

2022 0126 MACD Education Committee Meeting Notes

10 am

Held via Zoom conferencing

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

Committee Members in Attendance–Greg Jergeson, Elisha Dempsey

Others in Attendance–Kay Webb, Hailey Graf, Renee Nelson, Emma Korntheuer, Veronica Grigaltchik, Diane Black, LaRinda Spencer, Stacy Barta, Mary Hendrix, Becca Boslough, Jeff Torano, Jeff Ryan, Julie Goss and Chris Evans.

Call to order–Elisha Dempsey called the meeting to order.

Approval of last meeting notes–Greg Jergeson made a motion to approve, 2nd by Elisha; motion carried.

Review the matrix for 2022 activity planning for the committee

The group reviewed the main categories that are tracked on the Matrix for the Committee. Elisha Dempsey shared the Scholarship announcement for review. It was noted that the Committee had changed application to require a 300 to 500 word essay for scholarships so that will be changed. The group also discussed the distribution of the announcement. In the past, MACD has relied on CDs to distribute to their high schools. We should try to find a main contact for the Career Technical students, the High Schools in the state, the Colleges/universities in the state. Becca will share a spreadsheet to Elisha, Greg and Chris.

As far as the amount for 2022 goes, we can look at the number of applications that we receive and make a determination on spending the money that was returned in 2021. We need to check back with the student who returned the funds to see if they plan to attend and use the scholarship this year.

Policy should be put together regarding scholarship applications and use, for example determining if the student is actually enrolled (proof of enrollment) with 2 to 3 semesters to use the scholarship. Release funding after debt is accepted by the student.

Other activities for 2022–pending the completion of the Strategic Plan for MACD.

Becca highlighted that one of the priorities for that plan is to figure out Committees, making sure they have more direction and structure related to resolutions but also in programs etc.

There was discussion about the legislative section of the matrix. Elisha mentioned the little cards that could be handed out to the public and to legislators.

Updates:

DNRC

Stacey Barta was on the zoom to talk about the Range Improvement Loan Program. She presented at the Employee Roundtable on the 19th. She shared a screenshot of the website with the details of the program, including the current interest rate and the to-date numbers for the program. Stacey said that CDs can direct landowners to the website any time during the year. There are no application deadlines. There's typically a 30-60 turnaround once the applications get to DNRC. CDs are the first point of contact and their responsibility is to look at the Conservation Plan part of the application and they need to make sure it fits the criteria of the loan. Typically, it's been water development, fencing and range development types of applications that are approved. Jeff Ryan asked if a solar pump for water for livestock might be included. Stacey said that should qualify. Elisha asked if the conservation plan should be done by NRCS or who? Stacey responded that the statute says that the easiest route is to work with NRCS, but the landowner can draw up their own plan if they choose.

Stacey also wanted to put out the information on the Leopold Conservation Award.

Mary Hendrix, Hailey Graf, Veronica Grigaltchik-Veronica introduced herself and gave a rundown on her area of responsibility. They are doing a Stream Permitting workshop and she will be at the Soil Health Symposium. Hailey Graf is new with DNRC (came from Flathead CD) and gave a description of her area of responsibility. She said they are available as a resource and would like to continue to be at the Education committee meetings

MACD

Jeff Ryan gave a rundown on the EQC meeting on Monday that the MACD, Gallatin and Garfield CD presented at. He thinks that the direction of the interim study is going the right way and said it's important for all districts.

MCDEO-Evans gave an update about what the EO is up to. They changed their name at their fall meeting and will be pursuing nonprofit status. Area representatives now have job descriptions and the EO leadership is working with CDB to iron out a sustainable orientation process for new employees, with a CDB staff member and a seasoned CD Employee going to new CD Staff employee offices within a short time of hire.

CDOWG-Evans gave a brief update to the Committee on the CDOWG activities and their recent meeting. The group met yesterday and discussed where they are headed next. They will be working on defining their strategy on helping CDs market themselves as well as what work might happen for education purposes for the legislature.

Education Funding update-Evans requested that if any of the education funding is left after MACD uses it for their process, that it be considered for Area Representative time and travel for orientation of new employees.

Elisha noted that Toole County CD has a new employee that could use some resources. Evans will get information to Elisha to give to that person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Next meeting February 23, 2022 at 10 am.

Links shared in the chat during the meeting:

Range Loan Program

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/rangeland-resource-program/range-improvement-loan-program>

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/docs/range-improvement-loan-program-guidelines.pdf>

Leopold Award

<https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award-program/state/montana>

General Link to Rangeland Resource Program

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/rangeland-resource-program>

Hailey Graf posted the link to Monday's EQC Meeting

[http://sg001-](http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00309/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220125/-1/43822)

[harmony.sliq.net/00309/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220125/-1/43822](http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00309/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220125/-1/43822)