



**2022 Member Meeting Minutes  
Annual Meeting, Great Falls, MT Monday,  
April 4 at 11:45am  
Holiday Inn Great Falls- Convention  
Center Aronson Room**

**12:13 pm      Meeting Call to Order      Mitch Overton**

**Item #1      Secretary/Treasurer/Budget Report      Chris Waite**

- 2021 Business Meeting Minutes were presented.
  - Jenn Thomsen moved to approve the minutes,
  - Maria Butts 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - motion carried
- Current Financial Update: Chris presented the budge update. The association's expenses are exceeding revenue by small amounts each year. To change this, the association is planning to increase advertising options and improve conference attendance by members and vendors.
- 2023/2024 Proposed Budget:
  - Mike Whitaker- moved to approve the budget as presented
  - Jenn Thomsen 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Motion carried

**Item #2      MTRPA Membership Report      Jamie Saitta**

There are 108 members (80 here at conference), and 9 months to continue to recruit. Members encouraged to think about people in thier community that they can recruit. If members can all invinte one persont to join that would have a big impact. Jamie will collect ideas for people to recruit.

**Item #3      Website/Communications      Danielle Beaudin**

Danielle- new website is up and running. People can register online. It is easy to add new members through website. Job posting are now available on members website. Any member can post jobs.

Cassie- Danielle and Cassie work together on website. \$50 for nonmembers to post jobs. Only \$60 for membership. There is a member forum where you can share resources. You can ask questions and engage with each other on the member forum. Now you can fill out membership roster online and each member will have a log-in. That way they can get updates and membership emails. This applies to all members, even students. You can upload membership through csv file. Several groups have not added all

their memberships, so the 108 members will increase. Sometimes emails get caught in spam. Make sure to whitelist mtrpa's email so you can get those email updates. There will be a quarterly newsletter going out for MTRPA. You can submit content.

**Item #4 Executive Board Vacancies**

Maria Butts has responsibility to nominate members.

**(Officers for Consideration)**

**Mitch Overton**

- Secretary/Treasurer Maria nominates Chris Waite to this position.
  - Donna moves to nominate Chris for another two year term
  - Bob Walker 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Motion approved
- Membership Coordinator
  - Maria nominates Jamie Saita as a two year term
- Student Board Member
  - Position has been resurrected. We will not nominate today. We are planning to take letters of interest and have a vote at the midyear meeting. Excited we have the involvement we now. Important we do have that voice on the board. Plan to have that full representation on the board.
- Advisory Board Member
  - Maria nominates Pat Doyle
- Advisory Board Member
  - Maria nominates Steve Herrig
- Donna Gauckler moves to approve that proposed slate of officers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Walker
- Motion approved unanimously
- Thank you to Craig Marr for years of service as advisory member

**Item #5 By-Laws Update**

**Maria Butts**

- Tribal Board Member
- Maria-we have thought about adding a tribal board member to MTRPA
- Pat Doyle moved to make tribal board member position
- Jamie Saita 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Motion approved

**Item #6 Resource Development Coordinator Update**

**Cassie Lasson**

Cassie Lasson-Tribal membership position. If you work with triable entities in your community, please share this along with them. Easy to vote on position, difficult to fill. Online registration makes the membership position easier. Moving to new email address has helped get the emails into inboxes of members. If you are not receiving emails, please reach out. Job postings are available on website. Great career pathways webinar for students. Professionals spoke about their pathway and career to inspire students. Looking to keep adding these types of services to add more value to members. Creating tribal connections. Pat suggested doing more tribal connections. We are striving to engage better. Cassie also does conference planning and

collaboration. Great experience planning conference. Have ideas and changes for next conference. The RDC position has been needed for the association for a long time. Packet includes letter to tribal organizations. Worked with member of Cree nation to edit it. Please look at making tribal connections in your community.

**Item #7          Student liaison Update                                  Jenn Thomsen**

Jenn Thomsen, professor at UM. Student liaison at the board is a good step. Students are here at the conference, alumni are here. Great to reach out and network. MTRPA held a webinar for students this past year. It went well. MTRPA can do more engagement with students throughout the year. Want to create more career pathways for students. Connect with Jenn directly if you have ideas. There are many graduate students that can engage as well.

**Item #8          Trails Update    Bob Walker**

Bob Walker- Chair of Montana Trails Coalition (MTC). Bob has been advisor to board. 2019 legislative session SB24 passed. About 1.2 million for trails grants and 1.1 million for state parks. MTRPA was a strong supporter of that bill along with MTC. In 2021, many people worked to get park and rec. funding through recreational marijuana sales. This will bring in 2 million for funding to these programs. Those are the two big achievements from the last sessions. Great American Rail Trail has been in planning for the last 5 years. Proposed route is published. In addition to backbone of trail, there are many potential spurs off that trail. There is another trail trying to go between Mexico to Canada. Additionally, sending out transportation alternative funding opportunities.

**Item #9          Legislative Update    Bob Walker**

Bob Walker-Legislative update. Bob is citizen lobbyist for MTRPA (unpaid position). Plan for 2022 is to try and guard the funds secured through SB24 and recreational marijuana. E-bikes are also being discussed. Some proposals are in the works to take ebikes off trails used by non-motorized trails. It is an issue in many states regarding ebikes using nonmotorized trails. Bob will continue to send out email blasts updating state on p&r info. During legislature, Bob sends out weekly emails to give updates on when and where hearings will be held in p&r issues. Get engaged and invite your constituents to get engaged.

Donna- thank Bob to keeping us updated during legislature and communicating value of trails to the membership. Bob's updates are sent out to members.

**Item #10          Aquatics Representative Update                                  Elizabeth Hill**

Skipped, Elizabeth was unable to attend.

**Item #11          2023 Conference    Mitch Overton**

Maria has been working to secure a spot for the 2023.  
Chris nominates whitefish for 2024  
Donna G moves that Billings 2023, whitefish 2024  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Saita

Motion approved

Conference will continue to be spring. Whitefish might move a little earlier to capture opportunity to ski. We moved to spring to make it easier for our members to attend and still meet

**Item #12      Swearing in of the Officers**  
Swearing in in new officers by Mitch.

**Mitch Overton**

**Item #13      Adjourn**