Online News

June

- RLF Working Group Call 9am
- RTA Working Group Call 9am
- MNA Financial Leadership
- Tech Tour
- MDO/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am

July

- Pre-Symposium Workshops – involves MEDA
- MTA Awards Dinner – involves MEDA Members
- Register for Innovate MT Symposium
- MDO/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am
- MT Young Professional’s Summit

Evaluations are in = Two Thumbs Up for MEDA Spring Conference

If you had to miss the MEDA Conference, here is the conference summary - complete with photos and presentations.

Thanks to our host Great Falls Development Authority, presenters, sponsors, and attendees!

A little conference fun: Director Haxby-Cote wearing her newly acquired tiara.
MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Annual MEDA Membership Meeting was held on May 3rd, during the MEDA Conference. The membership elected officers and board members and received an update on MEDA committees and activities. To view a list of MEDA’s leadership, visit our website.

MEDA’s Printable Membership Directory has been updated.

Left (L to R): New MEDA member Carly Wheatley with Kathie Bailey, both of Snowy Mountain Development.

OPPORTUNITY CALL –
Next one is set for June 28th; 10:30am

These monthly calls with our Montana Dept of Commerce partners are a great way to share where opportunities are developing, what the demand for services is looking like and how together we can continue to successfully grow Montana’s economy. Meeting notes.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group** – This working group is holding its quarterly call on June 6th, at 10am. 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. Notes

- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group met on May 11th and received an update on the three state grant that will assess and improve the Resource Team Assessment process. The next call is set for June 8th at 9am. Notes from the call. Learn more about MEDA’s assessments here.

MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Update
The Second Quarter deadline for applications was May 26th. Third Quarter applications are now being accepted. For more information visit: Criteria and Application

MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

The first three-state meeting was held via webinar to begin the scope of work to study and improve Resource Team Assessments. The grant covers a three year time frame and will result in best practices for assessments, along with a database to store report information. Montanan’s involved include Paul LaChapelle, Sue Taylor, Gloria O’Rourke, Gus Byrom and Anne Cossitt. The MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group is serving as a soundboard for the project.

Here is a screenshot of the “zoom” tool that was used to hold the meeting. Although the meeting lasted three hours, participants stayed focus as the screen was very interactive.
The Ronan Resource Team returned to Ronan to learn of progress and celebrate all the work done on identified projects and priorities since the team’s visit one year ago. It was a great assessment with terrific outcomes.

MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **MEDA Scholarship and Professional Development Committee**
  MEDA evaluations from the pre-conference training on infrastructure were extremely positive. This committee is now planning MEDA’s first webinar training. Stay tuned!

- **MEDA Legislative Committee**
  Chair Rick Edwards gave an interesting legislative update at the MEDA Spring Conference. If you missed it, [here it is again](#).

- **MEDA Membership Committee**
  Chris Cerquone is the Chair of this committee. New MEDA members and new conference attendees were recognized during the conference with a gold star on his/her nametag. This committee is coming up with more ideas on making MEDA’s membership more relevant.

Highlights for May 2017

- The BEAR Google Form Database was the recipient of one BEAR Team visits in May, from Warren Vaughan and the Bozeman BEAR Team.

- Because of budget cuts at the state level, as of July 1, 2017, the statewide Montana BEAR Program will no longer be funded. It is hoped the seven BEAR Teams across the state will continue their good work and provide support for business expansion and retention needs. In cooperation with Montana Department of Labor, a question is being added to the IWT application providing an opportunity for a business to indicate it is seeking additional resources beyond IWT. The MEDA office will serve as a referral point for these requests and utilize statewide economic development contacts to fill the business need(s).
A final Montana BEAR Report will be compiled the end of June. Records will remain on file so that BEAR Teams can access their client information that was submitted via the Google survey form. And as always, the MEDA office is ready to assist with referrals and resources as needed.

TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU
Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.

- Check out the pre-Innovate Montana Symposium Workshops on July 11th and 12th – they promise to be excellent!
- NADO’s report on the president’s FY2018 budget request is now available. Click here to view the report. This comprehensive analysis provides information on agency eliminations and reductions proposed by the administration as well the outlook for congressional action.
- Register Now
  Join Montana State Fund’s Safety Services Specialist, Kirk Smith and Senior Human Resource Generalist, Mike Worden for this June’s safety workshop Workforce Safety and Engagement.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html

⇒ Ag Development Council extends GTA program deadline
  The Agriculture Development Council met last week and voted to extend the deadline for the popular Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program, from September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017. The deadline was extended to allow more time for producers to apply for funding.

⇒ Regional Innovation Strategies 2017 funding available
  EDA is providing two separate funding opportunities:
  - **i6 Challenge ($13 million)** – strengthening initiatives to improve the transformation of ideas into new products, solutions, businesses and jobs; and,
  - **Seed Fund Support Grant Competition ($4 million)** – supporting efforts to plan, form, launch or scale seed funds investing in high growth and innovation-focused startups.

⇒ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.