



Online News



May 2-3: [MEDA Spring Conference](#)
May 8-10: [Montana Housing Conference](#)
May 9: MNA [QuickBooks for Nonprofits](#)
May 11: RTA Working Group Call
May 11: [Preparing for the 2020 Census](#)
May 11: [Foodpreneur Training](#)
May 15-17: [National SBIR Conference](#)
May 26: MEDA Rick Jones Scholarship Deadline
May 31: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call

[Register for Innovate MT Symposium](#)

[Sponsor Innovate MT Symposium](#)



June 6: RLF Working Group Call
June 8: RTA Working Group Call
June 27-29 [Tech Tour](#)
June 28: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)

[MNA Training Calendar](#)

Charting the Course in the Winds of Change – see you in Great Falls!



Check out the additions to the
[Final MEDA Agenda](#)

Agenda for the Pre-Conference
[Infrastructure Planning and Finance](#)
[Training](#)

Online Registration has Closed – so just come to the door!

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Annual MEDA Membership Meeting will take place Wednesday, May 3rd, during the MEDA Conference. The membership will elect officers and board members and receive an update on MEDA committees and activities. MEDA, in partnership with Montana Ambassadors, nominated John Rogers as Small Business Champion of the Year. Check out the video [here](#).

OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is set for May 31st; 10:30am



These monthly calls with our Montana Dept of Commerce partners are a great way to share where opportunities are developing, what the demand for services is looking like and how together we can continue to successfully grow Montana's economy. [Meeting notes.](#)

MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board will hold its Spring Board Meeting as part of the MEDA Conference the evening of May 2nd. The meeting will take place at the Dark Horse Wine Snug, Celtic Cowboy, at 7pm. Agenda items include: Officer and Board Nominations, Committee Reports, and MEDA business updates.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- Dax Schieffer, Chair of the **MEDA Tourism and Recreation Working Group** plans to hold quarterly meetings to discuss the key role of tourism in Montana's economy. [Notes from the previous call.](#)
- **Going to Quarterly Calls - MEDA RLF Working Group**– This working group is switching its call schedule to quarterly meetings; June 6th, 10am, is the next call. If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. [Notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group met on April 13th and learned more details about a three state grant that will assess and improve the Resource Team Assessment process. The next call is set for May 11th at 9am. [Notes from the call.](#) Learn more about MEDA's assessments [here.](#)

MEDA Rick Jones Memorial SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Send in your applications! Deadline for this quarter: Friday, May 26th. For more information visit: [Criteria and Application](#)

MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

The Ronan Resource Team is heading back to Ronan to celebrate all that has been accomplished since the team's visit last year. Resource Teams Pending: Philipsburg, Chinook, and Poplar are making plans for a resource team visit. More information will be available soon.

MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **MEDA Scholarship and Professional Development Committee**
Once this committee has the MEDA Pre-Conference Training completed, plans will be made for a webinar training. Stay tuned!
- **MEDA Legislative Committee**
Under the leadership of Rick Edwards, the hard working MEDA Legislative Committee held its last 7am call on Wednesday, April 26th. It was a very challenging session with outcomes still to be determined on many issues. Rick will have a legislative review for attendees at the MEDA Conference.
- **MEDA Membership Committee**
A lively discussion was held during a meeting on April 17th to share ideas on increasing the value of MEDA's membership. Be sure to meet new MEDA members during the conference and welcome them to our network!



Highlights for April 2017

- The BEAR Google Form Database was the recipient of two BEAR Team visits in April. Both were from Warren Vaughan and the Bozeman BEAR Team.
- IWT Update from Chris Wilhelm:
“Due to the current State of Montana budgetary issues, the Governor’s Budget Office has placed certain requirements/restrictions on agencies through the remainder of SFY17. To comply with these requirements, the Department of Labor will need to receive approval for ANY grants or similar expenditures that we award from today through June 30th. This is only a formality, but will cause a slight delay as we acquire the additional approval on awards before I can issue them to applicants.” For additional information contact Chris Wilhelm at 406.444.3351 or email iwt@mt.gov
- Interested in reviving, changing up your BEAR Team? Contact the BEAR office (406.563.5259) and check out this website for training events: <http://www.brei.org/upcoming-events.html>

TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.



More information: [Foodpreneur Training](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.