1. Roll Call & Introductions: Chair Ostlund called the meeting to order and conducted.

   **Members**
   
   - John Ostlund, Chair, Yellowstone
   - Richard Dunbar, Vice, Chair, Phillips
   - Steve Baldwin, Fallon
   - Tom Berry, Musselshell
   - Jerry Collins, Garfield
   - Doug Crachy, Powell
   - Frank DePriest, Blaine
   - Darrell Folkvord, Broadwater
   - Keith Holmlund, Custer
   - Jim Larson, Cascade
   - Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt
   - Jim McCormick, Lewis & Clark
   - Duane Mitchell, Richland
   - Joseph Pehan, Toole
   - George Real Bird III, Big Horn
   - Clay Reihl, Chouteau
   - Don Seifert, Gallatin
   - Jessica Shackelford, Sheridan
   - Dave Strohmaier, Missoula
   - Larry Vandersloot, Big Horn
   - Olivia Byrd, MACRS
   - John Anderson, MACRS
   - Karen Laitala, MWCA

   **Guests:** Mike Waters, Congressman Gianforte’s Office; Geoff Streeter, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT); Chad Campbell, Senator Tester’s Office; Rebecca Meyers, Missoula County Lobbyist; Ken Wall, Geodata Systems, Inc.

2. Legislative Update
   
   Jason Rittal, MACo Deputy Director, gave updates on bills related to county roads that passed the 2019 session. The bills discussed included: SB 248 Regarding abandoned vehicles; SB 91 Prohibiting a local authority from prohibiting or restricting a vehicle loaded with fertilizer; SB 317 creating a wintertime 10% overweight permit; HB 190 allowing a local authority to set a speed limit in a school zone or near a senior center without an engineering/traffic investigation; HB 389 exempting certain implements of husbandry and vehicles transporting hay, straw, or both from height restrictions; HB 580 requiring public notice for certain rumble strip projects; HB 15 revising county motor vehicle recycling and disposal laws; and HB 601 revising aeronautic funding laws and increasing the aviation fuel tax.

3. BARSSAA Update
   
   Geoff Streeter and Joey Andrews-Fuller, MDT - Transportation Planners, gave a review and an update on HB 473 the Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act (new fuel tax) including the types of projects being requested and the process for requesting funds through the required county resolution and web grants. All 56 counties received funding in the first year. Approximately 18 remain to be allocated for 2019. The deadline is November 1, 2019 so counties are encouraged to submit for their allocation as soon as possible.

   Details required for requesting funding include: Amount of funding requested; Adopted Resolution to request and accept funding. Any funds not reserved or distributed by November 1 will be redistributed to all local governments the following spring. Annual reports are required but may be simple including information on approved projects, changes to the list of projects funded, and final project costs.

   Webgrants has tutorials, MACo has a template resolution, and the outline of what MDT reviews includes the person who last submitted the application, project location and type of work, transfer of funds, amount of funds requested from current allocation, total estimated project cost and source of matching funds. Note that the person submitting must be allowed on the resolution which has been broadened to help in MACo’s template. Last year the 56 counties submitted for 58 projects an $2,346,461.76 in funding. Project photos for the website are welcomed.
4. **Secondary Roads Overview**  
Andy White, MDT - Acting Secondary Roads Engineer, gave a presentation on the history of the secondary road system dating back to 1942. In 1942 the Federal Aid Secondary System was created followed by the 1944 Federal Highway Act which provided funding matched in Montana with a post war bond of $17.7M on secondary roads. At that time the secondary program assigned funds to individual counties based on land area, population, rural road mileage, and land value (25% each). In 1998 TEA-221 bumped funding 60% and subsequently in 1999, in cooperation with MACo, MCA 60-3-206, was enacted creating District based funding. It also changed the formula to 30% land area, 35% population, 30% rural road miles, and 5% bridge square footage removing land value form the equation.

Expenditures of the funds include 65% annual to capital construction prioritized based on ranking system with critical criteria and assigned point values. The priority list extends out and the priority lists for all districts are at least 10 years from completion. Changes to the list are case by case and a vote will be taken in the event of an addition to the list.

Cost factors and funding limit the number of projects that can be completed which extends out the timeline for the priority list significantly. Upcoming projects in each District were covered, noted that timelines are tentative.

5. **Gravel Permitting Process**  
Chris Cronin, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Open-Cut Program, gave an overview of the 2019 session legislation including SB 343 and its intent. The conversation morphed into how counties can better work with DEQ in getting permits approved in a more efficient manner. Mr. Cronin expressed value in the pre-application meeting indicating that it amounted to a free consultation and counties should take advantage. Other options include the Limited OpenCut Operation and Limited Borrow Operation although the Borrow Operation requires funding from MDT or the Federal Highway Administration which may make it not as useful to counties.

During the next 18 months the DEQ intends to continue dialog with stakeholders for continued improvement, develop rules related to SB 3443 and begin its executive planning process for 2021 session.

6. **MT Association of County Road Supervisors Update**  
Ovila Byrd & John Anderson, Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (MACRS), encouraged commissioners to submit topics for their conference and also sincere hope that many would attend. Mr. Bobby Wiedmer from Fallon County will be the incoming President of the association.

7. **Montana Weed Control Association Update**  
Karen Laitala, MT Weed Control Association (MWCA), gave a handout on a new invasive grass in Montana called Ventenata which is also known as wiregrass or North African grass. It has been added to the noxious weed list.

8. **Adjournment**  
There being no further business, the committee adjourned.