

MACD Education Committee Meeting
May 13, 2020, 10 am
Via Conference call 1-888-575-2051

Committee Members: Elisha Dempsey, Melissa Downing, Tony Barone, Rick Van Dyken, Bill Naegeli, Bob Peterman, Pam Liggett

Members Present

Elisha Dempsey
Pam Liggett
Bob Peterman

David Martin
Jason Garber
Greg Jergeson
Katie Mumford
Laurie Zeller
Kate Arpin

Others Present

Chris Evans

Chair Elisha Dempsey opened the meeting at 10:02 am.

Meeting minutes: motion by Peterman to approve minutes from last meeting, second by Liggett; motion carried.

Scholarships

Dempsey hasn't heard from the other members of the committee. From the qualifications that were posted on the applications, the two applicants both qualify. Motion to approve the scholarships by Peterman, second by Liggett; motion carried. The committee will look at refining the qualifications and potential amounts at a future meeting. Martin said for later discussion it might be good to look at who got the applications in the past. Dempsey would like to take a look at the applications from the past as well.

Resolutions

Martin said his impression from the MACD meeting was that District Ops may have more guidance on how the Committee moves forward on them. Peterman said that he had asked about the Policy Book that we discussed at our last meeting. Apparently there is no Policy Book. Arpin said that there is a resolution library on the MACD website. There hasn't been an Executive Director to complete the follow up language on those. Some resolutions are "one and done", some are more policy and some are just ongoing activity.

06-03 Didn't pass, no recommendations

***09-11 Sunset but keep thinking about how to make this work – Possibly a new resolution, or move the activity forward as part of a work plan

10-08 Forward to water committee, working with them on any education aspects – Peterman felt it was an unnecessary thing because he thinks that natural waves create more damage than boat wakes.

- 10-09 Keep on record, updating on current activities with links to councils/committees active – Liggett has spoken with Steve Terrel. The work on the actual resolution is complete. He'd like to sunset except for the funding discussion. He'd like to advocate for on-going funding. Martin said this goes back to what Peterman said. The initial intent of the resolution was met. If there's a new funding need, we should likely have a new resolution for funding. Arpin commented that "keep on record" is that it needs to be policy, but action is complete. Evans said that we could maybe update the one online with comments, especially about funding.
- 12-07 Renew activity, possibly in the form of creating an MACD Policy Book to clarify partner working relationships-Peterman says keep on record or renew activity so that it stays active.
- ***13-11 Table pending feedback from other committee members-maybe we can pull from this one to do outreach at another time. Arpin said she thinks this one should be sunsetted. Dempsey agreed about sunsetting this one. Liggett agreed, and so did Peterman.
- ***14-03 Table pending feedback from other committee members, most likely sunset or renew with clarification on how to move forward – Dempsey hasn't heard back from Rogge. Martin said he thinks this one falls under the category that something was tried and didn't take off. He wondered if it's worth resurrecting.
- 16-05 Renew Activity-make information available to all CDs – no other comments
- ***18-02 Renew Activity and add updates from MWCA moving forward collaboratively – Waiting to hear back from Rogge

Survey to CDs

Is this something we want to do regarding Education ideas/needs?

How do we get the information out to CDs, DD, Conservationist, CDB notes etc. Can we add links to these to a web page. Kate Arpin said that solving this problem is why they started doing the District Dispatch. Kate tries to get supervisor emails too so that she can see who all is getting those. Peterman said that as chair of his CD, something he does when he gets emails that is something his CD needs to see, he forwards right to his administrator so that they can be forwarded to his board.

Martin had a question about the survey, that CDs may feel over surveyed.

Training

Laurie Zeller gave an update on the leadership training. Shannon said she can go to 3 of the Area meetings. Cost was about \$1500 and Laurie said that she thought that was reasonable. Dempsey said we should make the recommendation to MACD to move forward with that. We were going to talk to the other areas (Becky Clement) about having a standalone meeting. Dempsey will ask MACD about the recommendation. They were concerned about costs.

Continuity book with minutes/notes for future committee chair

We need to look at what other organizations or committees are doing to create a working document. Arpin said that all minutes are now being kept on Google Drive and on the MACD website.

Committee Specific Plan of Work/Priority List

Dempsey asked if Liggett and Peterman had read through the old strategic plan and other notes about the specifics about what each committee will be responsible for working on. She hopes that at the Spring Board meeting that the group can get back to their Strategic Plan. Shannon is scheduled for the board meeting at Spring Board meeting to help with their planning. Martin asked if Dempsey was talking about the MACD plan or a plan for the committee. Dempsey said that she believes that the workplan for the committee will come from the Strategic Plan. Peterman said that the Education committee was originally formed to screen the resolutions at the convention. He believes that somewhere at MACD there should be a document that talks about the purpose of the committee. Martin doesn't believe that exists, that the committee needs to build their purpose from the bottom up.

Legislative Topics

Dempsey had a couple of questions on this topic. She wanted to know how we communicate with MACD on legislative topics. Martin said that at the last board meeting, the legislative committee is active and they plan to be advocating at the session. The communication from MACD was last done by Jeff Tiberi in News from the Front. Jergeson said that he got an email from Jim Simpson on Monday that they had put together a legislative committee. The door is still open to new members. He got another email from Simpson about talking to Jeff Tiberi about lobbying for the upcoming session, putting together a plan for the 2nd half of this year and for the session. Martin said his understanding is that this should all become more clear after the Spring Board meeting. Dempsey wanted to confirm that the way we communicate our concerns to MACD is through resolution, approved at the Area Meeting.

Coronavirus Funding

How does this relate to Conservation Districts? Dempsey said that she saw food, preservation and conservation as a topic for the agriculture side of things. Why are CDs not sharing this information out to our landowners? She thinks there might be some opportunities out there. Martin asked about priorities out of the committee? Is this something that the committee should be dealing with?

***Circling back to communication within the CD world. How can we help that be more efficient? Martin said that there might be some low-hanging fruit that the group could be working on. The trainings that are in process (CDB etc.) will continue to be worked on. Then there's the bigger things, the 2018 November meeting to deal with funding had a section on how we get our message out to the general public which really never was done in a strategic manner. He feels like the committee should have a work

plan to sort out priorities. Peterman said that one thing this committee could do is when we have information like pollinators etc. especially for the kids, we should be getting that out to the Districts. Evans said that maybe those who want to be active on the committee could think about how we can work within the CD world and outside the CD world on getting information circulated on the education side of things.

Peterman wanted to know if there is any objection to anyone from outside the committee listening in on the calls. Dempsey said that there is no objection. Peterman suggested that we get some administrators on the calls and give feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.