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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

April 29, 2011



Timing is Everything

Monday is the last day to register for the Corps of Engineers **Quality Control Class**. This dynamic class focuses on three-phase inspections, quality control plans, and schedule management - all with an eye on the attaining the highest level of quality construction. Whether or not you bid on a Corps project, this class will make you more efficient and more profitable. May 4 in Helena.

[Register here](#). Don't be left out of future bids because you didn't take a day to train for this certificate!

Sir Claus Moser said, "*Education costs money, but then, so does ignorance.*" This is an important class that will allow you to reap benefits in the future!

Bonding Bill Fails in Legislature; Loses Ground in Final Vote

Despite hundreds of emails and phone calls from contractors, engineers, architects, and other business people around the State, the House of Representatives failed two days in a row to muster the necessary 2/3 majority vote to pass HB 439, which would have approved the sale of \$98 million in general obligation bonds for the construction and renovation of buildings. The bill failed 62-48 (needed 67) Wednesday, and a motion to reconsider the vote passed 54-46, placing it on the House calendar again

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Calendar

April 29

Associates Scholarship Due
[Application](#)

May 4

Corps of Engineers Quality Control Class
Helena
[Registration](#)

May 5

Breakfast With the Board
Missoula
7:30 am

May 6

CLC Meeting
Helena, MCA Office
12:00

May 11

Opencut Permit Training
Billings
[Registration/Information](#)

May 16-20

Safety Fest
Billings, Holiday Inn Grand
[Information](#)

this morning (Thursday), where it failed 59-41. [Click here](#) for the final vote tally.

The entire MCA lobbying team was at the Capitol both days, going eyeball to eyeball with recalcitrant Republicans, while members were contacting them with emails and phone calls, but in the end we could not convince enough of them it was good public policy to create jobs by taking on State debt.

We will be publishing a final summary of bills next week, and a Legislative Report Card within the next few weeks to help sort out who did what for us and to us during this very strange, tumultuous session. Dozens of bills are still on the Governor's desk, and he is fulfilling his promise to veto bills or to issue amendatory vetoes, so we won't know the final outcome for awhile (he has 10 days to act after he gets a bill).

Thanks to all who took the time to contact legislators on the bonding bill and other bills throughout the Session.

New Opencut Permit Training Available

The DEQ is offering training for their new Opencut Permitting Process. The new permit is designed to be more streamlined and efficient, however, DEQ strongly advises that current and future opencut permittees attend the training to better understand the process.

Dates are May 11 in Billings, May 24 in Missoula, and June 9 in Helena. You may register by e-mail to deqopencut@mt.gov or by calling the opencut bureau, 406-444-4979.

Breakfast With The Board

The MCA Board of Directors invites members to attend a breakfast meeting on Thursday, May 5 in Missoula. Bill Johnston, lobbyist for the University of Montana will attend and provide an overview of the "bonding bill" HB 439. Since this bill failed to pass, the discussion will be on analysis of the "how" and "why" it failed, as well as fallout for construction companies. Andy Knapp, Exxon Mobil Corporation, will also update us on the status of moving oversized loads through Montana to the Alberta oil sands. There will be a summary of legislative accomplishments, and an opportunity to let the MCA Board members know what's on your mind.

May 21

Concrete Division Scholarship Due
[Application](#)

May 24-25

Advanced Storm Water Class
Bozeman
[Registration](#)

May 24

Opencut Permit Training
Missoula
[Registration/Information](#)

Quote of the Week

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."
- Seneca

Header Info

Thanks to Fisher Industries for the photo of work being done on the Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam project at Intake, MT.

7:00 am, Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Maryann@mtagc.org.

Megaload Issue Garner's More Attention, MCA Continues to Stir Pot

A worker involved in moving the first Conoco Phillips modules to Billings has weighed in, writing a blistering critique of the reception they got in Missoula versus everywhere else the megaload crews stopped in Montana.

[Click here](#) to read his letter to the editor.

The MCA and the Motor Carriers of Montana have continued their joint effort to counter the recent lawsuit filed by Wildlife Federation and the Missoula County Commissioners against MDT. [Click here](#) to see the guest column Spook Stang and Cary Hegreberg sent to the Missoulian, which has yet to publish it, and to see the letter they sent to the Montana Wildlife Federation, along with the response they received.

If you or someone you know is affiliated with any of the local rod and gun clubs that are listed as [affiliates](#) of the Montana Wildlife Federation, ask the leaders of those clubs why they choose to affiliate with a group that is filing lawsuits to stop commerce in Montana.

Open Shop Merit Wage Survey

If you are running an open shop construction company, please take a few minutes to download this [survey](#). AGC sponsors the survey, and most chapters nationwide participate. It is completely confidential, and provides an overall benefit to the construction industry.

Lower Price - Same Great Training!

The DEQ and the City of Kalispell have provided funding to help reduce the investment cost of the MCA **Advanced Storm Water and Erosion Control** class in both Bozeman and Kalispell! The Bozeman class cost has been reduced to \$250, the Kalispell class will be \$100. Don't miss out on this training - you'll save money now and later!

Baucus Instrumental to Tax Issue

Beginning January 1, 2012, federal, state and local governments will **withhold 3% from each and every payment to contractors** for goods and services - and this is for the entire project cost, not just the profit or net income!

Senator Max Baucus, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, will be instrumental in the implementation or repeal of this issue. The AGC is encouraging all of their members to write to him on this issue - but he is *our* senator, and we need to present a united front within Montana.

The AGC and the MCA strongly urge our members to contact their Senator Baucus to repeal this onerous tax burden. Feel free to use the [format](#) provided here as the basis for a letter or [e-mail](#) to Senator Baucus.

CLC Meeting in Helena

The CLC - Construction Leadership Council - will hold their next meeting at 12:00 on May 6 at the MCA Office in Helena. Lunch will be provided, and then MCA Executive Director Cary Hegreberg will provide an overview of the results of the Montana Legislature.

The CLC consists of the younger, mid-level managers, supervisors, sales professionals, foreman, agents and superintendents from across the construction industry. CLC membership focuses on networking with future leaders of the industry, as well as educational events. For more information, contact the MCA.

Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



Montana Contractors' Association



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