



## **PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN A CHALLENGED ECONOMY**

### **MEDA 2009 SPRING CONFERENCE SUMMARY JUNE 11 – 12, FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS RESORT**

#### **The 2009 MEDA Spring Conference objective was to:**

Equip Montana's economic developers with up-to-date information on new recovery programs, new technology, and the tools necessary so they may serve as resourceful leaders in revitalizing Montana's economy. If the evaluation feedback is any indicator, the objective was accomplished.

#### **Thursday, June 11, 2009**

The conference opened with a kickoff luncheon and keynote presentation from State Director, Montana Department of Commerce, Tony Preite. View Tony's presentation titled "[Budget and Legislative Outcomes 2009](#)" regarding Montana Department of Commerce programs. Contact information: Andy Poole 841-2700 [apoole@mt.gov](mailto:apoole@mt.gov); Marty Tuttle 841-2706, [mtuttle@mt.gov](mailto:mtuttle@mt.gov); Heather Sobrepena – George 841-2775, [hsobrepena@mt.gov](mailto:hsobrepena@mt.gov); Kelly Casillas 841-2727, [kcasillas@mt.gov](mailto:kcasillas@mt.gov); Dave Cole 841-2776, [dacole@mt.gov](mailto:dacole@mt.gov); Bruce Brensdal 841-2844, [bbrensdal@mt.gov](mailto:bbrensdal@mt.gov); Karyl Tobel 841-2733, [karyl@mt.gov](mailto:karyl@mt.gov).



#### **Tony Preite addresses the MEDA Conference Attendees.**

Following lunch, Rick Edwards and Brett Doney, MEDA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, provided an update on the outcomes of the 2009 Session.





## EQUIPPING MONTANA WITH THE RECOVERY ACT

Rick Edwards, (left) facilitated presenters from various agencies who provided information regarding changes in existing programs and how to make best use of Recovery Act funding for Montana.

### Presentation:

[EDA](#)

[MT USDA/RD](#)

### One Page Handout:

[EDA Handout](#)

[USDA/RD MT Program Overview](#)

### Contact Info:

[John Rogers](#), (406) 449-5380

[Deborah Chorlton](#), Housing  
[John Guthmiller](#), Business  
[Steve Troendle](#), Water & Community  
Dial 406.585.2580 for all MT USDA numbers.



Deborah Chorlton, left, USDA/RD Housing Commissioner Keith Kelly, right, MT Dept. of Labor



### Presentation:

[MT Dept. Labor](#)

DEQ

SBA

[MT Dept. of Transportation](#)

HUD

### One Page Handout:

(please see powerpoint)

[Energy Recovery Programs](#)

[SBA Recovery Act Overview](#)

[MDT Summary](#)

Contact Larry

### Contact Info:

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[Jim Lynch](#), 406-444-6201

[Larry Gallagher](#), 406- 447-1480

## Networking and Break

According to MEDA's evaluation responses, MEDA Members consistently most appreciate the time to network.



Kate McMahon and Brent Campbell



Tom Atkins, Brian Obert and Terry Myhre



Sam Korsmoe, Mike Coryell and Paul Lachapelle

The BBQ was a perfect time to relax, enjoy family and friends and great food.



Youngest attendee: daughter of JP Pendleton.

Friday, June 12, 2009



Friday morning started with pre-recorded greetings from Senator Tester and a talk from Matt Jones, representing Sen. Max Baucus.

The segment “New Technologies for a Recovering Economy,” was geared to inform MEDA conference attendees of new tools and options available to build Montana’s economy.

**Presentation:**

[Montana’s Supercomputer](#)

Under Montana Dept. of Commerce

Solution Mountain

[Governor Schweitzer’s Marketing Strategies and Plan](#)

[Green Jobs – Montana in Transition](#)

**Handouts**

[RMSC Offerings](#)

[RMSC Executive Summary](#)

[visit website](#)

see presentation

see presentation

**Contact:**

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[Keith Kelly](#), 406-444-9091



Evan Barrett

## MEDA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Paul Tuss (right) kicked off the 2009 MEDA Annual Meeting with a Nominating Committee Report. The following is the slate of officers and list of board members approved by MEDA's membership for 2009:



President – Jim Davison, Anaconda Local Development Corporation  
Vice President – Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Corporation  
Treasurer – Larry Mires, Two Rivers Growth/St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group  
Secretary – Gloria O'Rourke, Montana Economic Development Services  
Past President – Rick Edwards, NorthWestern Energy

Brian Gion, Great Falls; Jim Atchison, Colstrip; Jim Smitham, Butte; Maria Valandra, Great Falls; Leslie Messer, Sidney; Anne Boothe, Malta; Jason Rittal, Miles City; Terry Myhre, Helena; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka; Andy Poole, Helena; Bob Hiatala, Bozeman; Lyle Phillips, Kalispell; Kathie Bailey, Lewistown; Paul Tuss, Havre; Steve Arveshoug, Billings; and Ken Richardson, Missoula.

## Professional Development Committee



Brett Doney (left), Chair of the Professional Development Committee, provided an update as to the professional training MEDA members have received as part of the IEDC certification path curriculum. Lisa Perry and PPL Montana were thanked for donating \$40,000 toward this purpose. Brett reviewed the [survey results](#) of a recent "next steps" poll and said the Professional Development Committee will meet soon to form a strategy based on the survey responses.

## MEDA's New Website



Adam Vauthier and Casey Ferguson of [VauthierFerguson Design](#) unveiled MEDA's new website. Coming in the near future is a searchable database so that MEDA can find members with expertise in various areas, i.e., Revolving Loan Funds, Housing, etc. MEDA's Working Groups will be accessible through LinkedIn.



## MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

Last but not least was a "[Sneak Peek Fall Conference: Libby, Montana](#)" presentation by Debi Davidson. Tentative date for the fall conference is the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. View the beautiful presentation and get ready to travel to Libby!



Keith Kelly and Sandy Oitzinger



Montana Ambassadors Bill Johnston, Russ Fletcher and Ken Richardson



John Rogers, Jon and Liz Marchi, and Jim Smitham

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEDA AGENDA COMMITTEE:

Andy Poole, Dick King, Chad DeLong, Jim Smitham, Rick Edwards, Linda Beck, Tracy McIntyre and Jim Davison