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**MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
 March 29, 2017
 10:30am – 11:30am**

On the call from MDOC: Casey Lozar, Eric Clap, Annmarie Robinson, Dave Desch, Carolyn Jones, Karyl Tobel, Gus Byrom, Adam Benson, Lindsay Hagmaier, Heather Sobrepena-George, and Pam Haxby-Cote.

On the call from MEDA: Roger Hopkins, Tori Matejovsky, Russ Fletcher, Gypsy Ray, Brett Doney, Dick King, Paul Tuss, Jim Atchison, Anne Boothe, Wolf Ametsbichler, Gloria O'Rourke, and others who called in late who could not be identified.

Welcome and Program Updates

Casey Lozar welcomed everyone to the call and especially welcomed Pam Haxby-Cote as the new State Director for MDOC. Casey reported on the recent Made in Montana conference which had over 6,000 participants. MDOC also had the tourism conference right after Made in Montana and it was well attended with over 450 people participating. Casey reported Sean is in Washington, DC this week working with Montana Congressional Delegation and tourism for Montana. MDOC is very willing to help with the MEDA Conference May 2 - 3 and play a role in the conference. July 12 - 13 is the Innovate Montana Symposium; workshops will take place July 11th.

Casey Lozar requested the following program updates from MDOC.

CDBG/Community Development Division – Gus Byrom	Gus reported staff is busy with upcoming water and sewer projects. TSEP and CDBG planning guidelines are being updated.
SBDC Director – Casey reporting for Chad Moore	March 22 was National SBDC Day which was a great event with the Governor and various businesses featured. The event was trending on Twitter across the nation.
Indian Country Programs – Heather Sobrepena George	Heather provided an update on programs. Tribes have provided the match amount for one program in the amount of \$252,000 so funding is going back out via contracts. In addition, \$150,000 is going out to tribal governments for MT Indian Youth Small Business Program. A competition is open for naming the program and for designing a logo.
BSTF and WTP – Annemarie Robinson	Annmarie reminded everyone the next deadline for BSTF is April 26 th . The next deadline is July 9 th . Currently no applications are being accepted for Primary Sector Workforce Training as the funds are spent. The staff is very busy with current BSTF applications.
MTIP – Lindsey Hagmaier	There are two upcoming learning opportunities for MTIP: April 19 th – MTIP UofM Blackstone workshop; April 20 th – Hamilton intellectual property discussion/workshop. lhagmaier@mt.gov .
Carolyn Jones – Loan Fund Manager	Carolyn reported the Indian Equity program is wrapping up. Wood Products RLF still has 1.7million available. Microbusiness Finance Program – funds are all expended. CRDC – working through 2017 recertification.

Export Office – Eric Clap	Multiple trade and show options were shared: Wine and Gourmet food show in Tokyo, Japan – Montana is bringing distillery and brewery representatives. There are several other international meetings pending. The IMAX show is happening in Australia, in August featuring mining equipment companies. The idea is to focus on business opportunities outside of the Bakken. Plans are pending for a trade mission with Governor Bullock to Australia as well. The office is looking at key Montana clusters and prioritizing markets accordingly.
SBIR - Dave Desch	Dave reported SBIR matching funds are gone for the 2017 biennium. There are some funds in HB2 for the 2019 biennium so applications will continue to be accepted for SBIR matching funds program.

MEDA Update

Paul Tuss facilitated the call for MEDA and welcomed Pam once again. Paul noted the MEDA Conference May 2nd and 3rd and encouraged everyone to attend. Small Business Week is April 25th, with a celebration of business awards at Fairmont Hot Springs. Brett noted Ignite Montana! will be taking place and he is looking for additional speakers. Each speaker has only five minutes.

Bear Paw Development Corp – Paul Tuss	Bear Paw recently held its annual meeting and in 2016 assisted local government and businesses with over \$4.3million in outside funding for infrastructure as well as business startups and expansion. \$41 dollars was leveraged for every \$1 dollar from government funds.
Snowy Mountain – Kathie Bailey	Kathie listed a host of projects including the cleanup of three gas stations in the region. Four other properties in Roundup, Lavina, Lewistown and Harlowton are obtaining redevelopment assistance with BSTF. On April 18 th a Leadership Class of 15 is graduating. A workshop “Old is the New New” is taking place this weekend. Kathie is also working on a housing project in Lewistown.
Lake County – Gypsy Ray	Gypsy thanked BSTF and USDA for many projects in the works in her region. CDBG planning projects are pending, especially one for a new jail in Ronan. A cooperative brewery is in the works to revitalize Ronan downtown.
SEMDC – Jim Atchison	Jim noted there were 11 bills regarding coal country with seven remaining active. Jim is working on updating SEMDC’s CEDS, plus working with the Coal Country Coalition which has a study in final form to be published soon. Colstrip Diversification Strategy study is almost complete. SEMDC received a BSTF grant for a hospital study in Miles City.
Great Falls Development – Brett Doney	The Fire Within –an annual event to celebrate female entrepreneurs is tomorrow night. Efforts continue for ag production projects with funding for equipment, etc. Pasta Montana is expanding; a Canadian company is expanding to Great Falls. The Ag Summit will be in Great Falls the end of May. GFDA will attend the Food Expo in Vegas in June as well as an event in Calgary, in July. Great Falls food processors are looking for solutions. GFDA is going to Select USA and would like to partner with others attending. The Site Selector’s Guild will hold its meeting in Seattle this year; Brett encouraged a Montana delegation to attend.
SBA – Roger Hopkins	Roger shared details on the SBDC April 25 th event at Fairmont; lender training will take place on the 24 th . Roger will send more information soon.
Prospera – Paul Reichert	Prospera just published their community profile and it is available on their website. BSTF grants are keeping Prospera busy as well as three USDA grants. Women’s Business Center is beginning a “how to start a business class” called Power Up. It is a three week series. A demo

	on Montana Photonics Industry will soon take place in Bozeman. Prospera has good loan activity and is developing a three – five year strategic plan.
Great Northern – Tori Matejovsky	Tori reported their new SBDC Director Shandy Hanks began on Monday. Great Northern recently applied for BOI funding and submitted IRP applications. Tori also mentioned a contract with Ft. Peck Tribes to work with small businesses.
Triangle Communication – Anne Boothe	MEDA is holding an Infrastructure Professional Development Training the morning of May 2 nd .

Paul encouraged everyone to focus on Montana’s legislative issues as well as the national cuts that are pending.