



118 E. Seventh St; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711
Ph: 406.563.5259 www.medamembers.org
info@medamembers.org

MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
April 27, 2016
10:30am – 11:30am

Participating MEDA Members: Christie Bell, Linda Kindrick, Paul Reichert, Paul Tuss, Paddy Fleming, Sue Taylor, Rick Edwards, Roger Hopkins, Sarah Converse, Denise Johnson, Cheryl Curry, Tori Matejovsky, and Gloria O'Rourke.

MDOC MEDA Members on the call: Sean Becker, Karyl Tobel, Carol Crockett, Gus Byrom, Heather Sobrepena-George, Debi Davidson, Lindsey Hagmaier, Aaron Pratt, and Alyssa Townsend.

MDOC UPDATE

Sean Becker welcomed everyone to the call. Sean said that in addition to a general program update, the Montana International Trade Center will be featured on the call as well as the MTIP/SBIR program.

- **MT International Trade Center – Aaron Pratt**

Aaron explained there are three main functions to this program: grants for Montana companies who export beyond our state, support for domestic trade shows, and support for international trade shows including arranging trade missions and diplomatic missions. The program has a variety of tools to help Montana companies understand where their product has its best fit.

Three events are the main focus in the coming months: BioScience show in San Francisco in June, Select USA, and an industrial trade show in July in Chicago. Grants are offered to qualifying companies to attend trade shows that fit their business. Regarding grant funds, the Federal limit is \$8,000 for booths, registration, marketing materials, transportation, etc.

Aaron noted next Monday is the start of Small Business Week; Manufacturing Trade Day is May 2nd.

- **MTIP/SBIT – Lindsey Hagmaier**

Montana Technology Innovation Partnership is a program that supports researchers, entrepreneurs, and small business innovation. The program helps businesses to assess their eligibility for the program and provides guidance for the intellectual property process. MTIP works with Christie Bell for the training and will soon be expanding into Tribal areas.

Lindsey mentioned a May 16th National Science Foundation and SBIR webinar (details at mtip.mt.gov) which will feature a success story using these programs.

MDOC Program Updates

Indian Country – Heather Sobrepena-George provided updates on Indian Country programs. Efforts are expanding for tribal tourism including a tourism infrastructure component as well as new partnerships with tourism operators. Heather was pleased to announce that all eight

reservations were represented at the Governor's Tourism Conference as well as three Tribal Chairmen.

Heather said the pilot project of providing equity for tribal businesses is going well. Heather noted if you have a tourism-related business on a reservation to contact her regarding resources for assisting the business.

Paul Tuss said the Native American Business Advisory Network has improved services and continuity of services to Montana reservations and to SBDCs.

Community Development Division - Gus Byrom reported:

- TSEP applications for water, sewer, bridges, etc., will be accepted July 1st.
- Applications are due by July 6th for public facilities, fire halls, senior centers, head start, etc.
- HOME Program always has its door open as well as the new housing rehab program.
- Main Street Program is holding a placemaking workshop in Helena, next Monday and Tuesday.
- State Housing Conference will be held in Kalispell May 22 – 24.

Gus can be reached at 841-2777.

BSTF – Karyl Tobel reminded everyone the job creation round is due May 11th; an additional round to encourage more awards before the Fiscal Year ends for both planning and job creation has the deadline of June 30th. Alyssa Townsend noted the June 30th deadline works will with the July 1st CDBG deadline.

CRDC – Karyl noted 1st Quarter reports are due April 30th.

RLF – Wood Product RLF dollars are still available to assist companies impacted by timber regulations. Paul asked if other Revolving Loan Funds are available as Bear Paw may need to replenish its funds. Karyl will ask Carolyn Jones to call Paul.

Regarding Aviation

Sean mentioned MDOC is reaching out to airport administrators so that they are aware of funding options from MDOC. Of particular interest, MDOC can help market direct flight announcements.

MEDA

Paul Tuss facilitated the MEDA portion of the call and began by thanking Headwaters RC&D and Butte Local Development Corporation for hosting an excellent MEDA conference last week. MDOC was thanked for putting together the eight presentations for the Partners in Progress segment which showcased challenging projects that were ultimately funded.

CRDCs and EDDs: As mentioned earlier, CRDC 1st Quarter reports are due the end of April. Paul mentioned the CRDCs and EDDs meet each summer and a meeting is being considered for late July or early August, perhaps in Butte, at the NorthWestern Energy building. The meeting will not conflict with the EDA conference to be held near that time.

Once every three years, EDD organizations need a peer review. Paul is hoping EDA personnel will come to Montana to save EDD's the cost of traveling out of state.

Bear Paw - As mentioned above, Bear Paw may need to recapitalize its revolving loan fund. Bear Paw is also seeking to hire someone for its Value Added Food and Ag Center program.

SBA – Roger Hopkins and Cary Hester shared the news that the embassy in Beijing is sending high level investors with Ambassador Baucus to consider investment opportunities in Montana. The meet-up will take place June 22nd and 23rd in Bozeman.

Montana Community Finance – Linda Kindrick was wished well on her retirement. Linda said Sherrie O'Donnell will serve as the Interim Director.