



## TALK ABOUT TEAM WORK ~ MONTANA RESOURCE TEAMS

Whether organizing a new team visit, or following up for a return team visit, the month of May was fully engaged with MEDA Resource Teams.

- Greater Ronan Assessment May 9 – 10: Gypsy Ray, Lake County Community Development Council, pulled together a new local leadership team to ensure the MEDA Resource Team visit would be productive and worthwhile. Gypsy's effort was such a success that Ronan now has local leadership in place to accomplish projects in the future. And what might those projects be? The Ronan Resource Team returns June 8<sup>th</sup> to assist in the Project and Priorities Town Meeting.



L to R: Gus Byrom, John Donovan, Tracy McIntyre, Martin DeWitt, Gloria O'Rourke, Alyssa Townsend, Eric Seidensticker, Sarah Converse, and Gypsy Ray

- Deer Lodge Team Return Visit May 12: For the first time, a MEDA Resource Team directly linked its report to a community's Growth Plan. Working with Julie Schroeder, Anaconda Job Service and Deer Lodge Chamber of Commerce, the Deer Lodge Team returned on May 12<sup>th</sup> and following MEDA's three step process, assisted in identifying projects, priorities, and working groups for the community of Deer Lodge.



Above Left -- The voting results and top priority for Deer Lodge: Downtown Revitalization.  
Above Right -- Small groups came to consensus on main issues to address in Deer Lodge.

## TALK ABOUT MULTI-STATE TEAM WORK ~ ID, WA, MT

In addition to putting teams on the ground in Deer Lodge and Ronan, the assessment process continued to be showcased and explored in all places, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Those familiar with how MEDA Resource Teams began back in 2003, know that Montana's process was "borrowed" from Wyoming. Gloria O'Rourke, Montana's Resource Team Coordinator, was invited to be the guest of Debra Hansen (Washington Extension) and Lorie Higgins (Idaho Extension) to co-present with Idaho and Wyoming Team Coordinators on each state's existing process. The presentations were given in the "ignite" format which means using under twenty slides timed to 30 seconds each.



Following the three presentations, an Extension Agent was asked to provide insight and observations on the process. Paul Lachapelle addressed Montana's process and is working with the MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group to incorporate the Community Capitals. The Western Rural Development Center/Community Development Extension Institute was held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, May 23 – 25. [More Information](#) [View the ID, MT, WY Presentation](#)

## MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In case you missed it, Kellie Danielson, Montana West Economic Development (and MEDA Board Member) is leaving her position as Executive Director and returning to Arkansas. Kellie served for several years as the Co-Chair of the MEDA Professional Development Committee. Her professionalism and expertise will be missed.

## OPPORTUNITY CALL – June 29 at 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into two featured programs during each call. In May, participants learned of the various data resources MDOC uses to analyze focus areas for tourism and other economic development activities. Check out the other program updates and news by reading the [meeting notes](#).



## MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This working group is taking a break for the summer months and will resume meeting in early fall. [notes](#)

- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group met on May 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Ronan assessment activity as well as the Deer Lodge Team’s return town meeting. The group is discussing how to build capacity further as a result of the three step return town meeting process. MEDA Resource Team Assessments continue to evolve and develop best practices as a result of this collaboration. [Minutes of the meeting.](#) Next call: August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Third Quarter round is now open with the deadline of July 29th. [Criteria and Application](#) Submit your application today! Second Quarter scholarship winners will be announced soon.

## **MEDA BOARD ACTIVITY**

The next MEDA Board meeting will be held the morning of August 11<sup>th</sup>, at Fairmont, with a working lunch with the Montana Ambassador Board. All MEDA members are invited to attend.



**Highlights for May 2016**     [Full Report](#)

### **BEAR IS HEADED TO GLENDIVE**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, BEAR is headed to Glendive! Here are the details; contact Glendive Job Service for more information.

Business Alive-Host Badlands BEAR

JUNE 16 –Dawson Community College Toepke Center -300 College Dr. Glendive, MT 59330

Networking social at 5:30 PM; Speakers 6:30 PM

After the presentations, attendees will have an opportunity for one-on-one networking and refreshments

#### Speakers:

- Bo Bruinsma, MT Department of Labor & Industry- Apprenticeship Program
- Liz Ching, Governor’s Office of Economic Development – Business Navigator
- Mike and Gloria O’Rourke, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) - BEAR
- Chris Wilhelm, MT Department of Labor & Industry -Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)

### **IWT UPDATE – Chris Wilhelm**

Chris sent an update on May 18<sup>th</sup> and indicated 286 applications had been processed to date with 233 awarded thus far in the Fiscal Year. As of May 18<sup>th</sup> there remained \$56,318 in the IWT fund with 417 employees trained to date.

### **BEAR TEAM OUTREACH FOR MAY**

Four visits were recorded in May: Katie Weaver (2) and Meagan Lannan, Park County; Marissa Hauge, Stillwater County, and Chany Ockert, Flathead County.

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants](#) Extension Community Resources Program *weblink*. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.

## **TOOLS FOR YOU** –Opportunities to learn or share in your area of expertise

**Sign up Today! Free Brownfields Technical Assistance -- CDFA Brownfields Online Project Marketplace -- June 22-24, 2016 from 1:00pm - 5:00pm Eastern, Sessions Available Daily**

If your community has redevelopment plans for a brownfield site and wants to learn about leveraging financial resources for the project, enroll in the Marketplace today! The [\*\*CDFA Brownfields Project Marketplace\*\*](#) is a forum that connects communities looking to finance brownfield redevelopment projects with development financiers and brownfield project experts. Communities that present in the Marketplace will come away with a better [\*\*understanding of the financing resources available\*\*](#) to them for their brownfields projects.

Over 80 communities have already participated in the Marketplace. Eight of these communities have received further technical assistance through a [\*\*CDFA Brownfields Project Response Team\*\*](#), a site visit providing one-on-one recommendations from a combination of CDFA staff and technical assistance partners. Each Response Team community receives a [\*\*Roadmap to Redevelopment Report\*\*](#), which contains specific, actionable recommendations that can transform brownfields into useable sites.

To enroll in the Marketplace, first complete the application. CDFA staff will follow up with you at the contact information you provide to confirm your submission. [\*\*>>> Enroll in the Marketplace\*\*](#) [\*\*>>> Frequently Asked Questions about the Marketplace\*\*](#) [\*\*>>> View Community Presentations from Past CDFA Marketplaces\*\*](#)

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