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**MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
 April 26, 2017
 10:30am – 11:30am**

On the call from MDOC: Sean Becker, Karyl Tobel, Annmarie Robinson, Carolyn Jones, Gus Byrom, Chad Moore, and Casey Lozar.

On the call from MEDA: Gypsy Ray, Ken Richardson, Angie Nelson, Brent Donnelly, Sarah Converse, Kelly Solberg, Dax Schieffer, Paddy Fleming, Paul Reichert, Gloria O'Rourke and others who called in after the meeting started.

Update from MEDA:

Sean welcomed everyone to the call and reported the pre-conference committee in the legislature passed three amendments including Indian Country Tourism, an appropriation for outdoor recreation, and a reduction from BSTF in the amount of \$200,000 for a project. The amendment is 9580.ajj

Sean reported MDOC is going through a budget process which is tricky with the legislators still at work. MDOC is working on short term achievable goals. Pam has been very clear about priorities including and looking toward the future for the so-called 2019 programs (GTA, SBDC, MTIP, Office of Trade, Made in MT, etc.) The goal is to get an assessment of what is working and what is not, and learn what can be done better.

MDOC and Partners - Program Updates

GTA - Angie Nelson	Angie said she is happy to reconnect with this call as it has been a busy legislative session. GTA will continue for the next two years. Food and Ag Center funds were included in amendments to HB2. Angie will work on an RFP for Food and Ag Centers for the next two years. A steady stream of new projects keep coming her way: beef processing, micro malting, etc.
BSTF – Annmarie Robinson	Annmarie reported Job Creation and Planning Grants are due today. In the future, planning grants will only be accepted on a quarterly basis. The next planning grants are due July 9 th as well as the Job Creation grants. In the future, due to the lack of funding, a different process and criteria may need to be used.
Voices of Tourism – Dax Schieffer	Dax's comments on tourism and the legislature was that the economic impact of tourism was realized and should continue to be recognized. Dax and the Tourism and Rec Working Group will continue to meet quarterly.
CDBG – Gus Byrom	Gus is looking forward to the MEDA conference next week.

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	The Housing Conference is the following week in Great Falls. The CDBG division is trying to link affordable housing with infrastructure and to meet the state's housing needs.
MT Film Office – Film Commissioner	Montana Film Office reported activity across the state is increasing with better weather. Current film locations are Whitefish, Butte, and Eastern Montana. They recently won an award for an outstanding location for the Johnny Walker commercial, in Shields Valley. MT Film Office posts their awards and activities on FaceBook.
MDOC - Casey Lozar	Casey reminded everyone July 12 – 13 is the Innovate MT Symposium. Working closely with GOED, keynotes and speakers are in place and they continue to seek Solution Lounge participants. Also, lessons are being learned from success stories in Grand Canyon Indian Country to increase Montana's Tribal Tourism. Regarding the 2019 programs, Casey is beginning to work on a timeline to prepare for the 2019 session, discover what programs are working, what needs to be changed, etc. MDOC will also be talking with grantees and awardees to get a good perspective.
SBDC – Chad Moore	SBA Awards and Training just took place. Rebecca was recognized as a State Star by her peers and will receive national recognition. Contract talks are in the works; the Fast Grant Program application is evolving. SBDC will offer three business classes during the Innovate Symposium.
CRDCs- MicroLoan - Carolyn Jones	Carolyn said business is as usual for CRDCs and the Micro Loan program. She is wrapping up re-certification for CRDCs. Wood Product funding is still available in the amount of over \$1million.
MDOC - Jan Stoddard	Jan works with specific programs such as Made in Montana, including agritourism and a tourism grant program. They do have infrastructure grants for tourism needs. New apps are due July 1 st – September 30 th . Jan is a communication conduit out to strategic partners. The goal is to engage both the tourism side as well as the business side of what can be offered.
USDA – Brett Donnelly	Brett said business is as usual providing the government provides funding. Applications are being processed for their high-demand programs; awards should be announced soon. Brett would like to see their loan guarantee program better utilized.

MEDA Update

Paddy Fleming facilitated on behalf of MEDA.

Prospera – Paul Reichert	Working with Montana Photonics, a MT BioScience Alliance event was held in April; Prospera is also compiling BSTF grants. On the business development side there is a backlog for business counseling and they are very active on the loan front. One new program – PowerUp – is a business start up class to give people hands-on tools to develop a business plan and have one year projection for their business. The class lasts three weeks.
Lake County Community Development - Gypsy	Gypsy covers Lake, Mineral, Sanders County and the Flathead Reservation. She is busy with BSTF apps and managing current grants. MEDA will return next month to do the one year Resource Team Assessment return visit. There is a new cooperative brewery project in downtown Ronan. The Mission Mountain Food kitchen is expanding. All LCCD loan funds have been expended; seeking new funds.
Sweetgrass Development – Sarah Converse	Sarah was pleased to announce the hiring of Kelly Solberg to assist with Economic Development. She is working on funding

	for the nursing program for a tribal entity. BSTF projects continue to progress. All funds for the rest of the year are allocated. Her microloan funding is in most demand.
GFDA – Brett Doney	Great Falls is hosting the Downtown Main Street Conference Oct 18 – 20 of this year. Theme: Attracting Private Investment in your Downtown. Brett is traveling to Idaho May 8 – 10 to learn from success stories in Idaho.
MMEC - Paddy	Shane Cantril is the new business advisor in Missoula – at MonTech. MMEC won't be at MEDA due to the national conference. MMEC is also partnering with Innovate MT Symposium; MMEC is trying to join with partners instead of having a separate conference.