

MEDA Legislative Call
January 26, 2022
7am

Participants: Christy Cummings Dawson, Tracy McIntyre, Sarah Converse, Austin Trunkle, Allison Corbyn, and Gloria O'Rourke.

Updates and Discussion:

- **Sarah will have committee organization for next week.**
- **MEDA Broadband Committee is meeting tomorrow.**
- **Allison sent the "last mile" letter to the other partners for signature.**
- **ARPA: Infrastructure meets Thursday, Communications on Friday.**
- **Business Days at the Capitol – panels were great.**
- **Suggested: meet up with MACo, MLCT, Montana Chamber and ask what others are doing. Sarah will connect with MACo the end of February – need to get MEDA on the agenda now if needed. She is also reaching out to MLCT.**

MEDA Legislative Call
January 19, 2022
7am

Participants: Sarah Converse, Austin Trunkle, Christy Cummings Dawson, Allison Corbyn, Brian Obert and Gloria O'Rourke.

Updates

- **Infrastructure "last mile" proposal was approved by the MEDA Board and send to Allison for logos and signatures. In progress.**
- **The Policies Statement was simplified and available on the google docs link.**
- **A strategies document is now needed (see notes below)**
- **There is a massive number of programs available right now; getting another tool in the form of venture capital is exciting. Brian and Allison are involved in discussing SSBCI funds for this purpose.**
- **Sarah will provide a process document next week. It will be very simple.**
- **ARPA Infrastructure meets the 27th. Broadband on the 28th.**

MEDA Legislative Call
January 12, 2022
7am

Participants: Tracy McIntyre, Sarah Converse, Christy Cummings-Dawson, Toni Schneider, Andy Shirliff, Joe Willauer, and Gloria O'Rourke.

Review of MEDA Policy Statement

Edits were made to the document. Tracy moved to create a clean policy statement by using the paragraph describing the specific policy and separate it from the bullet point list that follows each

paragraph. Toni seconded the motion. Motion carried. The paragraphs will be the Policy Statement and the bullet points become part of a new strategies document.

Tracy moved to remove the “partnership” segment from the existing Policy Statements and place in a new strategies document. Joe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The language moved:

- ***Partnership Development*** MEDA understands and values partnerships and supports continued development of existing relationships and exploring opportunities for new. Specific efforts such as these will strengthen our efforts:
MEDA supports and assists in both establishing and strengthening partnerships between our governments at all levels, the public and private sector to achieve the common goal of a healthy economy and future business development opportunities. These partnerships include the Montana Association of Counties, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana League of Cities and Towns, Montana Infrastructure Coalition and others.

What is the process for legislative proposals?

- **Working Group, Legislative Committee, then the Board**
Working groups are educational; the legislative committee is identified in the by-laws to be the line of the communication to the board.

Discussion:

- Do not have a different process while in session and out of session. Be consistent. Be efficient.
- Keep updates open to the membership. Legislative updates for everyone.

Action Items:

- MEDA Executive Committee will 1. Create a strategies document based on the current policy statement; 2. Outline the process that should be used to be clear and efficient with MEDA's legislative process. For example, Working Group sends to Legislative Committee which then sends to the board for approval. Also, clarify how the process is different when the legislature is in session.
- Sarah will investigate how other groups such as Montana Chamber, MNA, process their legislative flow.