

**MWCA Board of Directors
Winter Meeting
January 12, 2010, 10 a.m.
Missoula Garden Hilton**

Minutes

Members present: Jack Eddie, Paul Wick, John Simons, Kenny Keever, Amy Adler, Dave Brink, Jim Ghekiere, Steve Shelly, Kellieann Morris, Danny McIntosh, Dan Dobler, Brian Ostwalt, Morgan Valliant, Jim Jacobs, Joe Weigand, Gary Olsen, Mike Miller, Dave Burch, Diana Ericson, Judie Tilman, Pam Converse, Lisa Surber, Jim Gordon.

Members excused: Dick Zoanni, Jennifer Cramer, Carla Hoopes, Dave Schulz, Ellen Simpson, Jane Mangold.

Guests present: Dale Butori, John Moodry, Margie Edsall, Mark Robinson & Larry Hoffman

Call to order at 10:02 a.m.

November 09 board minutes

Gary Olsen moved we accept the minutes and Jim Ghekiere seconded. Dave Brink called for question and all were in favor.

2010 Annual Convention Update

Paul briefly reviewed the agenda and thanked the moderators. Becky reviewed some glitches and requested that a work group put together to address several things for next year's conference. ***Those work group members were Jim Gordon, Gary Olsen, Kellieann Morris, Amy Adler and Dale Butori. Becky Kington and Diana will also serve on that committee.***

MWCA Legislative Public Policy

John Moodry reviewed a flow chart of the public policy as requested by the board at the November meeting. John explained that MWCA members introduce a resolution or directive, it goes to an MWCA area council or committee, if there is no conflict, it proceeds through implementation, and if there is conflict, the resolution committee sends back to the council or committee with clarifications of why it may or may not be in conflict with other resolutions. If there is no conflict, it goes to the committee or council to proceed with legislative implementation. If it gets to the board of directors and they decline to support the action or legislation, it dies and the process is required to start over. Several agency representatives issued concerns with the process. ***Amy Adler moved to proceed with the implementation of the public policy as presented and Judie Tilman seconded. All were in favor.***

Review 2010 Board nominations

Paul reviewed the current nominations for the 2010-2011 elected board positions. Mack Cole requested to be a write in as ag representative. Paul had received a letter of resignation from Peter Pula as Triangle Area Representative. The Triangle Area Committee would decide on that replacement and the education committee chair will be vacant upon Kellieann's election. That position will be appointed. Amy brought up that there needs to be a nomination from the floor for Mack Cole prior to voting.

MDA Weed Listing update

Dave Burch reported that Phillips County has requested a meeting with the Governor, so the current proposed listings with MDA are on hold at this time. Dave feels confident that this listing will be approved in the near future. Amy reported that the Stock Growers are not in favor of this proposed change and are drafting a resolution against this primarily due to Russian olive concerns. There were some questions asked of Dave by board members mostly concerning cheatgrass and Russian olive.

Annual report estimates

Becky reviewed three options for the annual report and quoted prices through Color World to produce an annual report for the MWCA, which has not been produced before. She reminded the board of mailing costs. Several board members questioned the need and purpose of this document. Becky reported that it provided information and transparency to the current members. Diana felt this document could be used for promotion as well. At this time Becky also reported that the *Weed Times* was not being opened by a majority of people who were getting it electronically. We were going to start sending hard copies again to everyone except those who specifically requested electronic. ***A motion made by Danny McIntosh to table the annual report at this time and focus on ensuring the Weed Times gets and read. Jim Ghekiere seconded. In favor of this motion 8, opposed 4, motion passes.***

Private Landowner involvement workgroup update

Diana reported they had not met yet, and a meeting was planned for mid-January to begin discussing ways to entice more private landowner involvement in the MWCA.

Review MWCA finances

Judie reviewed the finances. Becky reported that we had approximately had \$15,000 outstanding in invoices at this time. There were no questions.

Staff reports

Becky & Diana reported that their staff reports could be summed up in two words: "Annual Conference".

Schedule 2010 board meetings & locations (January, Feb orientation, March/April spring coord, August webinar, October fall coord)

Paul Wick reviewed dates for 2010 meetings. ***Amy Adler moved we hold the spring meeting on March 16 & 17 in Bozeman, Jim Ghekiere seconded. 8 were in favor and 3 were opposed. Kelliann Morris motioned we hold the fall meeting on October 14 in Havre in conjunction with fall coordinator training. All were in favor. Gary Olsen motioned we hold the webinar on August 16 and Kelliann Morris seconded. 10 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion passes.***

EQC Update with County Weed Act

Dave Burch reported that Blattie, Burch, Fitch and Bockness all met to try to encourage the Environmental Quality Council to complete a legislative study of the county weed act on January 7, 2010. The EQC recommended a two-pronged approach: to actually come up with legislation for the next session and also to submit a request for a study. MDA has been assigned the task of putting together a committee to begin work to provide legislation for the weed act. EQC asked the group to come back to them in March, but that time frame likely will not work. Dave outlined a potential committee make-up based on the weed study bill and several made some suggestions for committee make-up, mainly concerning more weed manager involvement in this process.

Weeds of the Prairies orders

Becky asked the board for approval to purchase 50 Weeds of the Prairies books as we have very few left. ***A motion was made by Gary Olsen to purchase the books, the motion was seconded by Jim Gordon . Motion carried.***

Bank change

Becky asked the board for approval to change financial institutions for the MWCA from First Interstate to Stockman Bank. ***A motion was made by Danny McIntosh to change institutions and was seconded by Dave Brink. Motion carried.***

MWCA Structure Proposals

Paul Wick reported that a proposal of MWCA structure change had been sent out to 7 area reps for comment. The proposal entails a change of board structure from 21 to 13 voting members. It would consist of 7 area reps, and any member could serve in that position, 2 at-large members, 1 coordinator support chair and three officers: President, VP and Secretary/Treasurer. The past-president would be eliminated as board member. Board members would serve 2 yr. terms. Several board members provided input, but as this proposal is simply at a discussion stage, it would be pursued by a work group into 2010.

2010 Raffle & Raffle Tickets

Paul reported on current numbers and Amy and Paul reported that gun sales were still lacking and asked the board to consider selling tickets through June on the gun raffle. **Amy Adler motioned to wait until after the meeting to look at the gun raffle and determine whether to continue with it. Jim Gordon seconded the motion. 10 in favor, 2 opposed.** There was much discussion on future raffles, but it was decided the board wait until spring meeting to determine whether or not to do another ATV raffle.

Marketing item for renewal memberships

Diana reported that in the past we had a 20% rate of loss of memberships. Now we have a new member renewal packet. She feels that we should be offering our members thank you's for renewals. Diana asked the board to order 1,000 new magnets for renewals. **Lisa Surber moved to order 1,000 magnets and Amy Adler seconded. All were in favor. The design would be approved by the Education Committee.**

MACo Committee Representatives

Jack Eddie reported that a policy was needed regarding MACo chairs to four committees. Becky explained a little history regarding those representative positions. Jim Ghekiere reported how important those committees are for not only MACo but to the weed efforts in Montana. Those representatives meet at two meetings per year with occasional special meetings as requested. Becky submitted the following policy for consideration:

MACo Representatives

- Four representatives from MWCA serve on the following MACo Committees: Agriculture, Public Lands, Transportation, and Land Use & Planning
- Representatives are to attend MACo committee meetings to represent noxious weed issues and the MWCA.

Upon vacancy or poor attendance of representative to a committee, a call for nominations to fill the position will go out to the membership. The MWCA President will make the appointment from the list of nominations.

- Representatives are appointed by the sitting MWCA President upon request of MACo

The board asked also that these members report back to the membership on committee activities. **Amy Adler motioned to accept the addition of this policy with reporting requirements added, Danny McIntosh seconded. All in favor.**

MWCA Policy Change for membership

Margie Edsall asked to clarify that all committee chairs and representatives must be a member of the MWCA. **Dave Brink moved that we strike all "upon election" working in committees and representatives in the policies and Jim Ghekiere seconded. All were in favor.**

Proposed member rates for 2010 trainings and publications

Diana reviewed proposed member and non-member rates for all trainings and publications for 2010. Several board members asked some questions about current rates. **Danny McIntosh motioned we approve the proposed rates for 2010 and Gary Olsen seconded. All were in favor.**

Suggested date change for 2011 MWCA Annual Conference

Becky asked the board to consider a change of venue for the annual meeting to February. Several board members brought up conflict with the current dates and reasons for staying the same. The board decided to keep the dates for the next three annual conferences:

January 11 – 13, 2011

January 10 – 12, 2012

January 15 – 17, 2013

Other Business

2011 Calendars

Jack asked the board to consider producing another calendar. After the grant, we made approximately \$12,000. The calendar costs approximately \$22,000 to produce 25,000. The board discussed the merits of wall calendars and other options such as planners or datebooks. It was requested that Becky obtain pre-orders for 2011 to ensure better numbers. ***Amy Adler motioned we complete a 2011 calendar and Kellieann Morris seconded and everyone was in favor.*** Another calendar will be ready in August of 2010.

Danny McIntosh motioned to adjourn and Brian Ostwalt seconded and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.