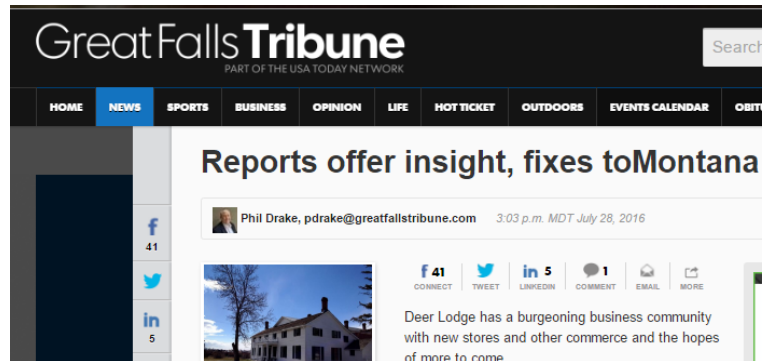




MEDA RESOURCE TEAM PARTICIPANTS – HEROES FOR MONTANA

Thanks to MEDA's partnership with MT Dept. of Commerce, 46 Resource Team Assessments have been held across Montana. When Great Falls Tribune Reporter Phil Drake began a story on the struggles facing Boulder, Montana, he heard about the Resource Team process. Phil had never heard of MEDA; the result of what he learned was published in an article on Sunday, July, 31st, in the Tribune. Take a few minutes to read the article – and share it – so that others know one more piece of information about MEDA and our amazing members.



[Extra! Extra! Read all about it: MEDA and Teams in the News](#)

MISSING: SUMMER SLOW DOWN

What happened to the good-old-days when hectic schedules slowed down a bit during the summer? Here are some photos to re-cap a busy July.



President Paul Tuss welcomes Regional EDA Director Angela Martinez to Montana during a Meet-and-Greet lunch.



Steve Arveschoug shares a message with attendees at Innovate Montana.



MEDA Members provided mentoring in Innovate Montana Solution Lounges. Pictured: Brent Campbell



MEDA Members organized and attended Big Sky-Big Ideas, with Liz Marchi and Russ Fletcher.

MORE EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 2: MEDA Legislative Committee Mtg
 Aug 3 – 4: [NADC Conference](#), Billings
 Aug 10: RTA Working Group Call 9am
 Aug 11: Joint Working Lunch MEDA/MTA
 Aug 12: [Business Open, Old Works](#)
 Aug 15: Free Webinar – Headwaters Economics
 Aug 17-18 CRDC/EDD Working group in Butte
 Aug 19-21: [Young Professionals Summit](#)

Sept 19 -21: Seeley Lake Resource Team
 Sept 22: HiLine Technology Roundup
 Sept 25-28: [IEDC Conference](#)
 Sept 27-29: MT Nonprofit Assoc. Conference
 Oct 6-7: Compete Smart/MMEC
 Oct 12-14 MEDA Fall Conference – Theme:
Working Toward the Future ~
Sustainability and Culture in Economic Growth

NEW MEDA MEMBERS

MEDA has two new members from Great Falls Development Authority: [Austin Walker](#), Business Development Leader and [Kelley Aline](#), Development Director. Welcome to MEDA!

OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is August 31st, 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into featured programs during each call. In July, participants learned of fast-approaching program deadlines and activities involving our CRDCs, EDDs, and EDOs. Check out the other program updates and news by reading the [meeting notes](#).



MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next meeting is set for August 16th at 10:00am. [notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group will meet on August 10th, at 9:00am, to continue to fine-tune Montana’s Resource Team process. A report will be given by Abbie Phillip and Warren Vaughan as they represented MEDA at the Kettering Foundation conference in July. MEDA Resource Team Assessments continue to evolve and develop best practices as a result of this collaboration. Pending Resource Teams: Seeley Lake, September 19 – 20; team members are still needed.
- **CRDC/EDD Working Group** will hold its summer meeting August 17th – 18th, in Butte.

MEDA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE – Deadline is September 5th



Now is the time to shine the spotlight on your innovate project and/or to acknowledge someone you feel deserves to be named the Tony Preite Champion of Economic Development.

[More Information](#)



MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fourth Quarter round is now open with the deadline of September 9th. [Criteria and Application](#) Submit your application today; two applications were received in the 3rd Quarter.

MEDA BOARD MEETING – AND HISTORIC LUNCHEON

The next MEDA Board meeting will be held the morning of August 11th, at Fairmont. Perhaps for the first time in the history of the two organizations, the MEDA Board will meet with the Montana Ambassador Board. The purpose of the meeting is to learn of each group’s mission and strategic plan goals. The outcomes of the meeting will be to understand the purpose of each group and to discover what could be accomplished by working together that could not otherwise be accomplished.

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.

- **Registration Now Open for the 2016 Annual Training Conference in San Antonio**
Are you ready to take a stand for regional development? Join your peers from around the country for

the [2016 NADO Annual Training Conference](#) (ATC) in San Antonio on **October 15 – 18**. Click [here](#) to register!

- **AARP Releases Free E-Book, *Where We Live: Communities for All Ages***
[AARP](#) has released a free e-book, [Where We Live: Communities for All Ages](#). The book highlights more than 100 initiatives that mayors nationwide have launched to improve their communities, respond to pressing issues, and build partnerships. For example, age-friendly upgrades can help people of all ages — parents with strollers, teens using crutches after a sports injury, or family caregivers supporting older relatives — and are investments for future generations. Housing in walkable places creates vibrant communities for young and old, and making affordable housing more available helps low- and middle-income individuals and families make ends meet. Click [here](#) to learn more and download the free e-book.
- **Orton Family Foundation Releases Outreach and Communications Guide for Community Development**
The [Orton Family Foundation](#) has released a new [Outreach and Communications Guide](#) to highlight steps communities can take to engage local stakeholders in community development efforts. The guide features strategies and approaches from Orton’s [Heart and Soul](#) planning process, though it is applicable for a variety of engagement efforts. Topics include establishing communications goals, developing core messages and branding, tracking performance, and more. Click [here](#) to access the guide.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- [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.
- **EPA Now Accepting Applications for Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grants**
The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) has announced the [availability of funding](#) to eligible entities who wish to develop an area-wide plan for Brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. This funding is for research and/or technical assistance activities directed to one or more Brownfields site(s) located in a specific area (such as a neighborhood, downtown or business district, local commercial corridor, or community waterfront). The proposal submission deadline is **August 10**. Please note that applicants who received a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant from EPA in Fiscal Year 2010, 2013 or 2015 are generally not eligible to apply under this competition. EPA is making an exception for [POWER+](#) (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) applicants. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.



Highlights for July 2016

SEVENTEEN VISITS IN JULY!

Another area of no-dog-days-of-summer: Montana BEAR Teams have been very, very busy. Seventeen visits were logged in the google database in July.

Seventeen visits were recorded in July with the following Outreach Specialists participating:

Katie Weaver - 2	Meagan Lannan -1	Warren Vaughan - 9
Marissa Hauge - 1	Chany Ockert - 1	Cathy Kirkpatrick - 3

Kathy McLane - 2	Amy Deines - 1	
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County Counts: Flathead – 1; Park – 3; Gallatin – 9; Stillwater – 1; Dawson – 3

[Full Report](#)