, is the third in a series by the AIA investigating green building at the local level. The survey was sent to the 200 most-populous American counties.

Findings include: green programs have quadrupled in the last three years; 19.5 percent of sample counties have a green building program in place; and 25.6 percent of people in the sample population live in counties with green building programs.

For more information, visit www.greencounties.org.

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Housing stimulus package passes, includes \$3.9 billion for CDBG

By Daria Daniel, NACo associate legislative director

The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, signed into law by President Bush July 30, offers a significant tonic to an ailing U.S. housing market sickened by the foreclosure crisis and negatively affecting the U.S. financial market.

Bush, who had earlier threatened to veto the bill over its CDBG provisions, relented after the legislation was amended to allow the federal government to purchase stock in the government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and increase credit lines if their finances deteriorate further.

In a victory for state and local governments, the bill includes \$3.9 billion in additional funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This funding is vital for local governments and works by providing states and localities with financial assistance to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes.

The bill will provide an immediate pass-through of funds to state and local governments based on state and local home foreclosure percentages, number of homes financed by subprime mortgage-related loans, and the number and percentage of homes in default or delinquency in a state or unit local government.

This allocation process supports an effort to target the funds to the areas with the highest need of assistance. An additional \$100 million for Housing Counseling programs

puts the total addition at \$4 billion for CDBG.

NACo, along with other state and local public interest groups, vigorously advocated for the financial assistance available in the CDBG section of the measure.

The legislation establishes a new program in the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), to provide up to \$300 billion in loan guarantees through FY11 to help at-risk borrowers refinance troubled mortgages they cannot afford. This bill also modernizes aspects of the FHA, expanding the type of mortgage products available through the agency and bringing it more closely in line with current housing market prices in high-cost areas.

The FHA loan limits increase to the lesser of \$625,500 or 1.15 times the local area median home price. FHA reform has long been a congressional and Bush administration legislative priority.

The bill creates a new independent agency, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), to regulate Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. The new agency would oversee their operations and have control over their executive compensation.

These bill amendments give the U.S. Treasury Department authority to purchase stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through Dec. 31, 2009, and increase their line of credit to keep the financial institutions solvent. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgages caps are set, too.



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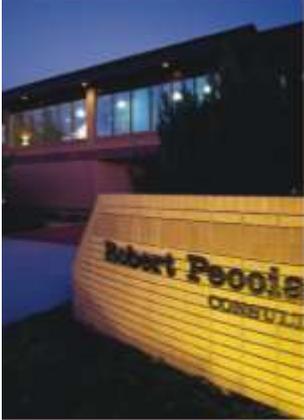


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NACo News



Proposed ADA changes could cost government entities billions

By Jackie Byers, NACo research director, and Marilina Sanz, NACo associate legislative director

A set of amendments submitted earlier this summer might drastically change the cost of meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The amendments would clarify certain parts of the act and change certain provisions so persons with disabilities (PWD) would be better integrated into mainstream society.

An entire section of the proposed rule changes concerns state and local governments: Part II of the act, Subparts A, B, D and E, which specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in state and local government services and Part III of the act, which specifically prohibits discrimination by public accommodations and commercial facilities.

The federal government predicts that full compliance with these new regulations may cost up to \$23 billion.

Among the concerns voiced by the writers of these new amendments is the integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of activities carried on by these public entities. Under the original legislation, local governments were allowed to use alternative options that made a program, when viewed in its entirety, accessible to persons with disabilities. The proposed requirements represent "an effort to ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to participate in programs in an integrated setting..."

Primary among the issues discussed in what amounts to a very lengthy introduction is compliance with the International Building Codes (IBC), which, in many cases, have identical specifications with the Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) promulgated in 2004. The 2006 amendments to IBC base a number of its changes on the ADAAG. There are 46 states and the District of Columbia that have adopted the IBC.

Four states, Mississippi, Delaware, Illinois and Colorado, make adoption of the IBC by local governments voluntary, but the majority has adopted them. If local jurisdictions are indeed complying with the IBC in new construction and renovation, compliance with these new regulations may not be as costly as previously projected.

The Safe Harbor Provision is a proposal clarifying that any public entity that has previously brought existing facilities into compliance under early ADA standards is not required to modify those elements to meet small changes in the standards made since the adoption of the 2004 ADAAG. The entity would only be required to modify elements to comply with the proposed standards if the local government is independently planning an alteration not designed to fulfill compliance with ADA and its program accessibility obligations.

Specifically, the proposed Safe Harbor would operate only with respect to elements in compliance with the scoping and technical specifications in either the 1991 Standards or the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.

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Around Our Counties

Zoning

RAVALLI COUNTY voters living outside of municipalities will have a chance to repeal the county's controversial growth policy in a November vote. A summer petition drive gathered more than 20 additional names than the required 3,567 in about two weeks. If the policy, originally set for adoption in November, is repealed, the county would not be able to adopt another one for two years.

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY commissioners were vindicated in a late July Montana Supreme Court decision that reaffirmed a lower court ruling regarding the Frontier subdivision. The commission approved the 39-lot development after a settlement with the developer last year, but three nearby families filed a motion to stop the process. The high court ruled the motion wasn't filed in time.

FLATHEAD COUNTY commissioners last month agreed to place a \$10-million conservation bond before voters in November. The bond, if approved, would be used to buy conservation easements on private lands in the Flat-

head Valley. It also could be used to buy access areas and natural park lands.

MINERAL COUNTY Planner Tim Read was assaulted by a developer after a meeting between him, developers, and county officials. The developer was cited for misdemeanor assault after blocking Read from leaving the meeting, then shouting at him in a courthouse hallway.

Law Enforcement

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY Sheriff Cheryl Liedle retired from her post Sept. 1. The 20-year law enforcement veteran was elected to serve until 2010, but Leidle cited stress as the main reason for her departure. Undersheriff Leo Dutton was chosen in early September to fill the remainder of Liedle's term.

HILL COUNTY has a new sheriff: former Undersheriff Don Brostrom. A 19-year veteran of the department, Brostrom takes over for retiring Sheriff Greg Szudera, who left office Aug. 31. Szudera, who announced his departure in July, was appointed to the position in 2001 and was in the second year of his second

elected term. Commissioners also appointed Gina Bishop as county attorney in early August. Bishop, the former deputy county attorney, will replace Cyndee Peterson, who's leaving Sept. 14 to join the U.S. District Attorney in Missoula. A Great Falls native, Bishop is a graduate of the University of Montana and previously worked for the Cascade County attorney.

PARK COUNTY promoted Scott Hamilton to undersheriff on Aug. 1. A 14-year department veteran, Hamilton graduated from Gardiner High School, attended Montana State University, and graduated from the FBI Command College.

PHILLIPS COUNTY hired a new deputy in June. Taylon Bain, a Montana native, joined the department after spending a year with Glendive Police. Bain, a graduate of Dawson Community College, will attend the state law enforcement academy in January.

Personnel

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY commissioners voted in late August to combine the office of the county school superintendent with the

county treasurer. The decision will eliminate the superintendent's job, which is an elected position.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY commissioners approved Emily Rebish as superintendent of schools in late July. Rebish retired in 2002 from a teaching career in Butte, then served as a mentor coordinator for the Montana Youth Challenge. She is a University of Montana-Western alumna.

Miscellany

RICHLAND COUNTY Health Department opened its office doors in the new community services building in early August. The department, which closed for the move briefly in July, has 11 offices in the building, along with a lab, nurses station, exam and waiting rooms, as well as conference rooms available for public use.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY commissioners approve in early August a tax increment finance district (TIFD) for the Mill Creek area. The TIFD is intended to provide a funding mechanism for infrastructure and help spur local development.

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Announcements & Reminders

Mark Your Calendars

September

- 4 Energy & Telecomm. Interim Committee*
- 4-5 **Education & Local Gov't. Interim Committee***
- 8 MACo Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 8-9 Environmental Quality Council*
- 10 Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee*
- 12 Economic Affairs Interim Committee*
- 12 Fire Suppression Interim Committee*
- 15 Law & Justice Interim Committee*
- 15-18 MT County Treasurers Association Conference, Heritage Inn, Great Falls
- 16 Legislative Council*
- 21-25 MACo Annual Conference, Hamilton

October

- 1-3 County Magistrates Annual Meeting, Helena
- 1-3 **Governor's Conference on Workers' Comp,** West Yellowstone
- 8-9 Western Interstate Region Board Meeting, Susanville, Calif.
- 4 Energy & Telecomm. Interim Committee*
- 15 District Court Council Meeting, Whitefish
- 15-18 NCCAE Annual Fall Meeting, Cody, Wyo.
- 14 Children, Families, Health, & Human Services Interim Committee (tentative)*
- 27-29 AGRIP Governance & Leadership Conference, New Orleans, La.

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

Upcoming Events

Nov. 18-20 MACo Joint Ins. Pools Trustees Retreat, Forsyth

*All meetings are held in Helena unless noted.

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MACo NEWS
 Phone: 444-4360 Fax: 442-5238
 E-mail: macopb@maco.cog.mt.us