

**MWCA Board of Directors
Fall Board Meeting
October 17 & 18, 2011
Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge**

Unofficial Minutes

Motions made by the board are highlighted in blue

Members present

Amy Adler, Dave Brink, Amber Burch, Jeanne Caddy, Gary Olsen, Jim Gordon, Kenny Keever, Aaron Kneeland, Melissa Maggio, Kellieann Morris, Mel Shumway, Lisa Surber, Jim Visser, Paul Wick, Dick Zoanni, Dan Dobler, Liz Galli-Noble, Mike Miller, John Simons and Joe Weigand.

Guests present

Margie Edsall, Janie Alt & Jack Eddie

Spring board minutes approved

Paul Wick moved to accept the spring minutes and Amy Adler seconded and all were in favor.

Spring minutes challenge

Becky reported that Lisa Surber correctly guessed all of the errors in the spring minutes and Kellieann Morris came in second. Prizes would be handed out soon.

Best Binder Design

At least 11 board members rose to the challenge and decorated their binders. Guests Jack Eddie and Margie Edsall voted on the best binder and Kellieann Morris won the best decorated binder.

Healthy Habitat Coalition update

Becky updated the board on the happenings with the Healthy Habitats Coalition. She asked the board for their advice and input about MWCA donating to the cause. The board felt that HHC needed to become an official nonprofit organization before MWCA considers committing funds. Other comments included if we were in a place to help kick start another organization, this type of movement needs at least \$100,000 to \$150,000 to get it running and if that wasn't available, it would fail, and also that if HHC were willing to submit a letter to individual counties, those counties could make their own decisions as to donate or not.

Resolutions

Kellieann reported that the board was to review MWCA Resolutions and Kellieann and Dave discussed resolution #8 regarding filling the Ag position at the Western Research Station vacated by Jim Story. The resolution review process has stalled, and Kellieann will talk to chairs Jim Ghekiere and John Moodry about a recommendation to have a board member actually chair that committee. Also, Gary Olsen will work with Farm Bureau to come up with a policy process regarding resolutions before the January meeting. Amy Adler stated that we needed to get on the same page as many of these other organization in regards to establishing policy in regard to resolutions. Amy reminded the board that MDA and the

legislature were to come up with a standard template for compliance and civil fines and such and this needed to be done by March. Amy will find out about that process. Becky reminded the board of the consideration to hire a part time lobbyist, and there was much discussion about whether we do that or whether we hire someone to replace all of Becky's other duties. Becky will look into costs and associated with hiring a planner and a lobbyist and she would also offer up pros and cons to review at either the winter or spring board meeting.

Bylaw revisions

The bylaws have largely been proposed, however the one point of discussion still to be discussed was Section 2.2 of the bylaws: Voting Members. Diana explained the comments and concerns from the working committee as she compiled the recommendation. The recommendation from the working group was detailed in a supplement document which was in the board document regarding honorary members:

***Honorary Members** Honorary members are so designated by affirmation of the board of directors. Honorary membership is for the lifetime of the member. They are allowed one(1) vote. There was not a consensus on this item*

The board discussed whether honorary members should be voting members or not. Paul Wick motioned that honorary members should be voting members and Jim Gordon seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Dave Brink stated that a lifetime members pay for their membership and honorary members are given a membership as a reward for their interest in the cause. The vote for Paul's motion failed. Dave Brink moved that honorary members are so designated by affirmation of the board of directors and that they do not have voting rights. Jim Gordon seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried. Paul Wick motioned that we create a lifetime membership level and change our current honorary members to lifetime members. Jim Visser seconded the motion. Kellieann reminded the board that our membership levels are not part of the bylaws, but are established in policy. Paul Wick rescinded the motion. Amy Adler moved to accept the proposed revisions with the above changes to Article II of membership and Jim Gordon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Becky reminded the board of the process to allow the membership to review bylaw changes.

Policy revisions

Becky reviewed the proposed policy changes for the MWCA. John Simons stated that we didn't have to define the lifetime to the public as a selling point, but it should be in our policies and that is all that is needed. Paul Wick motioned that lifetime members are so designated by affirmation by the board of directors. Aaron Kneeland seconded the motion. An amendment was added by Amy Adler— that lifetime members are so designated by affirmation by the board of directors through recognition of lifetime achievements and Lisa Surber seconded the amendment. All were in favor and the amendment carries. All were in favor of the motion and it carries. Lisa Surber motioned to accept the changes and updates to the policies with the amendments and Amber Burch seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carries.

Finance Committee update

Jeanne Caddy asked for questions. There were some questions regarding the license plate revenues. Becky reported that revenues from plate sales were still not being reported according to statute. While revenues appear to be correct, we still are not receiving the number of plates sold.

Spring Retreat dates

Becky asked the board to consider a better time for this meeting because we still have a quarter to go before the end of the MWCA fiscal year. Becky recommended a webinar for budgeting, but the decision will be made during the January meeting.

Staff evaluation update

Kellieann reported on Becky's evaluation and that the executive committee responded with positive comments and approval of her job. Becky reported the same for Diana's evaluation.

Nominations

Gary Olsen reviewed the open board positions up for election for 2012.

2012 Calendar update

Becky reported that very few boxes are left so she probably should have ordered more, but per the board's request, she ordered very close to what was pre-ordered by the counties and agencies.

2012 Annual Conference update

Gary Olsen and Becky reviewed the current tentative agenda which can be found at the MWCA website.

Home office challenge

Becky displayed a slide with pictures of both home offices and had the board guess whose office was whose.

2011 MWCA Objectives

Kellieann and staff reviewed the objectives and reported on how we were proceeding with them. Presidential, staff, board and education committee objectives were proceeding on track for the year.

2012 MWCA Education Trust Fund Grant

Becky presented the Fight Five Campaign concept to the board. MWCA is asking for \$72,000 of which a majority is for radio, TV and print ads. Many board members felt it would be cut, but several others felt that the money was a cheap investment to reach a half a million Montanans. There was much discussion on how better to present to the Trust Fund Council during the hearings. **Jim Gordon moved to support the Fight Five Grant to be presented to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund and Gary Olsen seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Gary Motioned to adjourn at 11:20 am on November 18th.