



MACo news

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MACo enters 100th year of service

By Mike Harbour, MACo Communications Officer

In 1909, William Taft became the 27th U.S. president, gas cost six cents a gallon, and unemployment was 5.1 percent.

That also was the year the Montana State Association of County Commissioners, the Montana Association of County's predecessor, was created.

The early 1900s was a heady time in Montana history. Montana's population between 1889, when it entered the Union, and 1910 exploded. The number of Treasure State residents increased

from about 130,000 to more than 376,000. Due partly to the Enlarged Homestead Act, passed by Congress in 1909, Montana's homesteading boom was underway.

America's Progressive Movement had swept across the state by then, too, bringing with it political reforms that would forever change Big Sky Country.

Montana had just 28 counties in 1909, with the newest — Lincoln — carved from Flathead in July. County creation was still in the hands of the state, but that wouldn't last for long. The Leighton Act, passed by the legislature two years later to allow voter-initiated county creation elections, would set off a wave of county splitting that ultimately ended with the birth of Montana's 56th county, Petroleum, in 1925.

It was a perfect time for the creation of an association of county commissioners. A united voice was needed to speak to state and federal lawmakers so "the general welfare of the different counties" was assured, according to the group's original by-laws.

Held in the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse in January, the initial gathering was a pretty small affair. Twenty-nine commissioners from 16 counties, mostly in western Montana, attended the event.

It proved to be a busy three days. The first item of business, of course, was creation of the association's name. With that

minor detail taken care of, the meeting's agenda ranged widely on many topics.

The association's first committee was tasked to arrange a joint session with the state association of assessors, then meeting in the same building. The two groups

later discussed the taxation of mortgages as well as a pair of bills that were written to address mortgage assessments.

Noxious weeds also appeared in the minutes of 1909. While the phrase may seem like a recent addition to

the Montana lexicon, the association was dealing with the issue when it endorsed House Bill 182.

Another committee also met with then-Gov. Edwin L. Norris to talk about a possible state revenue reduction; unfortunately, the committee chairman, Flathead County Commissioner R.W. Main, reported "no progress. No conclusion reached."

The newly founded group did make some progress, as it elected officers, created its first set of by-laws, and formed a committee to stay atop of legislation that would affect Montana's counties.

Since 1909, Montana's county commissioners continued to meet every year to protect and promote county interests. Some things, obviously, have changed, and perhaps the most obvious is the name.

In the early 1970s, the Montana Association of County Commissioners ("State" was already gone) became MACo, as the association works with all county elected officials, from attorneys to treasurers.

The commissioners at that first meeting probably wouldn't have imagined the services now provided by the association from legal advice to insurance.

Still, the association's mission, first spelled out at the inaugural meeting in Helena almost 100 years ago, has remained the same ever since.





MACo News

First phase of training, commissioner certification set for this month

MACo, together with the Local Government Center at MSU-Bozeman, will be presenting Phase I of its annual elected officials training/commissioner certification Dec. 1– 4 in Helena in the MACo conference room.

Courses will be taught on numerous topics, such as open meeting, code of ethics, and local government laws.

For more information, see the agenda below or visit our Web site at www.maco.cog.mt.us.

AGENDA

MACo and Local Government Center, MSU-Bozeman Elected Officials Training/Commissioner Certification - Phase I

Monday, Dec. 1

4-5:30 pm **Registration**
6 pm **Dinner with MACo Board of Directors, Red Lion Colonial Hotel**
Welcome: Mike McGinley, MACo President and Beaverhead County Commissioner
Self Introductions
Keynote Address: To be announced

12-1 pm
1-3:30 pm

and use the law related to county government.

Lunch

Course 106.1

The Montana Legislative Process

A review and discussion of how the Montana legislative process works from the perspective of county government.

Break

Course 103.1

The Montana Code of Ethics

An in-depth review of the statutory requirements imposed upon all elected and appointed county officials by the Montana Code of Ethics.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

8-10 am **Creating Gracious Space**
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-12:30 pm **Course 101.1**
Intro to County Government
An in-depth review of the legal basis of Montana county government and the roles of the county commissioners.
12:30-1:30 pm **Lunch**
1:30-2:15 pm **Course 102.1**
The Commission Decision Process
An overview of the decision process of the board of county commissioners and of the constitutional rights and limitations of Montana citizens to participate in county government decisions.
2:15-2:30 pm **Montana Newspaper Association**
2:30-3:30 pm **Case Studies**
3:30-4 pm **Break**
4-5 pm **Course 107.1**
The Montana Association of Counties
An overview of a key organization that support county elected officials.

Thursday, Dec. 4

8-9 am **Course 107.1**
National Association of Counties
An overview of the roles and functions of NACo
9-10 am **Course 108.1**
Human Resource Risk Issues
An in-depth review of the legal requirements and risk exposures associated with critical human resource management issues.
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-11:30 am **Course 108.1, continued.**
11:30-12:30 pm **Lunch – Douglas Steele, Vice Provost and Director, MSU-Extension**
12:30-2:30 pm **Course 501.1**
Pending Legislation Affecting Local Government
A look at proposed bills that could affect county government.
2:30-3 pm **Break**
3-5 pm **Course 507.1**
Elements of Land Use Law
A review of the legal requirements for, and critical elements of, the land use planning process.
5:30 pm **Adjourn.**

Wednesday, Dec. 3

8-10 am **Course 104.1**
County Functions and Services
A review of essential county functions and services and how they are delivered.
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-12 pm **Course 105.1**
Local Government Law
A review and discussion of how to find



MACo News

Being accommodating is big part of HCT's service efforts

By Owen Voigt, MACo Health Care Trust Administrator

The Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines accommodate as:

1. To make fit, suitable or congruous.
2. To provide with something desired, needed, or suited.

So I and a rodeo travel companion are at a rodeo in northwestern North Dakota and are going to meet my buddy Don Tescher at Belfield, N.D. We then planned on going to the Miles City bucking horse sale. We met Don at about 9 a.m. and, typical of cowboys, we pretended to be intoxicated by kicking empty beer bottles out of the car into the parking lot, weaving and slurring our words, leaving the impression we were drunk. Don is a very straight-laced guy who does not drink much, if at all, and never before he rode, so we had a pretty fun time with him. Picking Don up in Belfield and giving him a ride to Miles City was an accommodation.

We drove on to Miles City and the bucking horse sale where we all competed. This was a two-head deal where we had to compete on two horses. I had one of those days; my first horse was decent and I rode him pretty well but was just out of the money. The second ride turned into a fiasco. The first horse started bucking real nice but then fell down, for which I received a re-ride, the next horse stopped, for another re-ride, then one ran away so I was four horses into this with one score, no money and the re-ride list looked like there was no end in sight.

Thankfully, Pat Linger, who has run the bucking horse sale for years, told me to get on a big black stud that was coming in. Pat said he would buck. Pat, being Pat, was right and that big black stud horse really bucked. He jumped and kicked out across the arena and I ended up winning second in the day money and fourth in the average, ending up with a nice chunk of change. Simply put, Pat accommodated me.

In many ways, the Health Care Trust does the same thing. We have had numerous instances where members inquired about coverage concerns. One of my jobs is to look into the feasibility of a concern and report to our board of trustees. The HCT first started in 2005. Since then, we have made numerous changes to the benefits based on members concerns; for example we have in-

creased the dental coverage and added coverage for orthodontia because members asked us to do so. Members in Meagher County requested we waive the deductible for CPAP machines for those folks who need them because it is better to provide a lower-cost access to the equipment than to risk members going without and end up with the resultant medical problems; the HCT made the benefit change.

The HCT also increased the annual mammogram allowance, and the annual exam and the colonoscopy benefit at the request of members. Based on member requests the HCT has added coverage for immunizations as recommended by the Center for Disease Control. The HCT went the additional step so if you have immunizations at a county health department, we pay 100 percent of the cost.

There are numerous other instances of the HCT receiving requests from members and, if appropriate, making changes to the coverages. That is accommodation at its finest and for the right reason. It is a difficult concept to get used to but our members are getting used to it and are not afraid to ask; knowing their concerns about coverage are seriously addressed and, when appropriate, changed. Ask one of the other health benefits carriers out there to change benefits sometime and see how it goes.

The HCT is your trust and designs plans to fit county and special district employees. The board of trustees and staff work hard to bring change to the trust when appropriate and are looking forward to seeing your reactions to the plans and benefits being considered for next year.

Health Care Trust Calendar of Events

Nov. 1-Dec. 15	January open enrollment period
May 1-June 15	July open enrollment period
Feb. 9-12	HCT board meeting (exact day TBD)

2008 Directory of Montana County Officials

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Andy Poole; Deputy Director
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2707
E-mail: apoole@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Financing for Montana businesses that generate a positive financial and economic return for the state and its citizens:

Gary Morehouse, Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
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E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate

Financing for homeownership and rental assistance for Montana families:

Bruce Brensdal; Executive Director
Board of Housing
Phone: (406) 841-2840
E-mail: bbrensdal@mt.gov
Website: housing.mt.gov

Local government financing:

Dave Cole; Administrator
Community Development Division
Phone: (406) 841-2776
e-mail: dacole@mt.gov
Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

Louise Welsh; Bond Program Officer;
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Phone: (406) 444-0891
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Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/Intericap

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
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Gary Morehouse; Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: mtfinanceonline.com



MACo News

Commissioners should start 2009 right with these resolutions

By Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director

As the New Year approaches, we would like to remind you of certain duties and requirements for commissioners. The first commission meeting of the year is a good time to adopt policies and set guidelines for 2009. Please consider these recommended resolutions and actions (from the Montana Code Annotated):

1. Adopt a resolution setting commissioner meeting dates (7-5-2122, Meetings of board of county commissioners):

(1) The governing body of the county shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date.

(2) The governing body of the county, except as may be otherwise required of them, may meet at the county seat of their respective counties at any time for the purpose of attending to county business. Commissioners may, by resolution and prior two days' posted public notice, designate another meeting time and place

2. Elect a chairman of the board (7-4-2109, Chairman of board): The board of county commissioners must elect one of its members chairman. The chairman must preside at all meetings of the board and in case of his absence or inability to act, the members present must by an order select one of their number to act temporarily as chairman.

3. Establish office hours (7-4-102, Office hours):

(1) Unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays.

(2) County and city treasurers may, in the interest of the safekeeping of funds, securities, and records under their control, close their offices during the period from noon to 1 p.m. every day.

4. Appoint commissioner liaisons to county boards: This is a good opportunity for you to appoint your representatives to county boards and commissions.

5. Set and or modify per diem/travel rates: It is recommended that counties adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel. For information on these rates, please refer to 2-18-501, Meals, lodging, and transportation of persons in state service; 2-18-502, Computation of meal allowance; and 2-18-503, Mileage – allowance.

The Internal Revenue Service announced that starting Jan. 1, 2009, the standard mileage rate will be 55 cents per mile for the first 1,000 miles driven in a calendar month. For more information, visit www.irs.gov.

The state lodging rate is \$70; high-cost areas include Big Sky/West Yellowstone - Gallatin County, Butte - Silver Bow County, Helena - Lewis & Clark County, Missoula -

Please see "Commissioners..." on page 10



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J. Michael Pichette

Director-Government Relations/Montana
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406/444-4360

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Health Care Trust
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After



MACo News

2008-2009 MACo Committees

Agriculture Committee

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Conference Planning Committee

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MACo News

2008-2009 MACo Committees

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Mike Wendland		Hill	wendland@co.hill.mt.us

Please see "2008..." on page 16



MACo/County News

Doggett retirement party set for Dec. 16

A retirement party for departing Meagher County Commissioner Jamie Doggett has been set for Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Dempsey's Tavern in White Sulphur Springs and those who've worked with her are invited to attend.

Doggett, who has served as a commissioner for more than 10 years, announced her retirement earlier this year. A rancher, she runs the Camas Creek Cattle & Sheep Co. with her husband, Jock. Doggett, a Montana State University graduate, has served on NACo's transportation board for several years.

She also chaired both the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the National Board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Doggett is a recipient of the Montana Governor's Humanities Award.

A booklet of memories is being produced, so if you have photos, funny stories, or well wishes, send your contributions to MSU's Sarah Hamlen at mshamlen@mtintouch.net or call her at 547-2507.

If you know of retirement parties being held for other county elected officials, contact *MACo News* at macopb@maco.cog.mt.us or 444-4380.

Risk management conference nears

Traffic sign reflectivity, accident investigation, and job safety analysis are just some of many topics to be covered at MACo's Risk Management Loss Control Conference at Helena's Red Lion Colonial Hotel Jan. 13-15.

The conference will open with keynote speaker Michael Punke, author of "Fire and Brimstone." His presentation, like his book, will be on the North Butte mining disaster of 1917. Punke is a Montana lawyer and novelist.

The three-day event, set for Jan. 13-15, will feature programs and sessions tailored to safety, roads, and law enforcement personnel.

Registration will be available at the MACo Web site soon; a draft agenda already is posted there, as is a detailed description on this exciting event.

For more information about the conference, contact Emelia McEwen at 444-4370 or macorma@maco.cog.mt.us. For questions on registration, contact Karen Houston at 444-4375 or macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us.

Tande recognized for long service

Daniels County Commissioner Bill Tande, the longest-serving Montana commissioner in office, was recognized last month for almost 30 years of service.

Tande, a 64-year-old Montana native who runs a family ranch in Scobey, received a custom-made desk clock emblazoned with an image of the Daniels County Courthouse and the MACo 100th anniversary logo.

Before he became a commissioner in 1979, Tande said he wasn't interested in politics. He chose to run after "some of my friends talked me into it," Tande said.

For Tande, one highlight of his job came courtesy of MACo. "I've enjoyed meeting commissioners from around the state and listening to other people on how they solve the same problems," he said.

Tande offered some advice to new commissioners: "Keep an open mind and listen."



Bill Tande (front row, second from right) holds a custom desk clock presented to him for 29 years of service. With him are fellow Montana commissioners and other friends.



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Flood Insurance

Part 1 of 2

Floods can strike anywhere at any time and with almost no warning. Pictures of submerged land are common on the television news.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 caused massive flooding in the south, but devastating floods have also attacked the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic states and New England in recent years. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. flood losses between 1994 and 2004 averaged more than \$2.4 billion per year.

While most floods affect homes and commercial properties near water bodies, locations away from the water are not immune. FEMA reports that 25 percent of flood insurance claims comes from areas with a low-to moderate risk of flooding. In these areas, flooding can result from torrential rainfalls, rapid melting of heavy snows, and breakage of water mains. Business owners who have not paid attention to their insurance coverage may be surprised when floods occur.

Standard commercial property insurance policies do not provide coverage for losses caused by water. A typical policy defines water as:

- Flood, surface water, waves, tides, tidal waves, overflow of a body of water, and spray from any of these, all whether driven by wind or not;
- Mudslide or mudflow;
- Water that backs up or overflows from a sewer, drain or pump; or
- Water under the ground pressing on, flowing or seeping through foundations, walls, floors or paved surfaces, paved and unpaved basements, or doors windows and other openings.

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County News

Montana Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) 2007 and 2008

County	Payment			Acres			Per Acre	
	Jun-07	Total-08	Change	Jun-07	Jun-08	Change	Jun-07	Jun-08
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	\$287,865	\$461,516	\$173,651	213,379	215,178	(1,799)	\$1.35	\$2.14
Beaverhead County	\$558,234	\$872,397	\$314,163	2,045,702	2,046,253	(551)	\$0.27	\$0.43
Big Horn County	\$8,311	\$13,259	\$4,948	41,433	41,433	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Blaine County	\$339,023	\$467,349	\$128,326	451,657	451,657	0	\$0.75	\$1.03
Broadwater County	\$368,070	\$587,225	\$219,155	281,274	281,909	(635)	\$1.31	\$2.08
Carbon County	\$511,442	\$784,865	\$273,423	573,483	573,483	0	\$0.89	\$1.37
Carter County	\$119,270	\$190,275	\$71,005	594,608	594,608	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Cascade County	\$287,829	\$457,567	\$169,738	215,467	215,467	0	\$1.34	\$2.12
Chouteau County	\$191,935	\$311,363	\$119,428	155,746	155,746	0	\$1.23	\$2.00
Custer County	\$470,002	\$728,907	\$258,905	333,735	333,735	0	\$1.41	\$2.18
Daniels County	\$0	\$64	\$64	200	200	0	\$0.00	\$0.32
Dawson County	\$12,830	\$20,467	\$7,637	63,960	63,960	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Fallon County	\$23,248	\$37,088	\$13,840	115,901	115,901	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Fergus County	\$667,059	\$1,064,523	\$397,464	483,896	483,896	0	\$1.38	\$2.20
Flathead County	\$1,354,704	\$2,162,372	\$807,668	2,440,115	2,440,115	0	\$0.56	\$0.89
Gallatin County	\$961,356	\$1,526,419	\$565,063	703,608	704,551	(943)	\$1.37	\$2.17
Garfield County	\$116,070	\$190,954	\$74,884	814,977	814,977	0	\$0.14	\$0.23
Glacier County	\$572,449	\$908,621	\$336,172	401,497	401,497	0	\$1.43	\$2.26
Golden Valley County	\$42,619	\$67,553	\$24,934	31,537	31,537	0	\$1.35	\$2.14
Granite County	\$141,198	\$225,172	\$83,974	703,925	703,661	264	\$0.20	\$0.32
Hill County	\$26,266	\$48,261	\$21,995	47,718	47,718	0	\$0.55	\$1.01
Jefferson County	\$635,312	\$1,009,531	\$374,219	554,614	554,710	(96)	\$1.15	\$1.82
Judith Basin County	\$176,650	\$272,473	\$95,823	308,662	308,662	0	\$0.57	\$0.88
Lake County	\$167,102	\$266,733	\$99,631	156,486	156,486	0	\$1.07	\$1.70
Lewis & Clark County	\$1,396,645	\$2,216,723	\$820,078	1,084,909	1,084,909	0	\$1.29	\$2.04
Liberty County	\$30,950	\$58,667	\$27,717	33,656	33,656	0	\$0.92	\$1.74
Lincoln County	\$350,628	\$559,365	\$208,737	1,748,017	1,748,017	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Madison County	\$540,907	\$858,553	\$317,646	1,051,768	1,053,281	(1,513)	\$0.51	\$0.82
McCone County	\$171,259	\$265,388	\$94,129	274,105	274,105	0	\$0.62	\$0.97
Meagher County	\$124,380	\$195,382	\$71,002	482,440	482,440	0	\$0.26	\$0.40
Mineral County	\$128,839	\$205,550	\$76,711	642,309	642,343	(34)	\$0.20	\$0.32
Missoula County	\$694,021	\$1,122,502	\$428,481	720,350	725,584	(5,234)	\$0.96	\$1.55
Musselshell County	\$109,569	\$173,043	\$63,474	87,517	87,517	0	\$1.25	\$1.98
Park County	\$846,375	\$1,339,982	\$493,607	945,504	950,238	(4,734)	\$0.90	\$1.41
Petroleum County	\$45,499	\$72,759	\$27,260	335,040	335,040	0	\$0.14	\$0.22
Phillips County	\$276,227	\$440,672	\$164,445	1,377,099	1,377,099	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Pondera County	\$132,098	\$217,034	\$84,936	107,919	107,919	0	\$1.22	\$2.01
Powder River County	\$119,312	\$190,341	\$71,029	594,815	594,815	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Powell County	\$420,207	\$670,179	\$249,972	731,851	731,851	9,203	\$0.57	\$0.92
Prairie County	\$86,149	\$137,436	\$51,287	429,486	429,486	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Ravalli County	\$1,469,669	\$2,336,096	\$866,427	1,115,516	1,115,516	0	\$1.32	\$2.09
Richland County	\$10,905	\$17,397	\$6,492	54,366	54,366	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Roosevelt County	\$859	\$1,371	\$512	4,284	4,284	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Rosebud County	\$65,367	\$104,280	\$38,913	325,876	325,876	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Sanders County	\$183,489	\$292,724	\$109,235	914,761	914,761	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Sheridan County	\$357	\$570	\$213	1,781	1,781	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Silver Bow Census Cty	\$308,090	\$489,629	\$181,539	233,538	233,537	1	\$1.32	\$2.10
Stillwater County	\$256,460	\$405,148	\$148,688	191,193	191,193	0	\$1.34	\$2.12
Sweet Grass County	\$331,860	\$540,333	\$208,473	302,039	302,039	0	\$1.10	\$1.79
Teton County	\$380,129	\$600,940	\$220,811	285,003	285,003	0	\$1.33	\$2.11
Toole County	\$35,361	\$45,158	\$9,797	45,459	45,459	0	\$0.78	\$0.99
Treasure County	\$150	\$239	\$89	748	748	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Valley County	\$430,566	\$756,651	\$326,085	1,122,620	1,122,580	40	\$0.38	\$0.67
Wheatland County	\$87,427	\$138,622	\$51,195	65,924	65,924	0	\$1.33	\$2.10
Wibaux County	\$5,415	\$8,638	\$3,223	26,995	26,995	0	\$0.20	\$0.32
Yellowstone County	\$108,443	\$171,902	\$63,459	78,235	78,235	0	\$1.39	\$2.20
TOTALS	17,186,456	\$27,308,228	\$10,121,772	27,148,703	27,128,443	20,260	\$0.63	\$1.01



County News

Proper public record-keeping vital for Montana county offices

By Kay Johnson, Blaine County District Court Clerk and Local Government Records Committee Chair

Records are indispensable to the efficient and economical operation of government. They serve as the governmental memory, and they are the evidence of past events as well as the basis for future actions.

All public records have a specific value – whether administrative, fiscal, legal, historical, or transitory. Some are so vital to a local government entity's operation that they must be preserved permanently. Some records may be disposed of in a systematic and orderly fashion. Local government needs retention schedules to determine how long a record must be kept. This schedule determines the longevity of the record based on its value.

Montana law defines a public record as "any paper, correspondence, form, book, photograph, microfilm, magnetic tape, computer storage media, map, drawing or other document, including all copies thereof, regardless of physical form or characteristics" that has been created or received by a state agency or local government in connection with the transaction of official business and preserved for informational value or as evidence of a transaction. It includes all other records or documents required by law to be filed with or kept by a state agency or local government, including school districts.

The 2001 Legislature expanded the definition of a public record to include electronic mail, or e-mail, "sent or received in connection with the transaction of official business." For more information about managing e-mail, see "E-Mail Guidelines: A Management Guide for the Retention of E-Mail Records for Montana State Government" at the Secretary of State's Web site (www.sos.mt.gov).

In 1993, the legislature created the Local Government Records Committee to oversee the preservation and disposal of public records kept by local governments and school districts. The committee meets twice a year to approve, change, or reject proposals for local government and school district records retention and disposition schedules. A subcommittee made up of the state archivist, a representative of Local Government Services Bureau and the Secretary of State records manager handle all requests for disposal of records. The subcommittee acts on requests for records disposal throughout the year.

When records are no longer needed, they may be dis-

posed of in a legally prescribed fashion, but only after the Local Government Records Committee has approved their disposal. No records may be destroyed without the subcommittee's unanimous approval. Instructions for the disposal requests are available at the www.sos.mt.gov.

Guidelines for local government documents may be found in the Local Government Retention Schedules. This document offers guidance to county clerks and recorders, county treasurers, motor vehicle registrars, school clerks, and court clerks and other entities. For local government records not listed in the schedules, contact any member of the Local Government Records Committee.

It is the duty of each local government entity to create or request changes to its own retention schedule. Each group knows its own records and records series, and what they are used for; only that group can determine how long they should be kept. The Local Government Records Committee can help with the format and procedure for creating schedules.

The committee suggests each association for the entity form a committee of its own to review the records, establish the retention schedule, then recommend approval of the schedule to its committee. A committee procedure also is recommended for any agencies that want to change items in their current schedule. There is a lot of information available in the "General Schedule."

Once a retention schedule is approved by the Local Government Records Committee, it is legally binding. No official public record may be destroyed without the approval the Records Disposal Committee, a subcommittee of the Local Government Records Committee.

If your organization has a record retention schedule, use it; if you don't have one, form a committee to create your own record retention schedule. Then, when you feel it is complete and in the proper format, present it to the committee for approval and adoption.

For more information about creating a records management program and retention schedule, contact the Records and Information Management Division of the Secretary of State's Office at (406) 444-9000, or contact Patty Borsberry, Records and Information Management Division deputy, at (406) 444-9009 or pborsberry@mt.gov.

Board approves revised brucellosis plan

The Montana Board of Livestock in November approved a revised version of the state's brucellosis action plan, which provides a blueprint for regaining the state's Class-Free Status as quickly as possible.

"There are still some details to work out, but the board has given us the go-ahead on the revised plan," said Marty Zaluski, state veterinarian.

For more information, visit <http://liv.mt.gov>.



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County News

Commissioners should start 2009 right with these resolutions

Continued from page 6

Missoula County, Polson - Lake County, and Kalispell - Flathead County. For more information, visit the General Administration Services Web site at www.gsa.gov.

6. Establish county classification: At your September meeting, you should have adopted your county classification effective Jan. 1, 2009. If you did not adopt this resolution in September, we suggest you do so as soon as possible. More information regarding your county's classification can be found on the MACo site.

In 7-1-2112, Designation of county classification by county commissioners: (1) The several boards of county commissioners must, at their regular session in September of each year, make an order designating the class to which such county belongs, as determined by the taxable valuation of such county for the year in which such order is made, under and in accordance with the provisions of 7-1-2111; and (2) Such classification shall not change the government of the county then in existence until the next succeeding first Monday in January.

7. Conduct a bond inspection (7-4-2213, Inspection of official bonds): (1) At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners in March and September of each year, the board of county commissioners shall carefully examine all official bonds of all county and township officials then in force and effect and investigate the qualifications and financial condition and liability of all

sureties thereon and their sufficiency.

It is recommended you note in your minutes that you've reviewed your bonds, and if applicable, found them to be covered within your insurance policies.

8. Board meeting minutes must be available within 21 days (7-5-2123, Publication of board proceedings and annual financial statement):

(1)(a) The board of county commissioners has jurisdiction and power, under the limitations and restrictions prescribed by law, to publish in a newspaper at the adjournment of each session of the board, in full and complete detail or in summary form or by reference, with the full and complete text made available on request, a complete list of all claims ordered paid for all purposes, showing the name, purpose, and amount, and a fair summary of the minutes and records of all of its proceedings.

(b) The board may publish the county clerk's annual statement of the financial condition of the county, in full and complete detail or in summary form. If the board does not publish the annual statement in complete detail or in summary form, it shall publish a notice that the annual statement is available and will be provided upon request from the county clerk.

(2) Publication in full, in summary, or by reference of the minutes and records of proceedings must be made within 21 days after the adjournment of the session. Publication of the financial statement or notice of the availability of the financial statement must be made within 30 days after the presentation of the financial statement to the board. The board may not allow or order paid any claim for any publication of minutes and records of proceedings or annual financial statement unless the publication is made within the time prescribed in this subsection.

As always, if you have any questions on these or any other matters, please don't hesitate to contact MACo.



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County News

Kids Count book available

Montana Kids Count is pleased to announce the release of the 2008 Montana Kids Count Data Book. This annual publication contains organized data at the county level and should be a valuable resource to you as leaders in your communities. Each county has its own page with indicators of child well-being showing the 2000 base year for comparison to the current year.

This year's edition includes expanded state-level data to cover additional information on demographics, social-economics, health and health insurance, schools and education, Head Start, early childhood, safety, birth and death, and youth risk behavior. The lead essay focuses on juvenile justice in Montana to highlight successes and pro-active prevention strategies being undertaken in the state. There also is a feature on American Indian child and maternal health.

The Montana Kids Count program is a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S.

Montana Kids Count is housed at the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in the School of Business at the University of Montana. The mission of Montana Kids Count is to increase awareness and promote understanding of the status of Montana's vulnerable children and families through the gathering and dissemination of data to advance effective policy and decisions to improve their quality of life.

The book also is available for viewing online at www.montanakidscount.org.

For more information, contact Julie Ehlers, communications director, at (406) 243-2714 or Daphne Herling, director, at (406) 243-5614.

PERI conference scholarships online

Applications are available for the 12th Annual Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) Small Entity Scholarship Program, which will provide financial assistance to help small organizations attend the 2009 Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) Conference and Expo. PERI will accept scholarship applications through Feb. 27, 2009.

PERI, a nonprofit research institute focused on risk management training and education, plans to award up to 20 scholarships valued at \$1,000 in financial assistance to small public entities and community nonprofit organizations interested in attending the 2009 PRIMA Conference in Dallas, Texas, in May.

For more information on the application, program or conference, visit www.primacentral.org, or contact PRIMA at (703) 528-7701 or info@primacentral.org.



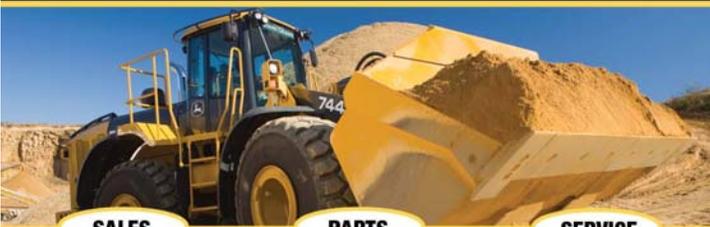
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Cascade County recipient of obesity prevention award

Cascade County was one of just four counties nationwide to receive technical assistance from NACo as part of its Childhood Obesity Prevention project. The other winners were counties in Arizona, Michigan, and Nebraska.

The four counties will receive consulting services from NACo expert health policy and program staff to enhance efforts already underway in the counties to encourage children to lead healthier lives.

NACo President Don Stapley, supervisor, Maricopa County, Ariz., said local governments play an important role in fighting childhood obesity.

“Not only does obesity threaten our nation’s health, but it leads to substantial financial costs to local governments and the overall healthcare delivery system,” Stapley said. “I commend these four award-winning counties for being national leaders in developing effective solutions to healthier living for our young people.”

Through NACo’s Childhood Obesity Prevention project, NACo aims to bring attention to the important role local policy makers can play in creating healthy communities. As lead policy makers at the local level, county officials have authority over a variety of community-level factors that have the potential to reverse obesity trends by increasing children and families’ access to health foods and opportunities for physical activity.

Nearly one-third of all children — more than 23 million — are overweight or obese. As a result, children are

at higher risk for a host of serious illnesses, including Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, asthma, and certain types of cancer.

The Childhood Obesity Prevention project is made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Leadership for Healthy Communities national program office.

For more information, contact Christina Rowland at crowland@naco.org or (202) 942-4267.

Rural health works grants available

NACo is accepting applications for the Rural Health Works Technical Assistance Grant for rural counties.

Rural Health Works is strategic planning process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data on the relationship between the health care sector and the local economy. The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen rural economies by improving the local health system.

NACo will grant a total of three awards on a competitive basis. The award is valued at more than \$18,000 for each county.

The application is available from www.healthycounties.org; the application deadline is Dec. 15.

For more information, contact Christina Rowland at crowland@naco.org or (202) 942-4267.

Guide to offender reentry available

NACo is proud to announce the release of its latest publication, “Reentry for Safer Communities.” It focuses on effective county practices in jail to community transition planning for offenders with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

“Reentry for Safer Communities” provides a background on the issues of reentry for this population, what constitutes a good reentry program, and focuses on six model county programs.

For more information and to request hard copies, contact Kati Guerra at kguerra@naco.org or (202) 942-4279. An electronic version also is available at www.naco.org.

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NACo News



Western Interstate Region board of directors report

By Lesley Robinson, Phillips County Commissioner, and Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner, WIR Board Directors

At the Oct. WIR board meeting in Lassen County (Susanville), Calif., we listened to a presentation about the county's biomass effort. We then went onsite to view its fuel reduction project. They remove some of the trees to create a 40-percent crown closure. This causes a fire to drop to the ground rather than burn the forest while protecting trees and homes.

After the tour, we went to the Honey Lake Power Biomass Facility. The trees removed from the reduction project are chipped into one-inch chips for use at the facility to create electricity. Lassen County had several of these facilities at one time but have closed quite a few due to lack of wood. The trees are there they just can't cut them.

On the second day of our meeting, we had a speaker from the Quincy Library Group on a Forest Recovery Act pilot project. The group is a local grassroots collaborative effort formed in 1992 to bring sustainable forest management back to the national forest lands that occupy a major portion of their rural counties. It comprised of local citizens, business, government and other interests.

The act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The act covers 2.5 million acres of national forest lands and excludes .9 million acres of potential roadless, wilderness and critical old growth wildlife habitat from timber harvesting activities that could change the future designations of those lands.

We then received a legislative update on SRS and PILT and there was good news for everyone. The SRS payments reduce every year until the four years is up, but the payments in Montana have increased so much the fourth year is still higher than the current payments. The Pacific states were cut back and it was reallocated.

Randy Phillips, NACo's USDA Forest Service liaison, and Cynthia Nedd Moses, NACo's BLM liaison, spoke to us via telephone.

Bob Douglas, National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition executive director, talked about the measures taken to get SRS and full funding of PILT accomplished. It shows by working together, things can get done.

We went over several other issues and talked about what WIR priorities. Two committees were formed; one will study a new formula for PILT and the other will look at possible funding for counties that provide services on reservations. I was appointed to both committees.

Apply now to attend NACo meth forum

NACo, the Association of Arkansas Counties, and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association is sponsoring a Methamphetamine Prevention Forum in Pulaski County (Little Rock), Ark., on Jan. 23. The forum is designed to educate community teams of county elected officials. The registration fee is \$100 per attendee. For more information, contact Kati Guerra at kguerra@naco.org or (202) 942-4279.

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2008-2009 MACo Committees

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Ken Weber		Jefferson	kweber@jeffco.mt.gov
Lesley Robinson		Phillips	commissioners@phillipscounty.mt.gov
Scott Bockness	Weed Association Rep.	Yellowstone	sbockness@co.yellowstone.mt.us
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		blattie@maco.cog.mt.us

Resolutions & Legislative Committee

Mike Murray	Chair	Lewis & Clark	mmurray@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Kathy Bessette	Agriculture Co-Chair	Hill	bessetek@co.hill.mt.us
Sandy Broesder	Info. Technology-Chair	Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Andy Hunthausen	J&PS-Chair	Lewis & Clark	ahunthausen@lewis-clark.mt.us
John Prinkki	Energy Chair	Carbon	commissioner@co.carbon.mt.us
Maureen Davey	Agriculture Co-Chair	Stillwater	mdavey@stillwater.mt.gov
Bill Kennedy	H&HS Co-Chair	Yellowstone	bkennedy@co.yellowstone.mt.us
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Cynthia Johnson	C,ED&L Co-Chair	Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
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Around Our Counties

Law Enforcement

HILL COUNTY Deputy Attorney Lindsay Osborne has named one of two Prosecutors of the Year last month by a state domestic and sexual violence awareness coalition, the state attorney general's office and the State Bar of Montana. Osborne, who was nominated for the award by two different parties, received the award based on her efforts in prosecuting domestic and sexual violence cases.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY Deputy Attorney Rod Souza also was named a Prosecutor of the Year in November by a state domestic and sexual violence awareness coalition, the state attorney general's office and the State Bar of Montana. Souza received the award for his efforts in prosecuting domestic and sexual violence cases.

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY Sheriff's Office members received local Humane Society awards in October for their work in solving a cat-killing spree. Deputy Phil Clark and detectives Cory Olson, Larry Platts, and Dennis Nyland worked the case that led to the apprehension of three men who

later pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY hired Jayne Mitchell as its deputy county attorney in November. Mitchell, a former county attorney in Pondera County in the 1990s, is a Montana native and graduate of the University of Montana. She also served as a state special assistant attorney general.

LINCOLN COUNTY commissioners in October named a temporary successor to replace suspended Justice of the Peace Gary Hicks. Terry Utter, who spent six years as a JP in Eureka, will fill the position until the Montana Supreme Court makes a decision about reinstating Hicks in light of sexual harassment complaints or removing him from office; in that case, a permanent replacement would be appointed.

GLACIER COUNTY was the lone successful law enforcement applicant in Montana to receive federal funding for two additional deputies in October. One deputy will be assigned to East Glacier, while the other will be stationed in Cut Bank, boosting the total number of deputies to

14 countywide. The sheriff's office also received federal and state funding for overtime, equipment, and maintenance use.

BIG HORN COUNTY Sheriff Pete Big Hair was cleared in late October of tribal charges that stemmed from a domestic dispute last summer. A recall election against him was cancelled about the same time. The charges were dropped when the sheriff's wife said she lied about the June incident.

Zoning

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners in November gave the green light to a new gravel pit in Gallatin Gateway. The TMC, Inc., pit will be the first to come online since May, when all proposed pits went into limbo after an emergency countywide zoning ordinance stopped proceedings. If the pit meets other county regulations, TMC will extract 1.45 million cubic yards of gravel over 10 years from the 53-acre site.

FLATHEAD COUNTY has a new zoning district along Flathead Lake that limits development to one-acre lots. The Fish Hatchery Zoning District, approved

by commissioners in late October, is 132 acres and has long been a residential neighborhood. Residents and property owners were concerned future commercial uses and residential condos would make the neighborhood more dense.

Personnel

PARK COUNTY Sanitarian Doris Morgan in October received the 2008 Donald E. Pizzini Award for her long-time dedication to the county's sanitation department. Morgan, who's been a sanitarian since 1981, joined Park County in 1993. Four years later, she received the William G. Walter Outstanding Sanitarian Award.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY's former facilities manager Gary Lean filed a counterclaim in October after a county lawsuit demanded he pay back \$158,000 in compensation and benefits received while on leave. Lean pleaded guilty to stealing about \$40,000 from taxpayers and non-profits in September. He was given a suspended term for the eight felony counts and ordered to pay almost \$38,000 in restitution.

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Announcements & Reminders

Mark Your Calendars

2009 Holidays

The following is a list of legal holidays in 2009 and the dates they will be observed by most state employees.

Legal holidays

New Year's Day
 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
 Lincoln's & Washington's Birthday
 Memorial Day
 Independence Day
 Labor Day
 Columbus Day
 Veterans' Day
 Thanksgiving Day
 Christmas Day

Observed

Thurs., Jan. 1
 Mon., Jan. 19
 Mon., Feb. 16
 Mon., May 25
 Fri., July 3
 Mon., Sept. 7
 Mon., Oct. 12
 Wed., Nov. 11
 Thurs., Nov. 26
 Fri., Dec. 25

NOTE: If the holiday occurs on a weekend, the workday closest to the holiday is treated as the holiday for pay and leave purposes.

December

Dec. 1-5 MACo Elected Officials Training/
 Commissioners Certification*
 Dec. 8 Revenue & Transport. Interim Committee*
 Dec. 25 Christmas

Upcoming Events

Jan. 5 61st Montana Legislature convenes*
 Jan. 13-15 MACo Risk Management Loss Control
 Conference*
 Feb. 9-12 MACo Midwinter Conference*
 Sept. 20-24 MACo's 100th Annual Conference*

*All meetings are held in Helena unless noted.

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4. Harvey Worrall, Chouteau County
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7. Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
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11. Carlotta Grandstaff, Ravalli County
12. Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

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