



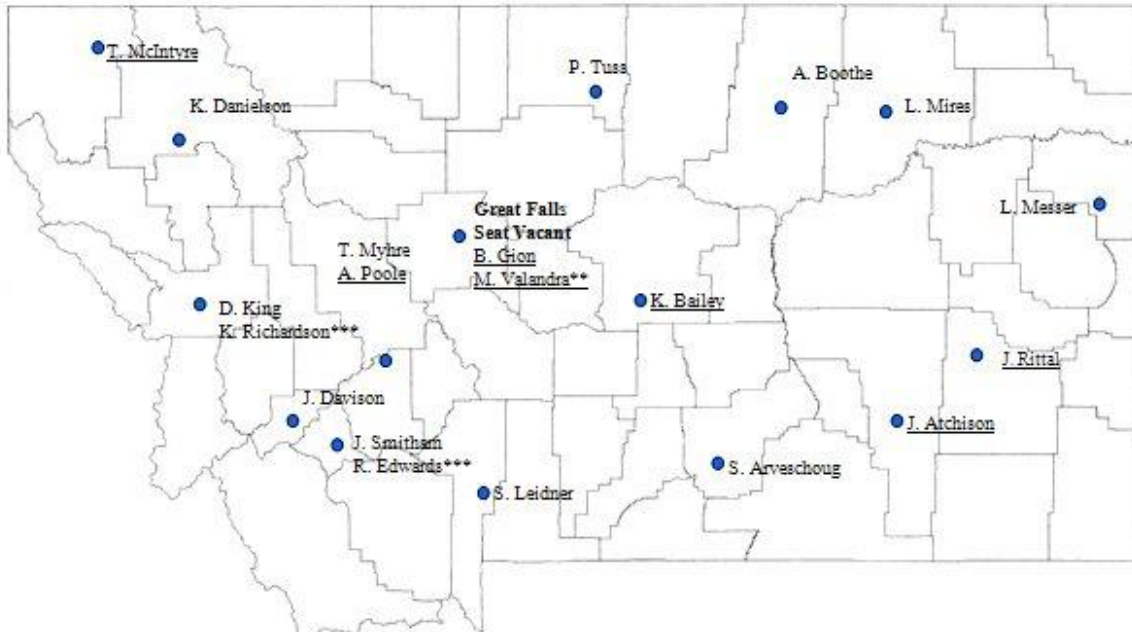
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MEDA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 29, 2011
 Bozeman Holiday Inn
 Bozeman, MT

WELCOME and ELECTIONS

MEDA Vice President Terry Myhre and MEDA Past President Rick Edwards (pictured right) welcomed MEDA Members to the 2011 Annual Membership Meeting. Rick served as Chair of the Nominating Committee which also included Jim Smitham and Paul Tuss. The Nominating Committee recommended renewing the following board seat terms for 2011 - 2013: Tracy McIntyre, Andy Poole, Brian Gion, Kathie Bailey, Jason Rittal and Jim Atchison. Paul Tuss moved for the membership to approve the renewal of board members as listed. Stuart Leidner seconded; all voted in favor. Rick shared the map below and noted the geographic representation of board members across the state.



The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of Officers:

- President: Larry Mires
- Past President: Jim Davison
- Vice President: Terry Myhre
- Treasurer: Tracy McIntyre
- Secretary: Gloria O'Rourke

Debi Davidson moved to approve the slate of Officers. Billie Lee seconded; all voted in favor.

Rick Edwards noted Maria Valandra served as the Native American representative to the board but could not serve another term. Rick asked the membership to recommend names of those willing to fill this board seat. The Great Falls Development Authority seat is also vacant.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Vice President Terry Myhre asked for Committee Updates from the following:

Scholarship – Anne Boothe, Chair. Anne reported the following received MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships and a 1st Interstate Bank Scholarship: Mike Coryell, Miles City Area Development Corp., \$800; Karen Smith, MT Credit Unions for Community Dev., \$400; James Rexhouse, Sanders County Economic Dev., \$400; Allyson Reddig, Two Rivers Growth, \$800; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka Rural Development Partners, \$800. Anne announced that half of the scholarship funds for the fall would go to NDC training and the other half available for non-NDC scholarships.



Professional Development – Kellie Danielson, Chair. Kellie first thanked PPL Montana for its generous support of MEDA's Professional Development training. The pre-conference Marketing seminars were a great success with over 50 members receiving training. The next professional development training will be held this fall on the topic of "Funding your Economic Development Organization." Kellie asked MEDA members to submit success stories to her on how organizations have either raised money or saved money.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

MEDA has 12 working groups involved in various issues regarding economic development in Montana.

- **Transportation:** Zanya Betley, Chair. Zanya reported this group has met several times via conference call and is learning about resources involving transportation infrastructure. In addition, a webinar is planned May 26th, 11:00am, with Joe Kiely, Ports-to-Plains Alliance.
- **Workforce and Education:** Zanya Betley also serves as Chair for this Working Group. The purpose of this group is to improve communication and connections between educators and workforce. Pat Wise and Susie Burch have been guests on two conference calls.
- **Economic Gardening:** Marcy Allen, Chair. Marcy reported the group held a webinar on Economic Gardening with founder Chris Gibbons and is planning another presentation soon.
- **Innovation and Strategic Planning:** Steve Arveschoug, Chair. Steve thanked the Innovative Working Group members for all that has been accomplished to date. Next steps: follow-up conference call to discuss intern's report and begin strategic planning.
- **Brownfields and Environmental:** Gib Turner, Chair. Gib said this group has not yet met but he is compiling a list of best practices to be shared.
- **Web Standards:** Jim Smitham, Chair. IEDC has set demographic and other standards for economic development web pages to provide for site selectors. This group will gather the standards information and share with economic development organizations so that Montana can meet the qualifications.

- BEAR: Gloria O'Rourke, Chair. Dave Morey, 21st Century Workforce Program Director, shared with attendees statistics from IWTG as of the end of January. New data will be available soon. Overall, Dave said he is very pleased with the funds expended and number of workers trained. As of January 31st, 485 workers have been trained.
- Value Added Ag: Jan Tusick, Chair. Food and Ag Centers survived the legislature albeit with a funding reduction.
- Energy: Deborah Singer, Chair. Brian Obert reported on this group's progress. Tom Kaiserski will be joining the next Energy Working Group call to answer specific energy questions from the group. It was noted September 25 – 28 is the Big Sky Conference on Renewable Wind Energy and Transmission.
- Tourism: Mike Strang, Chair. Sam Korsmoe encouraged economic developers and MEDA members to join in a bike tour project that mirrors other state's success. The impact from such events in other states has been phenomenal. Sam is organizing a ride beginning August 13th from West Yellowstone to Glacier that will stretch 540 miles. MEDA membership support is encouraged.
- RLF: Christin Hileman, Chair. Tina Oliphant said this is an active group which holds conference calls once per month. RLF's are a big liability as well as a big asset to economic development organizations and need to learn from each other.
- Native American Economic Development and Partners: Barb Stiffarm, Chair. A meeting has not yet been held with this group but Barb participated in an RLF Working Group call and provided information on dealing with loans on reservations.

LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES

Evan Barrett, Andy Poole and Rick Edwards reported on legislative outcomes from the 2011 Session.

[View the slides.](#)

The Legislative Committee was thanked for its hard work: Rick Edwards, Chair; Dore Schwinden, Evan Barrett, Larry Mires, Brian Gion, Brett Doney, Terry Myhre, Paul Tuss, Jim Smitham, Jim Davison, Steve Arveschoug, Dick King, Tracy McIntyre, Sarah Converse, Philip Fletcher, Andy Poole, Tony Preite, Jim Atchison, Marie Fisher, Marcy Allen and Pam Lemer

MEDA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

A MEDA Membership Survey is in the works that will allow members to provide conference evaluation feedback as well as feedback on all things MEDA.

2011MEDAAnnualMeeting.pdf