



MEDA NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2014

IMPACT: MEDA ROTUNDA DAY

January 14, 2015

Why not join us in making an impact on January 14th? The MEDA Rotunda Day Committee is planning an all out event! The theme will be “IMPACT – Partnerships that Work.” The purpose of the gathering is to demonstrate effectiveness, success, and funding needs of economic development organizations by telling the story of how they use key economic development programs to build Montana’s economy. Participants will include LDO’s, CRDCs, RDOs, EDDs, MDOC, GOED, MDLI, MT Dept. of Ag; partners such as Montana CDC, Montana Community Finance Corp, One Time Only programs, MMEC, and MCDC, etc. If you would like more information, contact [us](#).

IMPACT

Partnerships that Work

MEDA Montana Economic Developers Association

[Slideshow from Rotunda Day 2013](#)

MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

Big Timber/Sweet Grass County

Members of the Big Timber/Sweet Grass County Resource Team visited Big Timber once again on November 18th to share their report and hold a prioritizing town meeting. After a review of the process to date, attendees broke up into small groups (photos below) to discuss main issues and priorities.



Top four priorities listed by Sweet Grass County participants:

- Marketing
- Business Recruitment
- Downtown Development
- Infrastructure



Team members included: Gloria Hawkins, USDA/RD; Michael Dann, USDA/RD, Karyl Tobel, MDOC; Tara Mastel, Jefferson Local Development Corp.; Billie Lee, Lake County Community Development Corp.; and Stuart Leidner, Prospera Business Network. [Check out more information on our website.](#)

Malta/Phillips County Resource Team

The Malta/Phillips County Resource Team Report is almost ready to post online. The team will return to Malta on January 7th, to walk the community through the process of identifying priorities and establishing working groups.



Pictured left to right: Anne Boothe, Kathy McLane, Debra Demarais, Michael Dann, Gloria O'Rourke, Cheryl Curry, Steve Zeier, Paige Dringman, and Warren Vaughan.

Think Spring???

While most are entering the Holiday Season mindset, MEDA leadership is thinking about spring. Several conference calls have been held to jump start the 2015 MEDA Spring Conference. It will be titled:
Montana Economic Development Conference & Leadership Development Event
Impact: Learning, Sharing & Partnering for High Performance

The event will be held in Great Falls, May 4th – 6th, with Great Falls Development Authority serving as host. Brett Doney, Chair, is working on an impressive agenda with international economic development leaders, unique “Impact” panels, professional development training, and outstanding networking opportunities. In addition to Brett, the Spring Agenda Committee includes Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Kellie Danielson, Steve Arveschoug, Tracy McIntyre, Rick Edwards, Kathie Bailey, Sarah Converse, and Paul Tuss.

64TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREP

Much of MEDA's success is due to the work that quietly goes on behind the scenes. MEDA's Legislative Committee has been meeting at 7:00am each Wednesday to prepare for the start of the 64th Legislative Session and will continue to meet at this time throughout the session. During the last call, Doug Mitchell, MDOC Deputy Director, provided a report on the Governor's Budget. Doug shared that MDOC's #1 budget priority is expansion of key economic development programs. For the first time, the Governor's Budget includes a 25% increase in the statutory economic development programs or \$275,000 increase per year in the biennium. The budget also includes a \$3.75 million increase in Board of Research and Commercialization funds.

Helpful Links:

[Leadership Roster](#)

[House Committees](#)

[Senate Committees](#)

[Legislative Roster](#)



MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Lunch and Learn Webinars: The fourth and final 2014 Lunch and Learn Webinar will take place Wednesday, December 17th at Noon. There were about 18 participants for the third webinar. These sessions help users maximize the BEAR database and keep apprised of the continual updates that are being made.

Date/All times at Noon	Webinar Info	Topic
Wednesday December 17 th	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/737111317 Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) Or, call in	This session will focus on advanced group and communication features in the BEAR

Noon	using your telephone. Dial +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 737-111-317 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting Meeting ID: 737-111-317	platform. You'll learn how to create groups and communicate with these groups efficiently using integrated system functions.
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Data Highlights for November

- There were 29 BEAR Retention Visits held in November with 55 action items created and 47 closed.
- Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 5, Gallatin – 11, Missoula – 1, Lake - 1, Park – 9, Butte/Silver Bow – 1, Ravalli – 2, and Stillwater County – 1.
- Action Items: The following numbers reflect Action Items that were conducted for businesses across Montana, meaning a Bear Team member made a referral to assist a business.
Gallatin County – 35; Park County – 20.

- **November Outreach Specialist Visits and Business Updates**

The following BEAR Team members completed Business Retention Surveys and/or update reports for the businesses they have contacted.

Warren Vaughan - 11	Lynn Lagerquist - 1	Doug Wilson - 2
Mike Williams - 1	Marissa Hauge - 1	Sarah Stewart - 1
Denise Rabe - 1	Marissa Heggem - 2	Jillann Knutson – 1
Mike Jackson – 5	Stacy Hughes - 2	John Balsam – 1
Mette Cyphers - 1		

[Check out What's New at CEIC!](#)



What the Numbers Say...
Census and Economic Information Center
Montana Department of Commerce

- ☞ [Montana Legislative District Profiles](#)
- ☞ [Economy in the Big Sky - Energy KIN Meetings Presentation](#)
- ☞ [Agriculture in Montana Presentation](#)

For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.

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.
- This year's **Montana Main Street Program** membership application cycle will remain open until **December 31, 2014**. The Department of Commerce Community Development Division began accepting Montana Main Street membership applications for the 2015 membership application cycle on October 1, 2014. The Montana Main Street Program membership application and guidelines can be accessed on our website: <http://mtmainstreet.mt.gov/application.mcp>
- **TOURISM DIGITAL MARKETING GRANT**
The purpose of the Tourism Digital Marketing Grant is to assist Montana businesses improve their competitive digital marketing position within the tourism industry. Grant funding may be used for a variety of projects and will be scored based on the project's merit. To apply, submit application materials by Friday, December 12, 2014. For more information, including application and grant overview, please visit the Montana Office of Tourism website: <http://travelmontana.mt.gov/forms/>

- The USFS recently announced a Request for Proposals for the **2015 Wood Innovations Grants**. DNRC is interested in supporting strong proposals from Montana. This is an expanded, and very welcomed, version of the USFS' Woody Biomass Utilization Grant that supports a broad range of wood manufacturing, utilization and marketing. RFP here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-27/pdf/2014-25514.pdf>
- **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.

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.

☞ **Apply Now for Free Technical Assistance from Project for Public Spaces and Livability Solutions**

Is your community working to become more livable and sustainable? Are you running into barriers in achieving these goals? Project for Public Spaces is excited to announce that you can now apply for free technical assistance (through January 9, 2015) to address these challenges. We will be offering technical assistance with our partners at Livability Solutions thanks to a grant from the EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities' [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program](#).

[Livability Solutions partners](#), which include the nation's leading experts in creating sustainable communities, will lead one- and two-day targeted workshops in communities around the U.S. Communities will learn how to use one of [our tools or workshop approaches](#), such as walkability audits, green infrastructure valuation guides, shared use agreements, and community image surveys, that can help achieve goals of enhancing livability, creating lasting economic and environmental improvements, and improving residents' public and social health. A short report will be prepared for each community following the technical assistance. Eight to ten communities will be selected to receive technical assistance this year. [Learn more about this opportunity and apply](#)



Warm Holiday Wishes to all.....from MEDA!