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MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group
September 8, 2016
9:00am – 10am

On the call: Gloria Hawkins, Gloria O'Rourke, Kim Porter, Sue Taylor, Gus Byrom, Shannon Peterson, and Paul Lachapelle.

1. Report from Kim – Wyoming response to “Nothing to do Here”

Following introductions, Gloria O'Rourke asked Kim for an update on Wyoming's deeper dive into the often heard statement by youth “there is nothing to do in this town.” Kim was pleasantly surprised by the number of people that responded to the questions and by the number of people who provided their phone number to be involved with next steps. At one point the community agreed to facilitate a meeting this fall to bring students and adults together to address the responses, but momentum was lost over the summer and there is no longer interest in meeting. The community is, however, working on two master plans for the area and students will be involved in that process so it is hoped additional information might be gleaned.

3. Seeley Lake Assessment Sept 19 – 20

Gloria listed the team members for this assessment; discussion was held on the sensitive and important wastewater project that is depending on a favorable vote for a bond to supplement the grants received for the project. Team members: Lyle Coney, Jim Smitham, Debi Davidson, Richard Knatterud, Jenni Graff, and Eliud Uresti.

4. Pending Assessments

- a. **Poplar** – perhaps in the spring
- b. **Boulder** – still under consideration
- c. **Big Fork** – questions (see below)
- d. **Ft. Benton** - pending
- e. **Chinook** - pending

Kim Morisaki wrote: Bigfork leaders are interested in the reports from Red Lodge (2004), Gardiner (2005) and Big Sky (2007) because of their tourist focus and the use of the 3% resort tax. They came back to me and asked me if there have been any “updates”. For example, which if any of the recommendations did these communities implement? Where are they today? Any data that backs the 3% tax? Do you have current names of ED people in those communities that I could call and do my own survey?

Gus will check in with Big Sky, Sue will check into Red Lodge and Gloria O will contact Katie for Gardiner information.

5. Grant Ap is IN – thanks to Laurie Higgins, Idaho

Kim and Paul shared about the grant application that would involve coordinating and sharing resource team processes in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. The grant involves holding assessments, at least one case study, and funding for at least one ongoing project for a community.

6. Need to seriously explore capturing our report data – make searchable.

Sue noted Jake Jabs College of Entrepreneurship was looking for student projects.

7. Misc. Updates and Comments

- Gus noted Allison Mouch, Bureau Chief, MDOC Planning Bureau is now working as a consultant. Tash Wisemiller is the Acting Director. Gus would like to arrange a meeting with Tash and Gloria in the near future.
- Gus also suggested a more deliberate follow-up schedule with each resource team community and recommended a three month and/or six month call with as many team members as possible participating. The local leadership could then update the team on what is happening. Scheduling these meetings would increase accountability for all involved.
- Paul noted Montana is the location for a national Community Development Conference in Big Sky June 10 – 14. Over 450 community development professionals are expected across the country. This is a great opportunity for us to highlight our work and to learn from others. Paul will send some information to Gloria to share with the group.

8. Next Meeting: November 10th