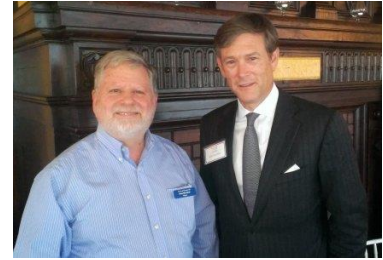


MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR JUNE 2013

- WELCOME TO EDA SECRETARY ERSKINE
- MEDA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE SUMMARY
- WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
- MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES & CODE OF ETHICS
- CEIC – MAKE A MAP
- BEAR REPORT AND 2013 ROUNDUP
- TAKE THE WORKING GROUP SURVEY
- GRANT AND FUNDING OPS
- OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS FOR YOU
- MY TURN: A FEW MORE PHOTOS



Above: EDA Secretary Matt Erskine presents to attendees. Below: Stevensville Mayor Gene Mim Mack meets with Mr. Erskine.



MT WELCOMES EDA SECRETARY

Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development and MEDA coordinated a meet-and-greet event at the Montana Club, Helena, on May 30th to visit with EDA Secretary Matt Erskine. Secretary Erskine had been with state officials in Lewistown earlier in the day to present a grant to restore the Central Montana Railroad trestle. [Read all about it.](#) That evening, about 25 people gathered at the Montana Club in Helena to talk all things economic development.

MEDA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Annual Membership Meeting of MEDA was held on Friday, May 10th, as part of the MEDA Spring Conference in Hamilton, MT. MEDA Members elected officers, filled board seats, received a legislative update, reviewed the MEDA Strategic Plan, discussed the Web Portal Project and placed items in the MEDA Time Capsule that will be sealed following the Sidney Conference October 2 – 4. [Minutes](#) are available on the MEDA website. If you missed it in your email inbox, here is the link to [the complete conference summary](#) with presentation files and photos.

NEW MEDA MEMBERS

Welcome to three new MEDA members: Heather Bellamy, NorthWestern Energy, Bozeman; John Sisson, Southeastern Montana Development Corp., Colstrip; and Melissa Widseth, TD&H Engineering, Great Falls. MEDA's membership stands at 201.

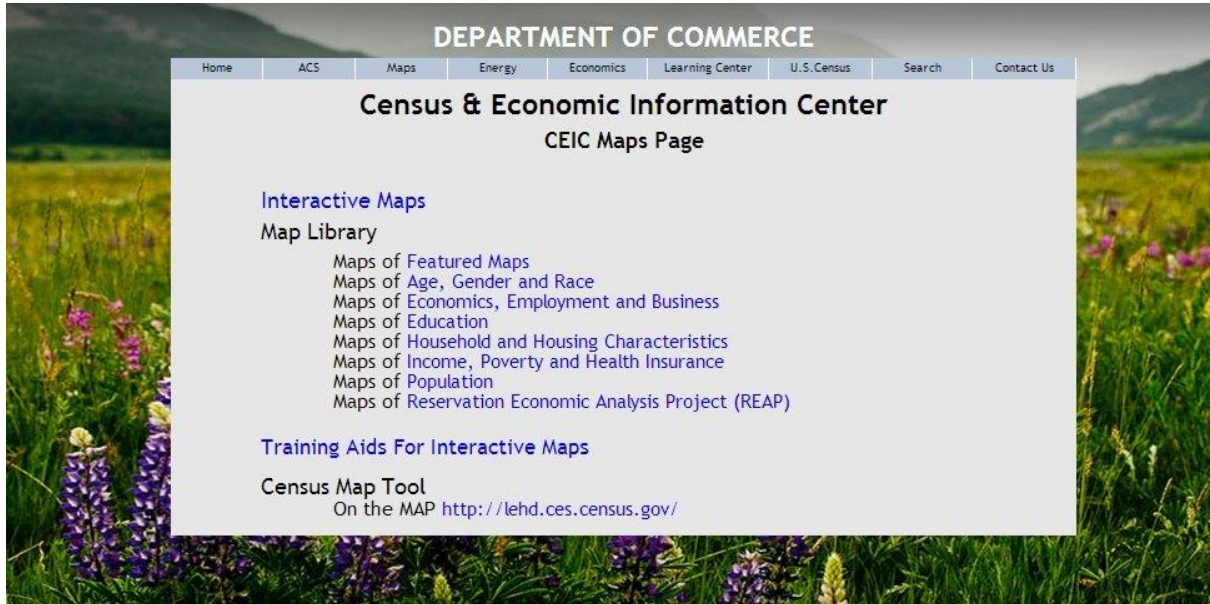
MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Nominating: The MEDA Nominating Committee made their report to the MEDA Board on May 9th during the board meeting. The board approved the slate of officers and board candidates in preparation for the Membership meeting held May 10th. The membership voted to approve the slate of officers and board members. A full [list of board members](#) is available on the MEDA website.
- Scholarship: The next round of the Rick Jones MEDA Scholarship applications will be accepted in August.
- Legislative: In addition to beginning a legislative strategy for the 2015 session, Rick Edwards provided the membership an [overview of the 2013 Legislative Session](#). The presentation is available on the MEDA website.
- Professional Development: According to the evaluations received, the May 8th training "Managing Organizations for Efficiencies and Sustainability" by Dr. Kolzow was the best yet. About 30 people enjoyed the day as Dr. David Kolzow defined excellence in economic development management and explained the fundamentals of managing for results and outcome-based performance. Dr. Kolzow made available a [download](#) of his book: Managing For Excellence.
- Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics – Jim Davison and Stuart Leidner presented to the board an updated code for approval. The new [MEDA Code of Ethics](#) is available on the website.

MAKE A MAP

As demonstrated during the MEDA conference, the CEIC has an incredible map-making tool. Take a few minutes and Make a Map!

<http://ceic.mt.gov/Maps/InteractiveMapsIndex.aspx>



For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.



[See Monthly Report](#)

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In May:

- The IWT Task Force has completed its work: new forms and criteria are now in place. Training will take place in June; all applications must be submitted using the new forms.
- Only eight business visits were held in May but 22 action items were generated with two closed. Visits in each county: Flathead – 6, Carbon – 1, Butte/Silver Bow – 1.
- The [2013 BEAR Roundup](#) was held on May 10th during the MEDA Spring Conference. BEAR Teams received a legislative update, discussed better use of ExecutivePulse, Incumbent Worker Training Grant update and exchanged successful BEAR outcomes.

TAKE THE WORKING GROUP SURVEY & RLF UPDATE

WORKING GROUP SURVEY

During the Annual Meeting in Hamilton, the membership requested a survey be sent to the membership to determine which existing working groups should continue, which will close, and if there are new working group topics to consider. So far, 30 members have taken the [survey](#). Take the survey today so that our working groups can....get working!

RLF WORKING GROUP

The Revolving Loan Fund Working Group met via conference call on May 14th and discussed a variety of topics relating to revolving loan funds. [Minutes](#) are available on the MEDA website. This group is taking a break for the summer.

GRANT AND FUNDING 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.

OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS FOR YOU

Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

1. If you need current data about your county, here is a wonderful resource. Very easy to use, simply click on your county on the interactive map.
<http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt/geography>
2. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has management responsibility for over 5.1 million acres of School Trust Lands. Known as school lands, trust lands or grant lands, these former federal lands were conveyed at the time of statehood to assist in the funding of public education and other public purposes. To meet this need, DNRC strives to advance development of specific lands when they are most "ripe" for growth.
 - For developers, Trust Lands offer unique opportunities as these lands are often at the front edge of commercial and residential growth in population centers.
 - Leases on trust lands reduce the need for large upfront capital costs, and can be secured for up to 99 years. Additionally, leases are assignable to other business entities.

Currently, there are Trust Land Properties Available for commercial development in Belgrade, Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula and more! Please see our website for details flyers of each of our available properties: <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/Trust/Commercial/Default.asp>

3. Did you see this? [Ten Life Lessons from Calvin and Hobbes](#). Thanks to <http://matr.net> for sharing.
4. Participate in the Main Street Project Roundtables: [Main Street Montana video](#) created by Montana Ambassador JP Gabriel. Website with details: <http://www.mainstreetmontanaproject.com>

Next up: Missoula. Tuesday, June 4th at 2pm at the UM University Center, 3rd Floor Meeting Room Foyer and Room 330-123. The event is hosted by Larry Simkins, CEO of the Washington Companies and Bill Johnstone, CEO of D.A. Davidson & Co. A networking reception to follow, hosted by the Montana Ambassadors.

MY TURN: A FEW MORE PHOTOS

According to the evaluation comments, the MEDA conference was a hit, especially the speed presentation format. The fall agenda committee is already at work contemplating the Sidney agenda. Be sure to save the dates of October 2 -4. Here are a few more photos from the conference.

Got Legs?



Networking during the Pizza Social at RCEDA

