

MADCS

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MADCS Officers:

- President - Larry Draper
- Vice President - Chuck Thomas
- Treasurer - Vernon Stokes
- Secretary - Dennis W. Westover

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Message from the President

On September 20, 2005, after two meetings, an organization called the Montana Association of Dam and Canal Systems was formed. The purpose of this organization is to promote understanding and communications state wide among Montana Dam & Canal Owners. Our Mission Statement is:

To share information between Montana Dam and Canal Owners.

At this first meeting we had fifty people who attended. They consisted of various owners and suppliers. These suppliers brought sample ditch liners, water saving polymer products, engineering information and water consulting information. We also had workshops on dam and canal repair, recreational use problems, liability for dam owners, grants and dam failures. All were very informative.

After the various presentations, nominations from the floor were made to form a Board of Directors and from the Board, officers were chosen to lead the organization. This group met in Helena on December 15, 2005 and created Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, adopted a Mission Statement and discussed our future. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be in April 2006 at which time we will plan our September convention. Ideas and suggestions for the convention are greatly accepted.

As a new organization with a strong base we are looking for members. Details of membership will be discussed at the next board meeting in April, 2006. It should be noted, that though we are supported by the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant, we are an independent organization.

We are looking for your support. Please feel free to contact any one of us with suggestions, ideas and case study questions or problems.

Larry Draper, President
 711 Fred Burr Road - Victor, MT. 59875
 Phone: (406) 961-1490 - Fax: (406) 961-3021 - Email: madcs1@gmail.com

Meet the Officers and Directors

Larry Draper, President

I live in Victor MT. I am involved with the Fred Burr watershed, which consists of two dams, one in the wilderness and one on Forest Service land (a state owned project). I have been involved in this drainage for ten years and I'm looking forward to working with other projects, sharing ideas and helping solve problems.

Dennis Westover, Secretary

I am a retired Insurance Broker now living in the Bitterroot Valley near Victor, MT. Pat and I irrigate forty acres of grass hay and spend much of our time fishing and hiking in the Bitterroots. I have been involved in the Fred Burr Water District for three years. During this time I've gained experience in the adjudication process, water monitoring systems, and liability issues.

Chuck Thomas, Vice President

I live near Hobson, Montana and have ranched here many years. I have been the president of the Ackley Lake Water Users Association for 15 years. We are currently in the early stages of rehabilitating our dam and related structures which were built in 1938. The Ackley project is owned by the DNRC but like other state owned projects is maintained and operated by our association. Our irrigation reservoir, although small, is a very popular recreation spot for water enthusiasts and draws from a large area. I have a particular interest in exploring how recreationists and/or Fish Wildlife and Parks can contribute more financially to the renovation and operation of our dam and reservoir.

Vernon Stokes, Treasurer

I am the manager for the Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company located in Valier Mt. The Company supplies water to 80,000 acres of irrigated land in Pondera County. We are privately owned and have been in existence for 97 years. There are 495 shareholders in our Company. The Company owns 2 storage reservoirs, Swift Dam which has a capacity of 30,000 acre feet and Lake Frances which has a capacity of 105,000 acre feet. The Company has 500 miles of canals and hundreds of structures to maintain. I have been employed by the Company for 30 years.

Grant Info...

Do you have a project? Are you looking for funding? Some of your projects may qualify for a DNRC grant. For information on obtaining grants and what the process is please call either Pam Smith, (406) 444-6839 or Bob Fischer, (406) 444-6688.

DNRC Reference Library

Looking for information about water, dams and canals? DNRC has assembled a nice resource library stocked full of brochures and booklets. The following is a sample of what we have that can easily be sent to your mailbox. Contact Bruce Knutson, DNRC Dam Safety, (406) 444-9362.

- Water Rights in Montana
- Water Commissioners Training Manual
- Water Management: The Montana Irrigators Pocket Guide
- Water Measurement Manual
- A Guidebook for Montana Ponds
- Small Earthen Dam Construction

Other DNRC Contacts...

- Kevin Smith, State Water Projects Bureau Chief, (406) 444-2932
- Michele Lemieux, Dam Safety Program Manager, (406) 444-6613

Meet the Officers and Directors continued...

Vicki L. Perkins Baker,
Board Member

For the past 19 years I have been the secretary for Bynum Irrigation District and Teton Co-operative Reservoir Company. My grandfather, Ira Perkins, who is 93 years old, passed these jobs on to me after his 47 years of service. I just received my 10 year pin as a supervisor for the Teton Conservation District, and I also sit on the Teton County Planning Board. For the past 11 years I have been the Grants Chairman for Agriculture in Montana Schools and am currently the Vice-president.

My husband, Marvin and I have two children, Mary, 23 and Matt, 17. We live on Perkins Ranch being the third and fourth generation of five. We have a cow-calf operation and produce barley, wheat, alfalfa and hay. My grandfather (Ira) started this ranch with sheep and we had 1000 head until 5 years ago, when we went strictly to cattle. Currently we calve out about 1000 head of cattle every spring.

Bynum Reservoir has a capacity of 90,000 acre feet when we aren't in a drought. At the present time, it is mostly empty.

Dan Doornbos, Board Member

I am a cattle rancher in Alder, Montana. I have been President of the Ruby River Water User's Association for the past five years. We manage the Ruby River Reservoir which is a 38,000 acre foot State owned water project built in 1938 providing irrigation water for 90 users in the West Bench Canal and Vigilante Canal Associations in the Ruby Valley. I am interested in working with others who have gone through this process.

Robert T. Goffena,
Board Member

I graduated from MSU-Bozeman with a degree in Ag Business. I am a third generation rancher and a County Commissioner in Musselshell County. I am also currently Chairman of the Board for Deadman's Basin Water Users Association, which is approximately a 200 river mile project from a 72,000 acre foot off-stream reservoir in the Musselshell River Basin in south central Montana. We have a very progressive Board and a top-notch manager, which makes my job easier and more productive. The drought has effected us to the point that in our worst year we had only 9,000 AF to deliver but every year, with the help of measuring devices and water commissioners, we have been able to deliver everyone their correct % share from the top to the bottom of our system.

Help Wanted

This section will be an on going collection of frequently asked questions. If you have a water, dam or canal question or a problem that you need advice or answers to please give us a call. We will answer your questions and post all questions and answers in the upcoming newsletters. Contact Bruce Knutson, (406) 444-9362.

Mark Your Calendars!

Here's what's coming up that you won't want to miss:

- *Second Annual MADCS Conference to be held September 20th and 21st 2006*
- *Water Commissioners Meeting in Helena. April 6th and 7th 2006. Contact Bruce Knutson for more information (406) 444-9362.*

List of Suppliers who attended our first meeting

2M Company, INC.
Tom Tompkins
2700 Palmer
Missoula, MT. 59808
406-549-4427
tompkins@2mco.com

BAFSCO
Pond Liners and Supplies
2178 Centurion Place
aho 83709
1411

HKM Engineering
Jay Thom
PO Box 31318
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Irrico Sales Inc
Andy Schoenberger
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Fort Collins, Co. 80528
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Andy.schoenberger@irrico.com

Firestone Building Products
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William J. Johnston
310 East 96th Street
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317-575-7252
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Franz and Driscoll, PLLP
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Helena, MT. 59624
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Specialize in water resource law

WWC Engineering
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We would like to hear from you!

- If you would like more information
- If you know someone who would like more information
- If your mailing information is in need of corrections....

Contact us!