MEDA 2018 Spring Conference Summary

Thanks to the 100+ MEDA members and partners who attended our 2018 Spring Conference! This summary contains photos, weblinks and presentation files for your use and enjoyment.

Thursday, April 26th, 2018

*MEDA Intro to Economic Development* ~ Professional Development Training

Outgoing MEDA President Paul Tuss began the pre-conference training with an overview of MEDA. Brett Doney, GFDA and Sue Taylor, Beartooth RC&D tag-teamed to present "Intro to Economic Development Overview and Major Components"

Following a break, three case studies were shared. Economic developers shared a problem project, then each table brainstormed how to address the problem. Next, the Economic Developer shared how the project came to be.

- **Revitalization** – Jim Davison
  Anaconda Local Dev Corp.
- **Business Retention and Expansion**
  Kim Morisaki, Montana West
- **Entrepreneurial Start Up**
  Julie Jaksha, Headwaters RC&D

*MEDA Kickoff Luncheon –*

Time to network and re-engage!
NorthWestern Energy Kickoff Lunch and Key Note – MEDA attendees received greetings from Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County; Paul Tuss, Outgoing MEDA President; Congressional Staff; Charles Robison, USDA/RD; and Pat LaPointe, Frontier Angels.

L to R: Mike McGinley, Katie Barber, Charles Robison speaking and Pat LaPointe, Frontier Angels, speaking.

Chancellor Beth Weatherby gave an inspirational keynote on Experience One – Impact from Campus to Business

MEDA Members and Partners – Catching Up!
L to R: Karyl Tobel, Deb Huber and GNDC Crew - Tori Matejovsky, Kelcie Bates, and Shandy Hanks
**MEDA Legislative Discussion** with Dan Villa, State Budget Director and Pam Haxby-Cote, State Director, MT Dept. of Commerce. Moderator: Rick Edwards, MEDA Legislative Committee Chair. The 2019 Legislative Session will be challenging as revenue projected by the 2017 Session will not be reached.

Pictured above: Dan Villa, Montana State Budget Director

**Rockin’ Recreation in the Outdoors Industry** – Moderated by Russ Fletcher, MATR

A great discussion was held on “loving Montana to death” and creating a balance between tourism, land use, and outdoor recreation. Pictured L to R: Russ Fletcher, MATR; Ed Mooney, Beaverhead Trails Coalition; Rachel VandeVoort, MT Office of Outdoor Recreation; Kayje Booker, Montana Wilderness Association; Kelly Pohl, Headwaters Economics; and Entrepreneur Keith Dvoroznak, with RipCord.

**TOUR TIME!**

MEDA attendees visited campus highlights, the Dillon Historic District, strolled Montana Street, Idaho Street…and ended up at the Patagonia Outlet for the Town Pump Social.
Town Pump Social – Dillon Junior Fiddlers sponsored by Headwaters RC&D

Check out the folks that made our social so very special:

Patagonia Outlet  *  Dillon Junior Fiddlers  *  Beaverhead Brewing Co  *  Brunchies
MT Dept. of Transportation sponsored the MEDA Annual Meeting Breakfast

Day two of the conference began with the MEDA Annual Meeting. Tracy McIntyre, Nominating Committee Chair, officiated the election of board members and officers. Paul Tuss was thanked for his service as President; Steve Arveschoug is President for 2018-2019. New to the board: Tori Matejovsky.

Special thanks for many years of MEDA board service:
Ken Richardson and Anne Boothe

Scholarship Award Winners – Anne Boothe, Scholarship Committee Chair, congratulated Tracy Baker (photo on left) and Brenda Schilling (phot on right) for their awards.
Cybersecurity

Jason Pekovitch, Director of Development, Montana Interactive, handled the very important topic of cybersecurity for MEDA attendees.

Presentation

Breakout Sessions – Three breakout sessions were held; attendees were able to attend two of the three presentations.

Breakout 1: MT Dept. of Environmental Quality, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program
Presenters shared resources that would help pay for environmental regulatory compliance requirements such as building rehab, public facilities, and economic development. Presenter: John Podolinsky, Jason Seyler, Ben Brouwer, and Heidi Anderson-Folnagy.
**Breakout 2: MCDC**  
Unleashing Local Capital. The Montana Cooperative Development Center shared about launching an initiative with multiple partners that will focus on rural Montana communities that struggle for investment capital and may lack the capacity to compete successfully for grants and/or venture capital. Result: Rural Investment Cooperatives.  
Presenters: Jan Brown, MCDC and Ken Fichtler, GOED.  
**Presentation**  
**Fact Sheet**

**Breakout 3:** Envision 2026 -- A Plan for Montana’s Future.  
Webb Brown, President/CEO, Montana Chamber of Commerce shared MT Chamber’s plan to ignite sustained economic growth in Montana.  
[Envision 2026]

**Rockin’ it Rural Revitalization** – This panel of speakers shared examples of rural areas being motivated, having big plans, and initiating big ideas.

**Thanks to our MEDA Spring Conference Committee:**  
Katie Barba, Chair; Joe Willauer, Julie Jaksha, Karyl Tobel, Paul Tuss, Russ Fletcher, Sean Becker, Suzi Berget White, and Webb Brown.
Thanks to the MEDA Professional Development and Scholarship Committee for a great training: Anne Boothe and Brett Doney, Co-Chairs; Jim Davison, Jim Atchison, Kathie Bailey, Marie Hirsch, Rick Edwards, Sue Taylor, and Kim Morisaki.

Special thanks to our amazing sponsors who made this conference possible:

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