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Commissioner college comes to close

By Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner and MACo President

This past year has been one of the most interesting and rewarding times of my life. Although it has been a very busy and fast year, I have thoroughly enjoyed the honor of representing MACo as your president. I thank each of you for allowing me this opportunity.

Since becoming a commissioner 10 years ago, I have always considered this job as on-the-job training at Commissioner College. This year as president has been no different; just more issues, more people, and more places.

In October 2008, I started my travels by going to New Orleans, La., to attend an AGRIP (risk pools association) conference. Other commissioners who are trustees on MACo's three boards also attended this conference. The trip was followed by an excursion to Forsyth in November for a planning session and retreat for the MACo board of directors and all three trusts.

I believe the best and, for myself, the most enjoyable conferences were the various president and executive conferences. The Northwest states conference in Sitka, Alaska, in December and the all-states meeting in D.C. in early January, were useful, too. These events were great for sharing ideas and concerns with other association presidents while getting to know all the executive directors of other state associations and how they work together on county concerns.

From January through April, I was in Helena for "The Session," which was very interesting and educational. In March, I took a quick trip to D.C. with all the MACo committee chairs for the NACo Legislative Conference; our own Midwinter Conference in February helped break the routine of all those days spent in Helena.

The Western Interstate Region (WIR)

Conference was held in May in Pendleton, Ore. This was a great conference about Western county issues and I look forward to May 2010 when WIR will be in Billings. Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Mike Murray will be taking over as WIR president. In June, we traveled the state going to all MACo district meetings. In July, I went to Nashville, Tenn., for the NACo Annual Conference.

These conferences are valuable and necessary for our counties to keep their voices heard at the national level. Montana commissioners are well represented and hold many leadership positions on these committees. Our state will have two commissioners on the NACo board and three when Murray becomes president of WIR. In August, I was trying to stay in my county to catch up on some work. I am looking forward to our 100th Annual Conference in Helena this month.

I wish Carl the best in the coming year as our president and know he will represent us well. He was a great VP and I appreciate all his help, including throwing a pitch in the dirt for me.

MACo is a great organization. I would like to thank all of the commissioners across the state who keep active in the issues and who are willing to take leadership roles in the committees and the boards. Also, my thanks to Harold and Sheryl and all of the MACo staff. You all work hard to make things run as smoothly as possible. It really was the people who made this such an enjoyable and effective year and who keep this organization great.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to be your president this past year. It has been an experience I will never forget. I hope to see you soon in Helena for the 100th year celebration of MACo.



Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner and MACo President

2nd VP candidate: Hunthausen

How long have you been a county commissioner?

I was elected in 2006.

Please summarize your MACo participation:

I'm on the board of directors and chair of the Justice Committee; I also represent MACO on the Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council. I completed the commissioner certification course, and I attended the NACO Leadership Institute.

Please summarize your community involvement:

I'm on the board of directors for the Center for Mental Health, the Myrna Loy Center for the Arts, the Rocky Mountain Development Council, and the Youth Connections Coalition. I was appointed to the Governor's Electronic Government Advisory Council representing local government. I'm a member of the Helena Gold Rush Lions Club and I coach a youth flag football team.

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

I have a BS in education from the University of Montana and a masters in education/counseling and development from MSU Northern. I'm also a licensed clinical professional counselor, a certified school counselor, and a certified teacher. I've also completed the Rocky Mountain Leadership Institute and have been accepted to the Leadership Montana class of 2010.

Please share your thoughts about MACo and how you will serve the membership as President:

MACO is an organization with wide-ranging influence across Montana. The diverse membership offers MACO the opportunity to increase county participation in association activities as well as continue to positively impact statewide policy. If elected, I would hope to reinforce MACO's reputation of respect and integrity by fostering those relationships necessary to create a statewide environment that is more conducive to the business done by local governments.

In an effort to complement MACO's role as a significant player in policy and law creation related to the function of county government, I would work to help facilitate an atmosphere ripe for constructive dialog among the members with the goal of collaboration for the betterment of the association and our ability to serve the public.



Andy Hunthausen, candidate for MACo 2nd Vice President and Lewis and Clark County Commissioner

2009 Annual Conference registration at www.maco.cog.mt.us ends soon!

2nd VP candidate: Eissinger

How long have you been a county commissioner?

I was elected in November 1990, so almost 19 years.

Please summarize your MACo participation:

I served on what I think was called the MACo Agriculture and Land Use Committee after the 1991 annual meeting. One of the first resolutions I worked on dealt with the adverse effects of CRP on Main Street Montana. It went all the way to becoming an adopted NACO resolution. That committee later morphed into two separate committees, the Agriculture Committee and the Public Lands Committee. I have served on the latter from then on and as its chair for a number of years.

From 1994 through 2007, I was honored to serve as MACo's representative on the Western Interstate Region Board and the NACO Public Lands Steering Committee. In those capacities, I served as WIR board chair for a term and a half, and chaired the Public Lands Payments Subcommittee for several years.

I have rarely missed any of MACO's annual, mid-winter, or district meetings and have participated as a speaker in commissioner orientations a couple of times.

Please summarize your community involvement:

I'm a member of the First Lutheran Church of Circle and the Brockway Commercial Club that puts on the annual "World Famous" Brockway Dairy Day Rodeo. I also serve on the Executive Committee of the Great Northern Economic Development Corporation and chair the Eastern Region Juvenile Detention Board.

I've also served as the governor's appointee on the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Private Lands/Public Wildlife Council, and I serve on the Montana Land Information Act Council and the State Workforce Investment Board.

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

I graduated from Montana State University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in business. I've traveled this state from east to west and north to south numerous times and have a great deal of love and appreciation for all of Montana. I have testified at the legislature on a variety of issues and I make every effort to meet with our senators and representative whenever they or their staff comes to McCone County. I've learned a lot through this job, but even after all these years, I'm still experiencing new situations and learning how to deal with whatever confronts my board.



Connie Eissinger, candidate for MACo 2nd Vice President and McCone County Commissioner

Please see "2nd VP..." on page 5



MACo News

2009 MACo 100th Annual Conference Agenda Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Sept. 20-24, Helena

Sunday, September 20

- 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Golf at Green Meadow Country Club, 2720 Country Club Ave., Helena
- 10 a.m. Gates of the Mountains Tour
- 1-5 p.m. Registration
- 1-2:30 p.m. JPA Trustees Meeting
- 3-5 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:30-10 p.m. Centennial Reception & Dinner

Monday, September 21

- 7-8:30 a.m. No-Host Prayer Breakfast
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration
- 8:30-10 a.m. Opening General Session
- 10-10:30 a.m. Coffee break
- 10:30-11 a.m. Reports
- 11 a.m.-Noon Focus on County Government and Military Personnel for All Participants
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1-5 p.m. Exhibitors set up
- 1:30 p.m. Current Elected Officials to Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF)
- 1:30-4 p.m. AASF Events
- 1:30-4 p.m. Tour of Capitol/MACo Buildings
- 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 22

- 7-8:30 a.m. JPIA Trustees Breakfast Meeting
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration/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
 - Community, Economic Development & Labor
 - Energy
 - Health & Human Services
 - Public Lands
- 10-10:30 a.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors

Tuesday, September 22, cont.

- 10:30-Noon Committee meetings, cont.
 - Land Use & Development
 - Tax, Budget & Finance
 - Transportation
 - Information Technology
 - Justice & Public Safety
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30-2 p.m. Track A: MT Operation Lifesaver
- 1:30-2 p.m. Track B: Safeguarding Ag Products
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Track C: Federal Land Payments
 - 2-2:30 p.m. A: Federal Bridge Inspection Mandates
 - 2-2:30 p.m. B: Dorsey & Whitney: Bonds
 - 2:30-3 p.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
 - 3-3:30 p.m. A: Traffic Noise and Land Use Planning
 - 3-4 p.m. B: Establishing Special Purpose Districts
 - 3-4 p.m. C: Leveraging ARRA Funds
 - 3:30-4 p.m. D: Montana Youth Challenge Academy
 - 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
 - Dinner on your own

Wednesday, September 23

- 7-8:30 a.m. HCT Trustees Breakfast Meeting
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Reservation Counties Meeting
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration/exhibits open
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. General Session
- 9:30-10 a.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 10-10:30 a.m. Records and Information Management
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. Interoperability Montana
- 11:15 a.m.-Noon MWCA/MACo Cooperative Strategy
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Exhibitor/Sponsor Appreciation Lunch
- 1:30-2 p.m. County Burn Permit System
- 2-2:15 p.m. Public Safety Officer Standards
- 2:15-2:45 p.m. Coffee break/visit with exhibitors
- 3 p.m. Exhibitor booth take down
- 3-5 p.m. Closing General Session
- 5:30 p.m. Social & Annual Banquet

Thursday, September 24

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

MACo Annual Conference early registration to end soon

Time is running out to register for MACo's historical 100th Annual Conference in Helena later this month.

If you haven't already visited our Web site and registered online to attend the event, to be held at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel Sept. 20-24, then please do so immediately to help us better estimate attendance. Early registration ends Sept 4; online registration ends Sept. 13.

Also, if you know of any former county elected official who hasn't received an invitation to the conference, con-

tact Karen Houston, MACo meeting planner, immediately at 444-4375 or khouston@mtcounties.org.

We've also included hotel information (please note the host hotel room block already is full) and an agenda detailing the informative four-day program, as well as an exhibitor floorplan. We've also included a spouse and guest agenda for those who'd like to explore Helena.

Again, if you haven't made plans to attend, please do so now. You'll definitely want to be a part of this conference!

2nd VP candidate: Miller

How long have you been a county commissioner?

This is my second term. I had a term from 1997-2002 and then came back this time in 2007.

Please summarize your MACo participation:

I have already been part of the leadership chairs, and served on two NACo appointments (Labor and now Intergovernmental Affairs).

Please summarize your community involvement:

Outside of work and a full plate as a commissioner, I really do not do much as it is too hard to be effective in outside organizations that only want you there for your position because they want an "in." If you already believe in approachability and access, there is no need to be phony. **Please detail your special knowledge, skills, abilities and education:**

Besides a lot of DES certifications, I have had an interest in terrorism long before 911 and everybody thought it was fashionable. I have two bachelors (UM-Missoula in business, MSU-Northern in education), a master's from MSU-Bozeman in adult education and pursued a doctorate. The dissertation did not get finished, but the research did. Academically, I am most proud of my thirteen years as a faculty member at Fort Belknap College (1983-1996), and was instrumental, along with Drs. Benjamin and Singh, in attracting the first Fulbright Faculty Scholarship Program to a tribal college faculty. I also am very happy about my work with Dr. Young at MSU-Bozeman through the American Indian Research Opportunities program in attracting health care professionals from reservation schools to get degrees in medicine and medical arts and return to Montana.

Please share your thoughts about MACo, and how you will serve the membership as President:

I have thought about this a lot. Actually, my goals the first time around are now realities. I would advocate to keep all counties in NACo. It makes us a 100-percent state and believe it or not, that means a lot besides money being attracted to your county.

I also am of the belief county officials do not do enough marketing. We are not near as good marketers as state, federal, or city officials, mainly because we shut up and get our work done. It is time the public had more of an awareness of how fortunate they have to serve them. What I do not want is your support if you think somehow I will dedicate my entire leadership time to your pet project. Leadership is about leading and serving, not fighting every battle you can do yourself.



Vic Miller, Blaine County Commissioner and candidate for MACo 2nd Vice President

Fiscal officer candidate: Johnson

How long have you been a county commissioner?

I began serving the people of Pondera County on the first of January 2001.

Please summarize your MACo participation:

Since becoming a commissioner, I served one year on the Agriculture Committee and have been serving on the Economic Development Committee since 2002. I have served as trustee and chairman of the three MACo trusts (JPA, JPIA, and the Health Care Trust). At this time, I serve on the Reservation Counties Association board and the board of directors for the Oil, Gas & Coal Counties. After serving as vice president and president of MACo, I'm past president this year. I have been honored with many opportunities to serve MACo. I was appointed as the MACo commissioner/representative on the Montana Interoperability Audit Committee. As a MACo representative, I serve on the NACo Board of Directors, the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee, and I'm the elected chairman of the NACo Audit Committee.



Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County Commissioner and candidate for MACo Fiscal Officer

Please summarize your community involvement:

Little League coach for 24 years; board member and secretary of the Pondera Regional Port Authority; chairman of the 13-county Center For Mental Health; Community Regional Development Corporation Board; Northern Transit Interlocal Board; Golden West Lutheran Church; and the Pondera Players Community Theater.

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

That depends on your definition of "special." My professional education has been in healthcare management and accounting. I spent 20 years as a licensed long-term care administrator; many of those years involved a book-keeping or comptroller function. I seldom take life seriously because it's too short and I love to sing. I think public service as an elected official is exactly what you make it and I absolutely enjoy every day I am allowed to serve.

Please share your thoughts about MACo, and how you will serve the membership as Fiscal Officer:

I'm sure most members of MACo are aware I think MACo is a great organization which represents and works hard for every elected official in this state. The staff is knowledgeable and willing to step up to insure every official is as successful in their role as they desire to be. That said, we can't afford to go backwards. MACo has grown quickly and the staff depends on continuity and strength in governance to help guide and direct that growth.

Please see "Fiscal officer..." on page 14



MACo/County News

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.

DPHHS accepting grant requests

If your county already submitted a letter of intent to apply for an HB 130 grant for state matching funds regarding treatment costs for the mentally ill, the Montana Department of Health & Human Services will accept grant requests now through March 1, 2010.

Per the statute's requirements, only counties are eligible to submit the requests for grand funds. This may be done in partnership with other counties, tribes, hospitals, providers, or other entities. Also, in-kind matches are acceptable, but must be detailed in the proposal.

For more information, contact DPHHS' Dan Ladd at 444-9344 or dladd@mt.gov or Deb Matteucci at 444-2013 or dmatteucci@mt.gov.

2nd VP candidate: Eissinger

Continued from page 2

Please share your thoughts about MACo and how you will serve the membership as President:

I've watched MACo grow and develop into an organization of which I'm extremely proud. We've had our growing pains and will probably have more bumps along the way; however, we have become an entity that is a true force in the legislature. I truly believe our diversity is one of our strengths. As President, I would like to encourage better communication and understanding between rural and urban counties so we may work more closely toward our common goals, while, at the same time, supporting and defending each other's individual and unique needs.



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NACo/County News



NACo committee report: Information Technology

By Sandy Broesder, Pondera County Commissioner and NACo Telecommunications & Technology Steering Committee Member

First, thanks to the Department of Administration, Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), for its sponsorship. ITSD's commitment allowed me to participate in the NACo Annual Conference. Thank you, Dick Clark and ITSD.

The first function I attended was the 2010-2011 Presidential Initiative Planning Committee meeting. We started by reviewing the vision of incorporating technology discussions across all the NACo committees to help translate how technology can help everyone. A number of leader-follower projects have been identified that are creating a knowledge base of information sharing. These projects were honored at the NACo IT Achievement Awards ceremony. There was lots of brainstorming on how to best utilize resources and maximize outreach.

My contribution was to say rural counties need solutions as much as anyone, but we don't usually have the capacity or resources to create solutions and the committee needs to ensure we are creating value for the smallest counties too. From there, the discussion went to how to encourage cooperation (I pointed out Lewis & Clark County's sharing of its fire permit system). I think the final outcome will be a program of fostering sister relationships with larger counties, probably from outside our own state and/or region, to share in IT solutions. The bottom line was this committee needs to promote the possibilities.

I attended the pre-conference Technology Summit: Leveraging Leadership and Technology to Address Economic Challenges. The presentations started with examples of regional shared services. Orange County, Calif., led a group of 40 California assessors to jointly fund and build a joint electronic filing system. Other examples addressed regional public safety communications networks and a health information exchange that uses shared services to reduce costs and track consumers more efficiently across 31 agencies in Washington State and nine California counties.

Other sessions involved the role of leadership in ob-

taining rural broadband to enhance economic development. The most interesting story here came out of Franklin County, Va., where they have built a wireless Internet broadband service covering 721 square miles for use by citizens, business and county departments that had not been on the county network, all for an \$83,000 general fund expenditure. The lunch speaker addressed how to be an effective public sector leader in times of crisis. The afternoon session had a CIO panel discussion on a variety of issues. One point here was the more information we as public entities make available for public access, the less information gets filtered through the news media.

The final discussion was about the emerging technology of cloud computing. While there are some definite advantages to be gained, I think this is a technology that needs to be approached with caution. All presentations can be found on the NACo site at http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Annual&Template=/2009Annual_presentations/presentations.cfm&getID=ANN09_039.

Granite County seeks attorney

Granite County is anticipating a vacancy on Jan. 1, 2010, in the office of county attorney. The Granite County Board of Commissioners will appoint a county attorney to fill a term ending Dec. 31, 2010. Applications for this appointment should include a letter of interest, a resume and three references. This is a full-time position.

To be considered, applicants should be a member in good standing of the Montana Bar Association and an elector in the State of Montana. Applications must be in the Granite County Courthouse, 220 North Sansome St., Philipsburg, by no later than the close of business Oct. 9. Applications may be mailed to P. O. Box 925, Philipsburg, 59858. Questions should be directed to Mike Kahoe, administrative assistant to the Granite County Board of Commissioners, at 859-7023 or via e-mail at mike@co.granite.mt.us.



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Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate

Financing for homeownership and rental assistance for Montana families:

Bruce Brensdal; Executive Director
Board of Housing
Phone: (406) 841-2840
E-mail: bbrensdal@mt.gov
Website: housing.mt.gov

Local government financing:

Dave Cole; Administrator
Community Development Division
Phone: (406) 841-2776
e-mail: dacole@mt.gov
Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

One-stop reference source for virtually all state, federal and local development based public finance programs:

Gary Morehouse; Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: mtfinanceonline.com

Louise Welsh; Bond Program Officer,
Board of Investments, INTERCAP Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-0891
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Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/Intericap

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
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E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate



NACo News



NACo committee report: Agriculture & Rural Affairs

By Kathy Bessette, Hill County Commissioner and NACo Agriculture & Rural Affairs Steering Committee Member

We were privileged to hear excellent speakers at the 74th NACo Annual Conference in Nashville, Tenn., in July.

The speaker for the Agriculture Subcommittee was Adam Andrews, director of programs for the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, who spoke about ag carbon sequestration and federal climate policy. Kentucky ag producers were the first in the nation to start the no-till program; it's a 95-percent no-till state.

Andrews discussed the process of transferring the right to release greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere. The vehicle for the transfer is an "offset" and one offset equals one metric ton of sequestered carbon. An offset is considered a commodity, just like wheat or cattle, and the buyer and seller meet on an exchange.

For information on North America's first active greenhouse gas reduction and trading program, visit www.theccx.com. Grassland programs are available for carbon credits as well as forestry programs.

Andrews said the future of carbon trading is driven

more by politics and policy than supply and demand. EPA has ruled GHGs are a public health concern and can be regulated without Congress's authority. The U.S. House climate bill passed recently includes provisions for ag offsets. In the bill, agriculture is not regulated as an emitter and can participate as a supplier of credits. USDA will set the rules as opposed to EPA. The Senate is expected to begin with the House version in October.

The Food Safety Committee heard from John Sanford of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture about the rules for flea markets, farmers markets, sales and auctions in his state. Farmers markets are inspected at least two times per year and domestic kitchens must obtain and maintain a regulatory services permit from the state, as well as be available to inspection at any time.

Sanford said the House is working on several bills dealing with food safety but only one, H.R. 2749, is moving ahead.

Dr. Ken Givens, State of Tennessee veterinarian, warned the steering committee to be aware the Centers for Disease Control says 40 percent of Americans will contact H1N1 (swine flu) and 2011 will no doubt be the worst. He also said ag is still king in the U.S.A. and the most important thing for a community is the family farm and ranch!

The committee updated the food safety portion of our platform. We passed resolutions in support of: 1) full funding for the 2009 farm bill's rural development title; 2) wildlife services; 3) protecting the property rights of horse owners and support the horse management authority of federal agencies; 4) federal incentives to encourage agriculture to reduce greenhouse gases and opposition to a "livestock tax;" 5) a sensible and orderly guestworker program for farmworkers; 6) a simple agriculture guestworker visa system that protects small agricultural producers; 7) the Rural Revitalization Act of 2009; and 8) inspection of imported food products.

We passed resolutions from other steering committees in support of: 1) free trade agreements with foreign countries; 2) changes to the Clean Water Act (Waters of the U.S. task force recommendation); 3) Waters of the U.S.; and 4) expressing disapproval of certain civil actions brought against the livestock industry and federal land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

We postponed any action on the controversial resolution "Clean Water for All," stating the issue will be negotiated further since the committee supported the two other CWA resolutions and could not support the removal of the word "navigable" from the Clean Water for All version.

Several of us from Montana attended a great workshop presented by Jan Hargrave, author of four books about understanding nonverbal communication.

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NACo committee report: Community & Economic Development

By Cynthia Johnson, Pondera Co. Commissioner and NACo Community & Economic Development Steering Committee Member

The NACo Community and Economic Development Steering Committee met at the 74th Annual Conference this year in Nashville, Tenn., in late July in a day-long session beginning with the Housing Subcommittee.

Nick Autorina, CDBG program director for Cobb County, Ga., gave a program update for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Cobb County has been using a for-profit entity to purchase properties for rehab and reselling it. The 90-day anti-flipping rule, as it pertains to for-profit entities, is causing the county problems. While the county thought a for-profit was the best fit for NSP, it now recommends using a non-profit. Dollars used come from NSP I and the county hopes to gain additional funding through NSP II; the program will be sustained from profits.

In Pondera County, Mont., the regional port authority, as an arm of local government, has embarked on the same program and received NSP funds to proceed.

Brooke Mueller, director of industry relations for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), presented an economic and housing forecast. NAHB is forecasting new single-family home sales and single-family housing starts will increase but the U.S. will be 21 percent below 2008; things will improve in 2010. Maintenance and repairs have been holding steady and multi-family housing starts will feel the pinch longer than other markets.

Consumers and contractors are both showing more confidence in the economy, mortgage rates are staying low and affordability has increased exponentially. More average Americans can afford to buy a home. The \$8,000 house credit expires in December and homebuilders are lobbying hard to get an extension of the credit. House prices and purchaser income are coming back in line. Montana's house price-to-income ratio is nearly 1:1 and is lower than the national average.

Resolutions for the steering committee were reviewed and reaffirmed.

The Economic Development Subcommittee later met and heard from Calvin Gladney, managing partner of Mosaic Urban Partners, LLC, a Washington, D.C., real estate and economic development advisory services firm, conducted a session on public-private partnerships (PPP's).

According to Gladney's definition, PPP's are "strategic partnerships between the public (government) sector and private sector where joint economic development goals are realized through a sharing of resources, risks and rewards."

Gladney gave an example of the unintended consequences of a PPP which resulted in a catastrophic event – the June Metrorail commuter train crash in D.C. The transit authority entered into a SILO (Sale In, Lease Out) transaction with the railcar maker which prevented it from performing necessary safety functions. While the company was aware of the issue, cars weren't replaced; the

result was loss of life and injuries to passengers. There was a real need to anticipate and understand the consequences of PPP financing tools.

Patricia Ward, director of community development of Tarrant County (Texas), discussed PPP between cities and counties. Tarrant County includes 41 cities and towns. In 2006, it passed \$200 million in transportation bond funding for 32 improvement projects in 11 cities. The county hosts 27 different tax increment financing districts (TIFDs). The Mayor's Council, representing the cities of the county, participates in decision making with the judges (commissioners) which impacts the cities. The most frequently used tool in this PPP is the TIFD.

The NACo Community and Economic Development Steering Committee had the opportunity to hear from Steve Johnson, HUD – Entitlement Communities Division. He briefly touched on some of the new initiatives within HUD such as Transportation Oriented Development the efforts to move assistance dollars to American communities to help with housing related issues. Johnson reported both the secretary and assistant secretary of HUD are pushing hard to provide technical assistance to those communities who are negatively impacted by the economy for the management of the additional dollars coming into those communities.

The 2010 appropriations process is moving relatively rapidly with significant increases in the CDBG program. There were 1,154 entitlement grantees in 2009. These are the communities which receive direct CDBG dollars; 35 new entitlement cities will join the program in 2010. Since the appropriation amount is slated to increase, the increase in the number of cities shouldn't impact the original entitlement amounts.

Preston Lee, senior director of corporate relations for Freddie Mac, said Freddie Mac will continue to support the housing market around the country with liquidity and introduced President Barack Obama's "Making Home Affordable" program. Details are available at www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.

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- Have regular eye exams to make sure your vision is adequate to work safely.

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NACo committee report: Labor & Employment

By Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner and NACo Labor & Employment Steering Committee Member

As a member of NACo's Labor and Employment Steering Committee, I attended the 74th Annual Conference this year in Nashville, Tenn. It was a great conference that was attended by 3,500 commissioners from across the nation.

On July 24, I attended the Committee working session titled "A Tale of Two Systems – Linking Economic Development and Workforce Development." We listened to three case studies and the importance of these two systems working together. Neither of these systems can thrive without the other.

During our committee meeting the next day, members approved nine resolutions and the platform position for direction of NACo staff to consider on any legislative issues that arise. Also, Deseree Gardner, NACo staff, gave her report and an update on current legislative and administrative issues.

During this meeting, Assistant U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Jane Oates held a Labor WIA listening session. Most questions for her concerned the Summer Youth Program and getting youths to be eligible. She believes Congress will never consider "any youth" language in any Summer Youth Program. Another concern was how states are running out of money to fund the Dislocated Worker Program.

At the opening of the general session on Sunday, the

featured speaker was award-winning author Tamera Erickson, an expert on speaking about organizations and the changing workforce. If anyone ever needs a great speaker on generational differences and the way each generation approaches work and jobs, I would highly recommend her.

This was an excellent conference and I certainly appreciate the Montana Department of Labor and Industry for its willingness to make this trip possible as well as the opportunity to report back on the issues at the national level that effect counties and the local workforce.

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NACo News



NACo committee report: WIR, Public Lands

By Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark Co. Commissioner & Lesley Robinson, Phillips Co. Commissioner

During the WIR board meeting, we also heard brief reports from Randy Phillips on U.S. Forest Service issues and Cynthia Moses-Nedd on U.S. Bureau of Land Management issues. We are most fortunate to have both of these folks attend NACo meetings as each has a direct line to their agency leadership.

The Public Lands Committee debated the most resolutions of all the committees with 23. They were:

1. Support reauthorization of the Secure Schools Act;
2. Support maintenance of dams in wilderness areas and wilderness study areas;
3. Regarding the sale of public lands or acquiring private lands to become public;
4. Assessing concessionaire property taxes on federally owned lands;
5. Urging Congress to expedite a commercial oil shale leasing program;
6. Urging Congress to free up Forest Service money to spend on forest health stewardship projects instead of tying it up in contract cancellation liability funds;
7. Funding for natural resource management agencies;
8. Hazardous fuels emergency;
9. Increase federal mineral lease payments to counties;
10. Expressing disapproval of certain civil actions brought and maintained against the livestock industry;
11. Local involvement in expansion of military bases;
12. Management of inventoried roadless areas;
13. Supporting the modification of the Forest Service wildland fire budget system;
14. National Environment Policy Act Improvement;

Please see "WIR..." on page 14

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Around Our Counties

Personnel

PARK COUNTY commissioners in July eliminated the director of operations position held by Bill Hurley. The move, determined by a vote of 2-1, is an effort to improve the county's efficiency. The post carried a salary of \$33,830 plus a county car and fuel; no other jobs have been eliminated this year.

POWELL COUNTY has selected Donna Young, a former Fergus County commissioner, to fill the vacant seat of Gail Jones, a long-serving commissioner who died in June. Young was one of three candidates submitted to the commission from Jones' Republican party committee; the other candidates included a freelance writer for The Montana Standard and a former insurance agent. Young will

serve the remainder of Jones' term, which ends in 2012.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY commissioners hired Sue DeVries as assistant manager at MetraPark in July. DeVries had been box office manager at the facility for more than 20 years; she will retain those duties and serve as backup and assistant to manager Bill Dutcher. The commission also named Tim Miller as the new director of public works in July; he replaces Bob Moats, who retired last month. Like DeVries, Miller also has been with the county more than 20 years.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW Commissioner Don Kronenberger Sr. resigned in early August, less than a year into his term. Elected to the board last November, Kronenberger said the collapsed economy and his

inability to maintain his ranch following a stroke were the reasons for his abrupt departure. Kronenberger's replacement is Charlie O'Leary, a former commissioner who will serve until 2010.

BLAINE COUNTY Superintendent of Schools Carol Elliot retired after more than 22 years in July. A University of Montana Western graduate, Elliot taught school throughout Montana before running for office in 1986. She's the

county's longest-serving school superintendent and its second longest-serving elected official.

RAVALLI COUNTY has a new undersheriff: Perry Johnson. A former Ravalli County sheriff, Johnson replaces Kevin McConnell, who resigned in late July after a domestic disturbance at his home. Johnson had been a sheriff's detective since serving a term in the county's top law enforcement post from 1998 to 2002.



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Announcements & Reminders

NACo report: WIR, Public Lands

Continued from page 12

- 15. Off-highway vehicle management on public lands;
- 16. Urging Congress to make necessary modification to the PILT program;
- 17. Supporting the right of access to owners of private land within national forests;
- 18. Supporting new policy of RS2477 rights of way;
- 19. Supporting revised BLM management plans in cooperation with counties;
- 20. Review of scientific studies concerning uranium activities and the Grand Canyon watershed;
- 21. Wilderness bills;
- 22. The federal definition of woody biomass;
- 23. Supporting the ongoing sage grouse management efforts in opposition to listing at this time.

Fiscal officer candidate: Johnson

Continued from page 4

I have the capacity and experience in the financial field to be a part of that governance team and help the membership understand the financial part of the overall picture.

Mark Your Calendars

September

- Sept. 7 State/county/MACo offices closed (Labor Day)
- Sept. 9 Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 10-11 Environmental Quality Council*
- Sept. 17-18 Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 20-24 **MACo's 100th Annual Conference***
- Sept. 21 Children, Families, Health & Human Svcs. Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 21 Water Policy Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 24 Energy & Telecomm Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 24 District & Apportionment Commission Meeting*
- Sept. 28-29 Law & Justice Interim Committee Meeting*

October

- Oct. 1-2 Education & Local Govt. Interim Committee Meeting*
- Oct. 29-30 **State Admin./Veterans' Affairs Int. Committee Meeting***
- Oct. 18-20 AGRIP Governance & Leadership Conf., Seattle, Wash.

Upcoming Events (2009-2010)

- Nov. 17-19 MACo Joint Insurance Pools Trustee Retreat*
- Jan. 20-22 MACo Risk Management Loss Control Conf., Missoula
- May 19-21 NACo WIR Conference, Billings

*All events are held in Helena unless noted.

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