

# IEDC AND MEDA FALL 2007

*Thanks to everyone who participated in the IEDC Intro to Economic Development Course and/or the 2007 MEDA Fall Conference. Below are photos of the events and links to the presentation files.*

**OCTOBER 29 – 31, 2007**

**IEDC Course #1: Introduction to Economic Development**

**Main Sponsor: PPL Montana**



**MEDA provided 52 students for the first course in the six course series:**

Rebecca Helvik, Melissa Kramer, Dianne Lehm, Patty Nordlund, Scott Patera, Karyl Tobel, Rebeka Wales, Steve Zeier, Krystal Steinmetz, Susan Burch, Steve Clairmont, Carol Cunningham, Adam Gill, Kimberly Morisaki, Tina Oliphant, Steve Simonson, Deborah Singer, Julie Foster, Joe LaPlante, Leah Noel, Denise Smith, Debbie Swanson, Vicki Judd, Ray Sarcletti, Elaina Zempel, Andrew Zdinak, Gloria O'Rourke, Kathie Bailey, Cheryl Curry, Rebecca Engum, Shannon Harrison, Stephen Horowitz, Sheli Jacoby, Susan Jensen, Carolyn Keller, Jerry Lamb, Carrie Mantooth, Stephanie Mattocks, Tracy McIntyre, Chris Mehus, Leslie Messer, Kathy Moody, Angela Nelson, Cal Oraw, Lisa Perry, Don Pisarcik, Howard Skjervem, Kim Thiel-Schaaf, Lillian Sunwall, Lisa Wheeler, Pat Wise and Charlie Wright. More professionals came from out of state to take the course traveling from Mississippi, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming.

Course materials from: [Day 1](#); [Day 2](#); [Day 3](#).



**Instructor Karen Byrnes,  
Urban Revitalization Director, Butte, MT.**

[Read the Fast Feedback Survey](#)



Happy Halloween Birthday to Steve Zeier.  
L to R: Rebecca Helvik, Steve Zeier and Kathy Moody.

Below: Three Witches – Ann Berlin and Diane Smith (IEDC) and Gloria O'Rourke.



**2007 MEDA FALL CONFERENCE**  
**THURSDAY, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Key Program Updates from Montana Dept. of Commerce**

[Economic Momentum](#) Tony Preite, State Director; [ED Funding Update](#) Andy Poole, Deputy Director;  
[The Road Ahead](#) Pam Harris, CEIC; [Energy 2007](#) Tom Kaiserski, EPID; Dave Cole, Community Development  
Div.; [What's New at Travel MT](#) Betsy Baumgart, MT Promotion Div.

**Learn the Latest from MEDA Working Groups: Housing, Tourism and BEAR**

Larry Gallagher, HUD; [Tourism and Economic Development](#) Debi Davidson, Kootenai River Development  
Council; Steve Simonson, Sanders County Community Development; Gloria O'Rourke, Coordinator



**Breaking News from the Governor's Office of Economic Development, MT  
USDA/Rural Development and SBA**

Left: Evan Barrett, Chief Business Dev Officer;

Below: [MT USDA/RD](#) Clark Johnson, State Director and Field Officers



Also presenting was Michelle Johnston, SBA State Director.

[Learn the Latest from the MEDA Energy Working Group:](#) Susan Ockert, Senior Research Economist

**Montana's Congressional Delegation:** Senator Jon Tester, Senator Max Baucus and Rep. Dennis Rehberg each sent a message of encouragement and continued partnership to the members of MEDA.

Lunch presentation on November 1<sup>st</sup>:

**What is WiMAXX Technology and what does it have to do with Economic Development?** Todd Twete  
[View the Powerpoint](#) [View the Video](#)

**Time to Shine – CRDC Open Discussion.** Many conference attendees felt this was the most valuable portion of the entire conference: learning what their colleagues are doing.



**Shannon Harrison,  
Sweetgrass Development**



**Paul Rumelhart,  
Kootenai River Dev. Corp.**



**Mike Carlson,  
Eastern Plains, RC&D**



**Kathie Bailey,  
Snowy Mountain Dev.**

**Membership Strategy Session to Define MEDA Legislative Philosophy, Policy and Key Issues**  
[Overview by Rick Edwards](#), President of MEDA

**MEDA Board Subcommittee Reports**

- [Economic Development Program Financing](#) (Andy Poole)
- **Workforce** (Evan Barrett)
- **Infrastructure** (Rick Edwards)
- **Housing** (Larry Gallagher and/or MEDA Housing Working Group)
- **MEDA's Legislative Philosophy and Policy** (Rick Edwards)

**Discussion, Decisions and Next Steps:**

*Regarding Funding of Economic Development Programs and One Time Only Programs:*

- Once MEDA reviews and evaluates existing programs, the defense of these programs will be much stronger as the defense will be based on fact.
- Everyone needs to get their won legislators involved and introduced to business persons that utilize economic development programs.
- Must pull together a coalition as was done in 1999 to pass the original programs.
- Next step: brainstorm how to get the message out.
- Expand number of sites to provide technical assistance to ag producers.
- Include tourism in the top main issues of MEDA.

*Regarding Workforce Issues:*

- Early Care and Education – provider network. Looking into how the early care industry relates to economic development and the business community.
- Target #1: Identified continuation of new worker training program.
- Target #2: Incumbent worker training – with the understanding that the money it would take would be like an unlimited universe. Pilot program in Billings now and is tied to the BEAR program. MDOL will use trust fund money in the amount of one million dollars if the pilot is successful. Target is likely to be in the healthcare and building trade/apprenticeship programs.

*Regarding Infrastructure Issues:*

Expect bills relating to --

- Tax Increment Finance issues
- Local option sales tax (distribution became the sticking point in the past)
- energy – (transmission, authority, permitting, etc.),
- TSEP
- water/sewer

Also consider:

- Border communities experiencing impact from the Canadian dollar.
- Increase funding for the TIP program – to assist Tourism
- MEDA's Energy Working Group create an implementation plan for the Energy Policy for the state. See [http://www.business.mt.gov/docs/cabinet\\_energy\\_eco\\_devo\\_fall\\_2006.pdf](http://www.business.mt.gov/docs/cabinet_energy_eco_devo_fall_2006.pdf)

*Regarding Housing Infrastructure Issues:*

- Larry Gallagher suggested that if housing is an issue in your community to attend the workshop in Great Falls on November 20<sup>th</sup> or let someone on the MEDA Housing Working Group know of your issues.
- The State of Montana is one of the few states that does not have a permanent housing trust fund. A bill to address this did not pass the last session, but with MEDA's support, it might the next time.
- Larry Gallagher is the Energy Star Initiative Liaison and said, "If it isn't energy efficient it is not affordable housing."
- Cooperative Housing – a creative way to obtain new and affordable housing. See Brian Gion.
- Gus Byrom is working on a model for housing purchases utilizing a bonding program.

*Regarding MEDA Policy and Philosophy*

- A member of each MEDA Working Group should be on the MEDA Legislative Committee
- MEDA is perceived as an arm of the administration...but if we stick to these main issues and educate legislators on the issues that perception should fade.
- Educate legislative candidates as well as current legislators.
- Be more inclusive – so that legislators feel they can come to us with their bills.

**If you have specific items to add to these main issues, give the information to Gloria and she will pass it along to the appropriate committee.**

**RECEPTION AT THE CHARLIE RUSSELL MUSEUM - -Sponsored by Great Falls Development Authority**



**Left: Lisa Perry, Linda Beck and Kathy Moody**



**Left: Mike Strotheide and Mike Carlson**



**Left: Paul Tuss meets Lorraine Enloe (Gloria's 100 year old Grandma.)**

## **FRIDAY, November 2nd**

### **Funding Strategies for your Economic Development Organization**

Open Discussion with panelists to review the following strategies: Local Government Appropriation, Local Government Mill Levy, Program Operation, Real Estate Development, and Private Investment

[Forward Great Falls](#) Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority; Joe McClure, Big Sky EDA and Jim Davison, Anaconda Local Development Corp.



Left: Brett Doney and Joe McClure  
Below: Jim Davison



### **Discussion Notes from the Breakout Groups: Do you have a strategic plan?**

- Yes, most do.
- Operate entirely off of strategic plans and work plans.

### **Do you have a business plan?**

- Some do, some don't...but thinking about it.
- Operate our organization as a business – must end the year in the black.

### **What is your product/service profitability?**

- Public exposure, CTIP, recognized by local government.
- Grant services – builds relationships, political goodwill
- Manage funds for others
- Package deal with RLF

### **Misc.**

IEDC training - -keep joint with MEDA conference.  
Ideas for MEDA's conferences –

- Breakout sessions for different levels of experience
- Want to come to a conference and be challenged.
- Bring in people from outside the state – i.e., Whitefish conference.
- Best practices – importance of them and learning from others.
- Topic for best practices.
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – IEDC fundraising webinar. <http://www.iedconline.org>

## Breakout Group Photos



Left: Cheryl Curry, Mike Strotheide and Adam Gill  
 Below: Denise Smith, Julie Foster, Kathie Bailey, Joe LaPlante



Facing L to R: Debbie Swanson, Linda Kindrick, Randy Hansen, Steve Clairmont, Cal Oraw, Connie Ternes-Daniels

### Scholarship Awards:

Linda Kindrick, Executive Director, Montana Community Finance Corporation, announced the following

scholarship awards:



- Cheryl Curry (pictured left): NWEDC Training \$1,000
- Carrie Mantooth: Heartland Training \$450
- Kim Thiel-Schaaf: Heartland Training \$125
- Tara Mastel: Heartland Training \$300

### Next IEDC Training:

- May 5 – 6, Billings “Real Estate Development and Reuse”
- Oct 6, 7, 8, Butte “Economic Development Credit Analysis”

**Next MEDA Spring Conference** May 7 – 8, Billings (Tentative)

**Special thanks to:**

- Great Falls Development Authority (MEDA host and Reception)
- PPL Montana - IEDC Sponsorship
- MEDA Board – MEDA support and IEDC training
- Montana Community Finance Corporation – MEDA Scholarships

**Thank you for supporting MEDA!**