

Executive Committee Meeting
April 30, 2008 2:30 p.m.
Helena MDA Conference Room

Present: Jim Ghekiere, Judie Tilman, Jack Eddie, John Moodry, Becky Kington, Dave Burch, Dave Schulz, Scott Bockness and Becky Kington

MSU Position – The committee discussed the upcoming interviews that are being given for the Integrated Invasive Plant Management position (formerly Roger Sheley’s position at MSU). It was felt that the MWCA would not really have a large influence on the candidates hiring, but that we should have a presence at those meetings. Those who can make the open meeting opportunities during each of the three interviews will attend and the MWCA will then write a letter in support of the candidate of their favor. Becky will attend all three meetings and other board members will be encouraged to attend as well.

Herbicide & Greening of America – Becky relayed that she had been in contact with several industry folks to address the concern of using herbicides in light of the current major push in America to “green up”. She felt that many weed professionals do not have good answers for the public at large when it comes to herbicide use. She is planning on doing the research and attempting to produce an article for the front page of the summer *Weed Times*. She is also looking for annual conference speakers to address the topic.

Realtor Trainings – The Gallatin Realtor training, while it got great reviews, was attended by 17 realtors. This is really a paltry amount considering there are over 800 licensed realtors in the Gallatin. Becky asked the committee about the value of holding these trainings when the attendance hasn’t been great? A large part of the problem is that a majority of realtors pay dues to a local realtor board and the fee they pay includes all of their educational training fees. For realtors to pay again out of their pockets for another training just isn’t happening. Becky will approach the larger urban realtor boards and offer ½ day weed trainings for \$500 for 2009. It was felt that this might reach a much larger audience and be more effective.

Education Committee Chair vacancy- Becky reported that she had asked Ali Duvall to fill Marijka Haverhals vacant position as education chair, but had received no response, either by email or by phone, thus she concluded that Ali probably wasn’t interested in the position. Several names were suggested to fill the position in the interim. Becky would contact a few people and see if there was an interest in filling the position.

Staff reports- Becky had talked to Diana (new part time staff person) and they would be submitting a monthly report to the board to keep them informed of MWCA and staff activities. This was due in part to some of the results of the board survey.

Area Councils budget – Becky recommended to the committee that the budget include a line item for all area councils with the exception of the Western Area, who has their own nonprofit status and checking account. The executive committee expressed concerns over liability issues with the Western Area representing the MWCA but being its own entity. Becky would talk to Dave Brink about that, as well as to see if they had a set of bylaws developed. The SE area is trying to produce a newsletter as they are having a hard time pulling together folks for a meeting. Rosebud County would pick up the expenses for this project. The committee agreed that we should have an amount in the budget for each area council based on the recommendations of each area council chair. Becky also reported that Dale Butori with Fallon County would likely be calling Jim Ghekiere to discuss a bylaw change regarding elections of the area representative.

Barb Mullin Memorial Fund- after the spring retreat, Becky had asked the work group for the Barb Mullin Memorial Fund to come to the executive committee with their recommendation for how we handle the finances of that fund. The work group did not see a need to separate the funds as they are being tracked within the MWCA budget. Because of a large carry-over this year, the *executive committee voted to appropriate \$10,000 into a five year CD for that fund. Motioned by Judie Tilman and seconded by Jack Eddie. All were in favor.*

MWCA funds – because the checking account is nearing \$100,000 again, *the committee voted to move a majority of those funds to a savings account, where at least some interest can be earned. Jim Ghekiere motioned we put a large portion of our funds into a savings account, Dave Burch seconded. All were in favor.*

MWCA Committees – Becky passed around a current copy of the 2008 standing committees and work groups and stressed the need to get those complete and current. She pointed out that several board members were not serving on any committees or workgroups. The executive committee felt we needed to post the list out to the board and work to get all board members involved. Jim and Becky would continue to work on complete lists so annual goals could be looked at for each committee and work group.

Board evaluation – Becky passed around the results of the board evaluation that was completed at the spring retreat. She had received 27 responses. The committee read through the results and based on those results began work on the proposed strategic plan. The evaluation results would be sent out to the board for review.

MWCA Proposed Strategic plan- based on the plan sent to Becky by Dennis McMillian, the guest speaker at the spring retreat, the executive committee worked on wording in the proposed strategic plan to be sent out to the board for review. The board will be asked to provide input into the plan for a specific two week period and then all results will be reviewed again by the executive committee. The committee will then look at producing annual operational goals based on the strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.