



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A
 Anaconda, MT 59711
 Ph: 406.563.5259 Fx: 406.563.5476
<http://www.medamembers.org>

CRDC MEETING

Holiday Inn Bozeman

APRIL 27, 2011 5:30pm – 8:30pm

BOZEMAN, MT

PRESENT: Paul Tuss, Kathie Bailey, Billie Lee, Sarah Converse, Chris Mehus, Paul Rumelhart, Jim Atchison, Terry Myhre, Andy Poole, Lorene Hintz, Jim Davison, Jason Rittal and Gloria O'Rourke.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

CRDC representatives and those involved with CRDC's met to discuss common issues, concerns, programs and benefits of working more closely together to enhance economic development across Montana. Paul Tuss led the discussion on the following agenda items:

- EDA Planning Grant Update/EDA Sector Analysis Grant Update
- Regional transportation planning opportunities
- Organizational cost-saving measures/revenue enhancers
- Manufacturing cluster update – Kathie Bailey

EDA PLANNING GRANT UPDATE/EDA SECTOR ANALYSIS GRANT UPDATE

Those involved with exploring an EDA planning grant to bring coordination and training to CRDC's reported no action had been taken due to the federal budget situation. Jim Davison reported the EDA Sector Analysis Update has been submitted and tentatively approved. MEDA and the Montana BioScience Alliance are waiting for the Award Letter to be issued.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

NADO recently shared information that EDD's throughout the country are getting paid to complete regional transportation planning. Montana was allotted \$13 million for this purpose. A discussion was also held on the difficulty of CTEP applications and meeting with Jim Lynch on providing administration funds to CRDCs that assist with these applications for MDT.

ORGANIZATIONAL COST SAVING MEASURES/REVENUE ENHANCERS

Those present shared ideas for cost savings and/or revenue enhancers. It was agreed that by working together and using each other's strengths, CRDC's could cost share and build funds. Ideas for revenue building:

Cost Saving Ideas	Revenue Building Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize MEDA for organizing training and communications between CRDC's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile CTEP applications for MDT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint marketing on what we do as regional organizations. Branding! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional transportation planning – apply collectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package our services better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Senator Baucus's relationship with EDA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Teams are still an option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer GIS services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize rural areas to have a big voice as urban areas are getting funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer bonding classes – prepare local contractors to bid on jobs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a qualified VISTA for CEDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Policies and Capital Improvement Plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montana Land Grant – DNRC – paid to assist county planners and GIS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port authority and/or industrial site revenue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance when needed for small inexperienced communities.

Conclusions:

1. Utilize MEDA for organizing training and communications.
2. CRDC's are now a Working Group of MEDA. Name and composition (i.e. EDD's) of the Working Group is pending.
3. Work collaboratively to have a stronger voice, i.e., Essential Air Service (EAS) issue.
4. Put in place a way for CRDC's to communicate amongst themselves.
5. Bring in Matt Chase at the same time (if possible) with Jim Lynch to discuss regional transportation planning and CTEP administration.
6. Meet quarterly to share news, ideas and issues. Suggested topics thus far: depopulation, marketing/branding, transportation planning and CTEP administration.

Action Items:

- Gloria is to explore online communication options for the CRDC's to be able to exchange information.
- Paul will write a concept paper for Jim Lynch as to how other states EDO's work in partnership with transportation departments. Paul will note projects are not being initiated because the CTEP application is too complex and CTEP funds are building. Gloria will then contact Jim Lynch for a meeting with CRDC's and Matt Chase.
- Gloria is to plan a summer meeting to continue conversations begun today. Invite: Matt Chase and Jim Lynch. Location: MBAC conference room, Helena.

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

Beartooth

- Wild West: a project related to tourism entrepreneurship. The project is bringing economic developers and tourism leaders together; involves four states and three tribes. The purpose is to build what we need to promote smaller attractions with the larger attractions; provide tools for farmers, ranchers, Indian tribes to build capacity of businesses in the area. Bridging Cultures: a working group between Billings and Crow Agency involving Big Sky EDA, Billings Chamber, Crow Tribe and Little Big Horn College. The group truly is building cultural bridges and has accomplished several projects including a transit service to get workers from Crow Agency to Billings.

SEMDC

- CEDS: Jim Atchison reported excellent results using a VISTA to compile their CEDS. The VISTA had a graduate degree in Urban Planning. SEMDC is looking for an SBDC director and is planning the 8th Annual Energy Open June 30th and July 1st. The Energy Open is an opportunity to look at responsible energy development via tours and networking.

Kootenai River Development

- Paul Rumelhart reported the region's RC&D has dissolved. Paul reported on numerous projects and activities including steam boiler utilization, a power purchase agreement pending, and the potential for a refinery in Libby and bio diesel options.

Lake County

- Billie Lee reported working on a CEDS to form an EDD. She is also working on a technology park, industrial park and bicycle tourism that involves farms. Mineral County is looking into a national triathlon course. Billie shared about involvement with the development of a motor that is close to a perpetual motion machine. If all goes well, an assembly plant will be built in Ronan. A show-and-tell event will be held this July.

MBAC

- Terry Myhre is nearing completion of a healthcare company project that employs 80 for now and expanding to 200 employees. Terry used a Workforce Training Grant as well as BSTF to seal the deal. Terry is also working on a goldmine project involving bio pellets that has exciting possibilities.

Snowy Mountain

- Kathie Bailey reported the Rocky Mountain RC&D RLF will be assumed by Snowy Mountain. Kathie said SMEDC has just completed several major projects and is now in the regrouping/replanning phase. The next big project may be in Petroleum County as they have high oil and gas exploration indicators. The community of Lewistown has pulled together and is in the re-visioning phase. Kathie still works with the manufacturing alliance on a regular basis.

Bear Paw

- Paul Tuss reported the depopulation issue is a huge challenge in the region. Bear Paw has partnered with EDA and MSU Northern regarding bio diesel projects. A current project involves the testing of B20 blend in a switch engine. The tests are thus far successful and the product will hopefully be utilized by BNSF. Liberty County is experiencing the construction of two unit train grain elevators. Each facility will have eight permanent employees which is huge for Chester. The transit system operated by Opportunity Link continues to be a success. Part of the system transports employees from Ft. Belknap and Rocky Boy into Havre for jobs. Bear Paw was selected as one of twelve high performing economic development organizations across the nation. The study is funded by EDA and involves the UpJohn Institute. It should be completed within a few months.

Headwaters

- Jim Davison reported with the dissolution of RC&D's Headwaters lost one staff person and \$30,000. Headwaters has been able to benefit, however, from the situation and picked up the staff person to now serve as the NRCS forester. Headwaters is seeking rural energy efficiency projects and continues to take up projects that were operated by RC&D's.

Eastern Plains

- Jason Rittal reported on multiple projects, especially in Terry and Baker. Terry is making progress on its museum and may have the loan forgiven so the group can concentrate on upgrading the facility. Baker is getting a water and sewer industrial park. The region is also benefiting from the housing and hotel shortage in Glendive. Jason said CDL licensing is needed and classes are full. Jason receives many calls regarding the various pipeline projects. Baker will be impacted by 600 people for six months. TransCanada will pay the impacts to the community. Jason is working with Senator Baucus to address an issue with REAP: if you own a farm/ranch the dwelling is excluded.

Sweetgrass

- Sarah Converse reported work on industrial projects and addressing a housing shortage. Sweetgrass is working on its CEDS which is due in December.