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*MEDA represents over 230 members who are actively involved in local economic activity, community development, job retention and job creation for Montana.*

## **MEDA BOARD MEETING**

**April 28, 2011**

**Ferraro's Italian Restaurant**

**726 North 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, MT**

**6:30pm – 8:00pm**

**PRESENT:** Andy Poole, Dore Schwinden, Jackie Williams, Terry Myhre, Ken Richardson, Jason Rittal, Rick Edwards, Anne Boothe, Steve Arveschoug, Kellie Danielson, Paul Tuss, Jim Davison, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Gloria O'Rourke

Guests: Tony Preite, Betty Preite

## **WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Davison welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a motion to approve the September 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Rick Edwards moved to approve the minutes, Jason Rittal seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND 2011 BUDGET**

Profit and Loss for 2010 showed a net income of \$108,417.53. MEDA assisted in gathering \$301,588.80 in sponsorships for the 2010 Economic Summit.

**Action Item:** A committee was formed to draft a formal proposal as to how the remaining summit funds could be utilized. Committee members include Paul Tuss, Terry Myhre, Rick Edwards and Stuart Leidner. The committee will share the draft with the board as soon as possible.

Profit and Loss as of March 31<sup>st</sup> indicated a net income of \$7,857.89. Rick Edwards moved to approve the Profit and Loss reports from 2010 and first quarter of 2011. Stuart seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

As the 2010 Balance Sheet and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Balance Sheet were not included in packets, these reports will be emailed to the board.

A draft 2011 Budget was provided for the board's approval. Terry Myhre moved to approve the budget contingent on receipt of the MDOC contract and evaluation of the contract with MEDS with a 5% leeway included. Steve Arveschoug seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Action Item:** A committee of Rick Edwards, Steve Arveschoug and Paul Tuss will meet to review and discuss the contract with MEDS.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JIM DAVISON, PRESIDENT, ANACONDA \* TERRY MYHRE, VICE PRESIDENT, HELENA \*  
LARRY MIRES, TREASURER, GLASGOW \* RICK EDWARDS, PAST PRESIDENT, BUTTE \* GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY \*  
BRIAN GION, GREAT FALLS \* JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP \* JIM SMITHAM, BUTTE \* MARIA VALANDRA, GREAT FALLS \*  
LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY \* ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA \* JASON RITTAL, MILES CITY \* TRACY MCINTYRE, EUREKA  
ANDY POOLE, HELENA \* KELLIE DANIELSON, KALISPELL \* KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN \* PAUL TUSS, HAVRE \*  
STUART LEIDNER, BOZEMAN \* STEVE ARVESHOUGH, BILLINGS \* KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA \*

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Legislative:** Legislative Chair Rick Edwards described MEDA's involvement in the 2011 session as "extensive." The MEDA Legislative Committee met each Wednesday morning at 7:00am and responded to threats to key economic development tools and funding as necessary. Rick reported the session is ending with not all that MEDA had hoped for, but better than what could have been. Rick requested feedback as to whether MEDA should respond to legislative outcomes in the media. Rick also encouraged MEDA to be very proactive during the pending gubernatorial campaign and to begin preparing now for the 2013 session. Rick Edwards and Terry Myhre were thanked by the board for their time and effort throughout the session.

**Scholarship:** Chair Anne Boothe reported on scholarships awarded as follows: Mike Coryell, \$800; Karen Smith, \$400; James Rexhouse, \$400; Allyson Reddig, \$800; Tracy McIntyre, \$800. MDOC, USDA/RD and MEDA are partnering to bring NDC training to Montana the next two years. As total cost for all four courses will total \$140,000, donations are needed to bring down registration costs. MEDA will be writing an RBOG grant requesting at least \$10,000. Terry Myhre moved to place half of MEDA scholarship funds toward NDC training and the remaining half left available for non-NDC scholarships. Rick Edwards seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

**Nominating:** Rick Edwards, Nominating Committee Chair, presented a slate of board seats and officers for the Friday morning Annual Meeting.

### **Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011:**

President: Larry Mires    Past President: Jim Davison    Vice President: Terry Myhre  
Treasurer: Tracy McIntyre    Secretary: Gloria O'Rourke

**Proposed Renewal of Board Terms:** Tracy McIntyre, Andy Poole, Brian Gion, Kathie Bailey, Jason Rittal and Jim Atchison

**Vacant:** Great Falls Development Authority and Native American Seat occupied by Maria Valandra.

Regarding the Native American Seat, Maria Valandra is contacting several Tribal Planners to see if there is interest. MEDA's membership will also be asked for names. It was noted that Dick King could be tapped to fill a business seat in the future. An interim director for Missoula Area Economic Development will be on board June 1<sup>st</sup>. Regarding the empty Great Falls Development Authority seat, Rick Edwards will contact the GFDA Board President and report back to the board. A conference call will be held as needed.

Jim Davison was thanked for serving not once but twice as MEDA's President.

**Action Item:** Rick Edwards will contact GFDA Board President regarding open board seat.

A discussion was held regarding Rotunda Day. Jackie Williams learned that dates will open for the 2013 session next week. Jackie will reserve two dates, one in early January and one after financial transmittal. One date will be for MEDA, another for MDOC.

Suggestions:

- Hold a luncheon off site early in the session for legislators to educate about key economic programs and projects.
- Meet with key legislative leadership first as they often direct the course of bills.
- Consider holding an event during legislative training in November prior to the session.
- Work with legislative leadership to identify common ground on both sides of the aisle.

**Action Item:** Jackie Williams will reserve two dates for MEDA and MDOC for Rotunda Day.

### **PROJECT SUPPORT FORM**

Jason Rittal moved to approve the Project Support Criteria and Process Form for MEDA. Anne Boothe seconded the motion; all voted in favor to approve. This form will be used when MEDA is approached about sponsoring or supporting a project.

### **2011 MEDA FALL CONFERENCE**

It was suggested the MEDA Fall Conference take place in Kalispell the first week of October. Kellie Danielson agreed to serve as Conference Chair. Tracy McIntyre sent word that she could host a golf outing/board meeting at the Wilderness Club which is a Nick Faldo private course. The Lodge at the Wilderness Club sleeps 17 if a retreat setting was needed.

### **LOOKING WITHIN**

President Jim Davison raised the question as to whether MEDA's leadership is meeting the needs of its members. Discussion highlights included:

- Survey the membership and include conference evaluation questions as well as questions regarding MEDA as a whole. Gloria will provide a draft to the board before sending to the membership.
- Invite a board member from your organization into the conversation; bring a new perspective to the table.
- How to share what is going on within our organizations and share with the membership beyond two conferences per year.
- MEDA needs to be more proactive on the Federal level than in the past.
- CRDC's and possibly regional economic development groups are forming a Working Group to become more efficient and share information. A very productive meeting was held Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Hold a board retreat to review survey responses from the membership and become more cohesive as MEDA moves forward.

**Action Item:** Gloria will draft a survey for the membership and share with the board. Date and location will be identified for a summer board retreat. In addition to reviewing survey responses, additional agenda items will be set.