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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 MINUTES

October 5, 2011

Red Lion Hotel Lobby, Kalispell, MT

8:00pm

PRESENT: Larry Mires, Kellie Danielson, Jim Smitham, Ken Richardson, Pat Wise, Terry Myhre, Tracy McIntyre, Chris Aageson, Trent Williams, Chris Beacham, Evan Barrett and Gloria O'Rourke.

DISCUSSION

Due to the lack of a quorum, the following items were discussed but no action was taken:

- 1. Financials:** 2010 Economic Summit funds are still in MEDA's account. Terry Myhre and Larry Mires will plan to meet with Senator Baucus's field staff to determine next steps.
- 2. Code of Ethics and Jurisdiction**
The current MEDA Code of Ethics was reviewed. It was determined that the current code does not address jurisdictional issues. Common sense and simple professional ethics would make it logical to contact the local economic development organization or the particular regional organization when a project arises involving an outside agency. MEDA's role at this time is to act as a facilitator to discuss the code and revisions.

A MEDA member suggested adding the following to the code: "Just as most financial institutions have legal lending areas, so do most economic development organizations, covering one or several counties in their immediate area of business. This limited area allows the organization to provide funding for new projects as well as properly serve their existing clientele. To continue to best serve the small business clients, MEDA members will strive to not impact another economic organization's service area."

It was suggested that the MEDA Code of Ethics, once revised, be visible at every conference. It was questioned how the Code of Ethics would be enforced; if it cannot be enforced, why have it?

3. Strategic Plan Update

Tracy has prepared a presentation for the membership on Friday morning regarding a summary of the MEDA Membership Survey and a draft of the forming goals and objectives.

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* KELLIE DANIELSON, KALISPELL * KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN * PAUL TUSS, HAVRE *

4. By-Laws Change

A by-laws change is needed as MAEDC is disbanding. Dick King sent an email and suggested the following: *amend by-laws to allow representation from the “lead economic development organization” as determined by the local government.* Discussion indicated this by-laws change would apply to the nine charter seats.

5. Resource Team Assessment requests

Gloria shared that interest in Resource Team Assessments is returning. Those present gave their support for engaging in the process.

6. ExecutivePulse Contract

Chris Aageson will look into the status of the ExecutivePulse contract. Clarification is needed regarding the contract’s continuation after Governor Schweitzer is out of office.

7. Request for Project/Issue Support

Two requests for support are pending:

- a. Tourism – building support now to have a greater presence in 2013 legislature.
- b. Montana Community Foundation – requested support for Charitable Giving tax deduction.

8. RCC Joint Conference

Anne Boothe, via email, requested the board consider becoming more involved with the Rural Community Conference as many of the topics are a great fit for economic development professionals.

9. Sector Analysis Project Update

Trent Williams and Chris Beacham, RTS, provided a brief update on plans with the Regional Sector Analysis Project. The main goal is to provide data on the lead businesses in various economic sectors across the state and build strategies to increase growth in those sectors. Chris has heard that many groups need to complete a CEDS document and hopes to make the information gathered of use to the CEDS.

10. Misc.

Kellie Danielson, host of the 2011 Fall Conference, said it was very difficult to obtain sponsors for MEDA from local businesses. Kellie suggested MEDA leadership may need to reconsider sponsorships as a funding stream for future conferences.

Action Item	Who	By When
2010 Economic Summit funds moved or tagged	Terry M. and Larry M.	December 10th
ExecutivePulse contract status	Chris A.	December 10th