

- Approved Minutes -

Montana Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (MACDEP) Meeting

June 26, 2008, MSU Campus, Culbertson Room 202 and Via Web Conference

Attendance:

In person: Paul Lachapelle (interim President), Sarah Hamlen (interim Treasurer), Barb Andreozzi (interim Secretary), Tara Mastel (interim Vice President), Jim Knight, Dan Clark, Halsey Bishop, Jamie Vowel, Tracey Brewer, Molly Anderson, Doug Steele (afternoon); By phone: Dave Bertelsen, Damon Bunting, Millie Veltkamp, Wendy Wedum, Jennifer Andersen, Steve Siegelin

Summary of Action Items:

1. Take the lead in organizing the next Rural Communities Conference in late/early spring 2009. Identify list of partners (i.e. Horizons, Local Government Center).
2. Develop a Statewide Plan of Work for Community Development (CD) and identify 2-3 items to focus on.
3. Create a Partnership / Relationship List to identify / learn what they do, how we can work together.
4. Offer a CD Workshop at Extension Annual Conference Oct. 6-9; 'CD 101' for all agents about our organization and fundamentals of CD, and a more advanced skill-builder session focusing on 'Foundations of Practice.'
5. Look into expanding the Board Workshop to include Non-profit boards; contact MT Non-Profit Association for possible collaboration.
6. Steve Siegelin is working with several agents to organize a Leadership Skill Development Team; the First meeting is September 10-11 in Bozeman and is open to all. Economic Development (ED) Roundtables will be held November 20 in Superior and March 3, 2009 in Whitehall.

Detailed Minutes

10 AM Introduction

Paul Lachapelle

Welcome by Paul Lachapelle who explained purpose of new Association is to share resources, encourage communication and explore ways to better conduct CD programming.

10:05 Welcome from the Director

Jim Knight for Doug Steele

Jim thanked the group for their work in forming the association and noted that forming the MACDEP will help CD across Montana. He noted every community is interested in developing their communities and offered the administration's support.

10:10 Meeting Objectives: What we hope to accomplish

Paul Lachapelle

Two objectives for discussion today:

1. What are we doing well now
2. What can we build on in the future and add, to meet the needs of our communities

10:15 MACDEP Survey Results

Sarah Hamlen / Paul Lachapelle

Paul and Sarah shared the results from the non-random on-line survey distributed to all of Extension in May 2008 (results available from Paul). All agreed, the results will be helpful in guiding the group's strategy.

10:30 What's new in CD: Review / update of current and future programming

Western Region Update, Steve Siegelin

Steve mentioned three areas where he was excited to see CD work in Extension:

1. Horizons
2. MACDEP
3. Leadership Development – Facilitator Excellence Program. The latter has been offered four times in the past two years, and reports are that this training has helped agents. The next offering will be in November 2009. The Office of Public Instruction is interested in the training this summer.

Steve noted that from the Facilitator Excellence Program, a Leadership Skill Development Team is forming.

- First meeting: September 10-11 in Bozeman
- Goal is to help identify the Leadership Development and Community Development needs for two audiences: agents and communities.

Economic Development (ED) Roundtables are being held in Western Region. They are open to any Extension professionals who want to attend. Upcoming roundtables:

- November 20 in Superior (Kevin will host)
- March 3, 2009 in Whitehall (Tara will host).

Deer Lodge County Update, Barb Andreozzi

Barb offered an update on her counties Horizon's projects, with special emphasis on Expanding Educational Opportunities, especially in the trades, working on afterschool programming and developing a Volunteer Center. She offered updates on the completed projects including the new Anaconda Community Foundation and its successful fundraising in less than one year. She also offered an update on the six county Community Business Matching project and the successes in her county and others through the project.

Area Economic Development Coordinator Update, Sarah Hamlen

Sarah gave an overview of the area position she is doing in three counties with the RC&D. She offered a rundown of the projects: (Gallatin, Park and Meager Counties). W. Yellowstone: apartment complex, to turn them into affordable workforce housing, which will assist with attracting teachers, and others. Cook City: Resort Tax leading to infrastructure within the community. Lending is always a problem and how to establish a ballot issue via a resort tax. Big Sky: Workforce housing as average housing is high, condo \$300,000 + which makes it difficult to recruit positions in Big Sky. Beautification projects via a CTAP grant match with the Horizons funds; Impact fees for the Martindale area on the Meagher side of the county. Infrastructure is a huge concern in Meagher County and others. It takes a great deal of time and funding for projects and many have failing infrastructure in her area. Revolving loan funds can be used for infrastructure needs, which could be used to pay off loans within two years. Small businesses are paying a higher percentage of their costs for energy thus we need to help them reduce those costs. There was a brief discussion on infrastructure funding as the needs are so great in the communities.

Jefferson County Update, Tara Mastel

Tara explained that her focus is just ED and CD in Jefferson County. Their Horizons project was held in Whitehall and Boulder: Both communities are continuing the momentum via a Community Development Board in Whitehall. In Boulder they work independently in coordination with the Boulder Local Development Board. They are also working on Housing in both communities along with the Butte Housing Board. In Boulder they purchased five acres and moved some unoccupied trailers off the property. In Whitehall they purchased 11 acres of land and are looking to develop that for affordable housing. They are looking at increasing business development lands in Whitehall and looking at commercial development as their lands are so limited. Tara noted Tom Harrington is her co-ED agent. They needed a humane society / animal shelter, and have held a spay-neuter clinic. They are also working on Trails, Farmers Market and infrastructure in the southern part of their county (water and sewer).

Sarah suggested that we might talk about infrastructure issues and Extension's role during future meetings.

CD across the state, Paul Lachapelle

Paul presented his program areas he has developed since starting as CD Specialist.

1. Civic Engagement / Good Governance: The Board Handbook has sold over 1250 copies and he has offered workshops reaching over 800 people on topics of open meetings, code of ethics, nepotism, board liability, discrimination, wrongful discharge, among others. He is also working on Public Officials Trainings through Municipal Institute, Mayor's Academy, Newly-Elected City Councils Workshops, and MACo meetings; he also is organizing a series of "National Conversations on Public Official trainings" with Extension professionals from 21 other states including a formal session at Galaxy.
2. Community Vitality: Paul just presented Community visioning research from surveys in 7 Horizons communities. He recently presented at two conferences, the Community Development Society 40th International Conference and the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. He has developed Public Lands Publication and a Focus Groups MTGuide with Tara.
3. Community Health Focus Groups with Native populations (currently working on Crow Reservation with an advisory Council of Crow men working on health education and interventions on Prostate and Colorectal Cancer); has received \$39,000 in grants for the work.
4. Other: Attended the Community Development Society 40th International Conference. Many informative presentations on Appreciative Inquiry, SWOT, The Seven Capitals which could be incorporated into MT programming. Paul is also working with the FCS Extension Specialists to try to coordinate efforts, currently EcoStar Awards and Worksite Wellness. Paul noted he would like to put out a Community Development E-Newsletter once a month to all MACDEP members, "MACDEP E-News"

Update from others, (Agents, Specialists, RDHs)

Dan Clark

Dan noted that Horizons has additional funding for more communities, along with some assistance with the alumni communities that have gone through the Horizons program. The focus will continue to be on poverty and increasing the quality of life for those most in need in the communities.

Paul noted that Dan is the new Director of the Local Government Center and asked how the center will work closer with Extension. Dan noted that Horizons was a great learning experience especially the interface with local government and when to engage the local government with various projects. Local empowerment is an important component to any project and he plans to continue to work closely with Horizons and local agents.

11:30 AM Roundtable: What is working well in CD programming / how to expand Open Discussion

Paul opened it up for any issues / discussion.

- Sarah noted that Paul's trainings for County Boards are receiving good reviews; asked about the potential of expansion to non-profit board education. Dan noted Big Sky Institute out of Helena (www.bigskyinstitute.org) offers non-profits assistance - Paul will follow-up on talking with them about a coordinated effort
- Tara noted we need a closer working relationship with the MSU Business School; Wendy added that she is working on a coordinated effort with their businesses school in Great Falls. Jim Knight offered a few suggestions to gain the commitment from professors within the departments to work with us on various projects to meet our community needs.

The group welcomed Doug Steele to the meeting. Paul asked what tangible steps we could take to offer more Econ Dev / CD programs to meet the needs across the state. The group discussed a number of options. Doug noted they are looking at targeting resources to what we value, what we need in the field. Dan noted one of the major issues with the ED dev regions is capacity building. Paul asked that we think about priority areas for CD or ED for our fall meeting. What is the

role of ED in the greater CD efforts for the state? Doug noted we are being funded for another round of Horizons and some funding for the alumni funding. He had the following suggestions for action items:

1. Take the lead in the Rural Communities Conference in late/early spring 2009. Perhaps partner with the Local Government Center.
2. Develop a Statewide Plan of Work for CD to identify 2-3 items to focus on.
3. Create a partnership / relationship list to identify to learn what they do, then how we can work together.

Doug emphasized creating a Preferred Future, i.e., make determinations about what we do today to create what we want in the future. We also need to look at sustainability of whatever we start like the Rural Community Conference.

Jim noted we need to think about the needs of the agents and how we can get agents to see CD as important and related to their jobs, and plan trainings that will gain the support of more agents.

1 PM Professional Development Needs / Priorities

Open Discussion

Jim noted we might want to offer a pre or post session at annual conference. Discussion was on a 'CD 101' type of session to entice all agents to find out about our organization, and a more advanced a skill builder and maybe a self-tutorial of the foundations of practice. The group discussed the potential of an overview and skill builder.

Sarah noted we need to put work groups together on the Rural Community Conference, bringing in our outside partners to explore their resources/services and see what we can plan together for our 2009 conference. Paul will talk with Doug about timing and funding for a potential spring conference.

2 PM Wrap-up (where do we go from here?)

Paul Lachapelle

Info from today's meeting will go on the web. Paul will get the link to the recorded session up shortly and out to all agents via the E-Newsletter. The next communications will be via e-mail. Paul thanked everyone for their participation today and noted we will begin on the Action Items discussed today.

Adjourn at 2:15.