

MWCA Fall Board of Director's Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2010
Havre, MT

Official Minutes

Board meeting started at 9:05 and introductions were made by the board. Board minute contest winners were announced: spring minute winners were Dave Burch and Pam Converse and summer minutes winners were Dave Brink and Dave Burch.

Members present were: Becky Kington, Diana Ericson, Jeanne Caddy, Gary Olsen, Lindsey Bona, Amy Adler, Dave Brink, Danny McIntosh, Brian Ostwald, Pam Converse, Aaron Kneeland, Joe Weigand, Dick Zoanni, Jane Mangold, Carla Hoopes, Kenny Kever, Jack Eddie, Dave Burch, Jim Gordon, Mel Shumway, Paul Wick and Kellieann Morris.

Guests present were: Jeremy Seidlitz, Karen Laitala, Amber Burch.

Member excused were: Larry Hoffman, Lisa Surber, Judie Tilman, Dan Dobler, Mike Miller, and Steve Shelly.

Summer webinar minutes

Gary Olsen moved we accept the minutes from the August webinar and Dave Brink seconded. All were in favor.

Board packets

Becky explained that all MWCA financials are in transition to QuickBooks and that in a week or so, she would send the board updated financials. Paul wanted to relay that packets were much easier to download from the website, and Becky agreed that would be board procedure in the future. There were no questions from the board.

MWCA Scholarship criteria proposal

The scholarship work group was asked at the August webinar to look at the scholarship criteria by the board. The following criteria was proposed to the board for approval:

*A total of \$3,000 in scholarship money is available from the MWCA and may be awarded to students in pursuit of a post-secondary education. Two \$500 scholarships may be awarded to students pursuing associate degrees, and two \$1,000 scholarships may be awarded to students pursuing 4-year or graduate degrees. Scholarships will be limited to students pursuing a degree (Associate, B.S., M.S., PhD) in **natural resource management**, (i.e. range ecology and management, land rehabilitation, land resources sciences, crop science, weed science, forest resource management, etc.) or **agricultural business and agricultural education** at an accredited two or four-year Montana institution or a bordering state institution that waives out-of-state tuition for Montana students. Applicants must be a Montana resident, a full-time student, and must have completed at least one full year of post-secondary education in their degree field. Students receiving a scholarship may re-apply in subsequent years. Preference will be given to students that demonstrate financial need and dedication to their educational pursuits (i.e. internships, special projects, GPA). Montana Weed Control Association members or an immediate family member of a MWCA member will be given preference as well. Deadline for applications is May 1 every year.*

Kenny Kever asked about the commitment for two years in associate degrees and Aaron Kneeland explained that the work group was looking for explanations from students as to their intent for the future. Lindsey Bona, Diana Ericson, and Joe Weigand explained that cheaper

tuition at the community colleges justified the lesser scholarship and hopefully, students would re-apply for larger scholarships as they moved to larger institutions to finish their degrees. **Amy Adler motioned to approve the proposed criteria and Gary Olsen seconded. All were in favor.** Becky went on to explain a scholarship funding proposal by Alligare and Tony Marlow. Questions were raised about how many coordinators used the Alligare products and would it be worthwhile to pursue as those products may not be widely used in Montana. The board asked Becky to find out what the potential funding would amount to (historical) and what Alligare would want in return? Questions were raised about this funding not being the same each year and how to advertise for it. Dave Brink stated the best route would be to say that a scholarship is worth at least a certain amount (i.e. the current amounts).

Fundraiser workshop update

Kellieann Morris and Becky updated the board on the October 4 fundraising workshop that 1/3 of the board attended. They also went through the fundraising materials in board packets. There was a pie chart of last year's income and this year's projected income, there was a list of fundraising ideas generated by the group at the workshop, there was a menu of options board members could choose from to help fundraise for the Association, and Kellieann asked board members present to fill out those menus and get them back to her. Lastly there was a proposed elected board member job description presented to the board for review and input. There were concerns about some of the wording regarding ethical and fiduciary responsibilities, and a final version will be ready for the January meeting.

Technology update and proposal

Diana Ericson reviewed two options for our event registration page: one with Etepestry and one with Gifftool. In spite of the net potential cost difference, Diana recommended the MWCA go with Gifftool. It will result in a single registration system, making it easier for participants to register and less time for the staff to manage the event. **Jack Eddie motioned to approve the technology recommendation to use Gifftool for annual conference registration for the \$250 difference. Jim Gordon seconded. There were some questions about our current status and 14 were in favor of the motion and Mel Shumway and Dave Brink were opposed. Motion passes.**

Weed Act Proposed revisions and process

A work group has been put together to review the weed act and they had their first meeting on September 23. The group reviewed the 25 year old act, and Dave Burch asked for input regarding the current proposed changes (copies were in the packet). Several asked about organics and signage, about what constituted control measures, and Dave Burch asked for an informal survey of the area representatives and which counties were engaging in non-compliance (as requested by Representative Jeffery Welborn), but the area reps felt that each coordinator needed to be asked. Becky will design the survey and get it out as it needs to be done quickly. Becky asked area reps to please help gather those results if she wasn't getting responses from counties.

MWCA Trust Fund grant proposals

Paul Wick asked the board for trust fund grant proposals and Becky presented the Weed Board & Commissioner Training Grant, which was approved to be submitted the prior year but was not funded due to timelines presented in the grant. Dave Burch suggested we add \$2,000 for a new commissioner reception during the MACo meeting. This would increase the total grant amount to \$24,000 requested. **Dave Brink moved to accept the grant with the additional new commissioner weed reception at the MACo training. Pam Converse seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Board nominations & process

Kellieann Morris reviewed the current vacancies for the board and there was discussion about who we as a board, might be able to approach for an elected board position. Diana Ericson suggested that maybe we do away with the education and IWM chair and make those two

positions member-at-large positions to try to increase landowner involvement. Becky relayed to the board that most nonprofit organizations have members elect the board and then the board elects officers within. We are unique in that we have the membership nominate all board members including officers. Several board members agreed that this would make sense, as it isn't really good policy to have someone who has not served on the board and isn't familiar with the Association be elected and serve as an officer. Dave Brink recommended that nominations for area representatives come from those areas. Lindsey Bona nominated Gary Olsen to run for vice president. Becky suggested we move forward this year as is and next spring, address all the topics regarding board structure at the board retreat. Dave Burch suggested that we make changes now and not wait. **Jim Gordon's motion, as amended, was to change the bylaws to replace the legislative and the IWM positions with member-at-large positions. Gary Olsen seconded. Danny called for question. All were in favor. Motion passed.** There was discussion that ag representatives have historically been hard to find and Danny McIntosh agreed, so maybe we rename an ag position as a member-at-large position. **Danny McIntosh motioned we amend Jim Gordon's motion to include one of the Ag positions. Mel Shumway seconded the motion. Pam called for question. All were favor. Amendment passed.** There were concerns about membership perception and by and large, the board felt if members felt strongly about this, they need to step up and be involved. Kenny will draft a letter in support of this move. **Dave Brink moved we change the bylaws to re-categorize the IWM committee to a work group. Danny McIntosh seconded the motion. Dave Brink called for question. All were in favor. Motion passed.** Dave Brink would like to see the motion voted on during a business meeting held at the beginning of the annual conference and the business meeting would be re-convened on Thursday. The voting for candidates will take place during Wednesday afternoon. Paul wanted to make sure that we really announce this electronically, through print and through the website.

Healthy Habitats Montana Team

Becky explained that the Healthy Habitats Coalition (Champion States Initiative) was gaining momentum under the direction of John Cantlon with DuPont and new Executive Director Tracee Bentley. All states have been asked to form teams of three to work to support and lobby for this legislation, especially during a trip back to D.C. in March. Director de Yong has asked that an MWCA representative be part of the team, and Becky suggested that Dave Schulz be the MWCA representative on that team. Becky said she had talked to Dave Schulz and that he was agreeable, but he wanted to see both a MACo Representative and an MWCA representative with the MDA rep on that team. Dave Burch stated the teams were limited to three and because Donna Rise had a background with the Rocky Mountain Summit and experience in Nevada's Dept of Ag that it was best she and Dave attend. Becky relayed the five "asks" that HHC is working on to the board and they are as follows:

THE CRITICAL ASKS TO JUMP START CONTROL PROGRAMS

- 1. By 2013, Federal land management agencies are strongly encouraged to increase their on-the-ground control obligation by five-fold and decrease infested acres by 25%.*
- 2. It is highly recommended that Federal agencies provide a state pass through fund assessed at 25 cents on each state's federally managed acre. State(s) entities can then submit a request from this critical pool of money based upon a consistent set of criteria and a measurable control strategy to reduce current infestation levels or stop new invasions. Funds may be passed to the Governor or appropriate Department annually; at least 70% of the funds should be utilized for on-the-ground control.*
- 3. The FHA could significantly impact the current spread rate by authorizing \$150 per every center line mile of state highways. Consistent invasives management on highway rights-of-way is required. Money can be passed to each state DOT Maintenance Section annually to improve control.*

4. *Each state should develop and implement an invasive species plan and law to receive and manage funding under that legal obligation in collaboration with the appropriate federal agencies.*

5. *States are strongly encouraged to work in regional concert to educate the public about invasive species issues. Cooperation is essential to reduce redundancy and create projects protecting natural resources from the harm caused by invasive species. All natural resource management agencies, state/local governments, universities, nonprofit organizations, industry, and the private sector should collaborate to form partnerships for protecting and restoring natural areas, agricultural land, and recreational resources.*

Dave Burch answered questions from the board regarding the “asks”. **Danny McIntosh motioned we ask Dave Schulz to be a part of that team with Becky Kington as an alternate. Lindsey Bona seconded the motion. Gary Olsen called for question and all were in favor.** Dave Burch stated that MDA had set aside enough funding for this effort to pay for all three team members to go back to D.C. in March.

Coordinator Support Chair

Dave Burch questioned whether or not it was appropriate to have an assistant in a weed program nominated as coordinator support chair as that was not the original intent of the position. He asked if there should be some wording to specify the criteria for the person nominated for this position? There was discussion about the term coordinator and Becky relayed that the bylaws have no such distinction written in them:

d.) Coordinator Support Committee

- 1.) The chair of the coordinator support Committee shall be elected biennially by the County Weed Coordinators during their fall training meeting.

Dave Brink felt that as our current bylaws don't specify that the position be held by a weed coordinator, it is up to the coordinators to determine that wording. Becky suggested that the proper procedure would be to contact coordinator support chair, Amy Adler, with the board's concerns and to ask that the committee address those concerns at the proposed business meeting at the annual conference.

Gary Olsen motioned we adjourn at 2:35 and Jim Gordon seconded. All were in favor.