



MEDA Board Meeting

10:30am – Noon; October 14, 2016

Koostahat Room

KwaTaqNuk, Polson, MT

PRESENT: Jim Atchison, James Grunke, Paul Tuss, Stephanie Ray, Kathie Bailey, Sue Taylor, Anne Boothe, Jim Davison, Mike O'Rourke, Tim Guardipee, Leslie Messer, John Rogers, Jason Rittal, Jerry Meerkatz, Rick Edwards, Sarah Converse, Chris Cerquone, and Gloria O'Rourke.

VIA PHONE: Brian Obert, Steve Arveschoug, Roger Hopkins

Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, Approval of August Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Financials - Review of Financial Reports

Rick Edwards, Treasurer, reviewed the financial reports. Jason moved to approve the financials; Jim D. seconded. Motion carried.

3. Committee and/or Activity Updates

a. Nominating Committee – Tracy McIntyre

Tracy and the Nominating Committee recommended to the board that Steve Arveschoug be elected to serve as Vice President. Brett moved to nominate Steve as Vice President, Jim A seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Legislative Committee – Rick Edwards

Rick provided an update on MEDA's legislative strategy. Rotunda Day is January 17th. A digital map is pending to showcase the programs and where they were used. Mike and Gloria are working with MT Dept. of Commerce and partners to summarize program numbers for handouts. October 20th is a meeting in Billings, hosted by Big Sky EDA and Sen. Llew Jones and other legislators to discuss legislative issues. Location: 11:30am to 1:00pm, 1st Floor of Granite Tower Another meeting is going to be scheduled in the western portion of Montana, probably in Kalispell. The Governor's Budget, which will include the 2019 programs, will be available November 15th.

Action Item: The board will send a letter to Governor Bullock and thank him for including the 2019 programs in the budget.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PAUL TUSS, PRESIDENT, HAVRE * STEVE ARVESCHOUG, VICE PRESIDENT *

* RICK EDWARDS, TREASURER, BUTTE * JASON RITTAL, PAST PRESIDENT, BAKER * GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY *

* JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP * PAM HAXBY-COTE, BUTTE * JAMES GRUNKE, MISSOULA * BRETT DONEY, GREAT FALLS *

* LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY * ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA * CHRIS CERQUONE, MISSOULA * SARAH CONVERSE, GREAT FALLS *

* PAUL REICHERT, BOZEMAN * BRIAN OBERT, HELENA * TRACY MCINTYRE, EUREKA * JIM DAVISON, ANACONDA * SUE TAYLOR, JOLIET *

* JERRY MEERKATZ, MISSOULA * STEPHANIE RAY, LIVINGSTON * RUSS FLETCHER, MISSOULA * KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN * TIM GUARDIPEE, BILLINGS *

Anne Boothe moved to provide lunch for the October 20th meeting; Sarah Converse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. MIC – Jason Rittal and Brian Obert

Jason reported on a membership meeting pending next week in which information will be made available on policy decisions. Jason said one intent is to leave programs as they are other than a few necessary tweaks. Regarding transportation, a large deficit is expected and it will be essential to match federal dollars. The big question still being explored is how to find additional revenue to fund infrastructure needs. The subject of Local Options Tax will be debated as well as other tax options and creative partnerships such as P3's. MIC will not remove funds from other programs; no "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

d. Scholarship and Professional Development Committee – Anne Boothe

Anne reported applications have been coming in each quarter. There are three pending for the final quarter of the year. Anne investigated NDC training. There was great interest from the CRDC's to bring economic development training basics to Montana for a day and a half. Brett has several training materials/powerpoints that could be tweaked for Montana's basic economic development training. Tracy expressed concern for replacing the Ellensburg training, as it is valuable to network with people from multiple states. The idea was to more compliment what Ellensburg provides. It was suggested that representatives from Ellensburg come to Montana to assist with a train-the-trainers meeting. Perhaps even though Maury Foreman has retired, he would be willing to come to Montana. Anne will investigate options further and will get back to the board. Jim, Sue, and Kathie will assist with the committee.

There is interest in NDC continuing credits; perhaps partnerships could be made with local banks, MACo, MLCT and training to provide those credits.

e. Awards – Kathie Bailey

Kathie Bailey was thanked for coordinating the 2016 Awards. Innovation Award Winners: Great Falls Development Authority for ADF and Big Sky Economic Development for BillingsWorks. Gloria thanked everyone for honoring her with the Anthony J. Preite Economic Development Champion Award. Multiple submissions for both categories were received; Kathie encouraged more nominations in the future. Kathie suggested featuring the Innovation Awards during Rotunda Day.

Action Item: A press release will be sent to announce the winners.

f. Fall Conference and Gubernatorial Forum

Gypsy Ray and Janet Camel were thanked for their work in hosting the MEDA Fall Conference. Current financials show the conference will provide over \$2,000 for the scholarship fund.

g. Working Lunch with MT Ambassadors/Innovate Montana vs. Fall Conference

A meeting summary was shared of the joint lunch meeting with Montana Ambassadors. An MOU was suggested to break out the responsibilities of working with GOED Innovate Montana. Davey Madison is the lead on the Innovate Montana conference. Sue suggested parallel tracks that serve the entrepreneur as well as the economic developer. Economic developers need to be at Innovate to serve as the technical assistance, yet also have breakouts of interest to economic developers.

John said GOED is committed to having the conference in July, in Billings. GOED will begin working on the agenda November 9th, immediately following the election.

Steve said he and Russ are working on Communications as a result of the joint meeting.

Anne moved to proceed to partner with MTA and GOED on the Innovate MT conference. Kathie seconded the motion. A decision will be made later to remove the MEDA spring or fall

conference in place of Innovate MT. Motion carried. Brett and Rick will be added to the Innovate Montana committee.

3. Spring Conference Host Offers

Two offers were received to host the spring conference: one located in Big Timber and one located in Red Lodge. The host organization would be Beartooth RC&D, with Sue Taylor taking the lead. Rick suggested these proposals could be referred to in the fall.

Brett moved to put all of our energy into the legislative session and not hold a spring conference. This topic was tabled until after the election.

It was suggested a one day or mini- meeting be held after the legislative session to take care of MEDA business and further plan for Innovate Montana.

James said there are times when we should be topic driven for our conference and combine with another entity. It would not replace an existing MEDA conference, however.

Conclusion: Tracy moved to host a one day annual meeting at the end of the legislative session in Helena. In addition, MEDA will look at hosting one conference as MEDA with the potential of hosting a “summit” on a specific topic as decided upon the committee and board at that time. A decision on the time and location will be decided after elections. Chris seconded the motion; motion carried.

During Rotunda Day, more experienced people could mentor new members and make introductions. A workshop could be presented by Sarah Converse to train individuals on Legislative 101.

Action Item: Sarah will commit to organize a one hour training prior to the beginning of Rotunda Day.

6. Strategic Imperatives Update

a. Partnership Building

1. MOU with Montana Ambassadors under consideration.

b. Marketing – Tracy McIntyre

Tracy requested a new Chair for this committee or to disband it at this time. Tim suggested using an app for our next event. Consider an organizational app rather than email. Gloria and Tim will explore options.

c. Relevancy – Steve Arveschoug and James Grunke

James reported there is nothing to report at this time.

d. Membership – Chris Cerquone

Chris asked for feedback regarding the Membership Committee recommendations which included:

1. Explore possibilities of MEDA leaders providing training within the state. For example, establish an Ellensburg type training here using MEDA members to complete the training.

2. Engage the education sector and universities in MEDA. This could provide students who are pursuing business and entrepreneurial degrees an opportunity to interact with economic developers in the state. Potential partners for this endeavor might include Blackstone Launchpad, MWTC network, etc. MEDA may want to consider a conference scholarship, internships, and/or waiving conference fees for students or faculty, to entice involvement from universities.

3. Identify and target membership recruitment to specific sectors that appear to be not represented that may see value in the membership. Sectors identified include local planning departments, extension service staff across the state, chamber leaders, Native American staff working on economic development, university personnel, to name just a few.

4. Infusing more technical sessions into conferences to broaden membership appeal. This might include a session on water rights, finance, entrepreneurs. The general idea would be to have professionals working in fields that directly affect development of property present technical information to members. EDO staff would benefit by learning more, but equally important, it may entice others out there that don't come to conferences because they believe it is too focus on the nuts and bolts of traditional economic development activities.

5. Recognize and engage new members and/or first time members at MEDA conferences as a way to be more welcoming. Identify them at the conference and invite all to take a few minutes to speak with them.

Brett suggested that MEDA's name be changed to Montana Economic Development Association to be more welcoming to bankers, businesses owners, etc.

7. Misc.

a. Resource Team Assessments

Gloria reported the interest in Resource Team Assessments continues. Ft. Benton is scheduled for December 8th with a return visit to Seeley Swan scheduled for November 10th. Chinook, Colstrip and Philipsburg are pending in the spring.

b. Working Group Updates

None at this time.

c. Misc. from the Board

1. John Rogers noted there is an effort to reauthorize SSCBCI funding.
2. Board meetings will revert back to prior to each MEDA conference.