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**MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
 August 31, 2016
 10:30am – 11:30am**

On the call from MDOC: Casey Lozar, Gus Byrom, Debi Davidson, Annmarie Robinson, Katie Willcockson, Carolyn Jones, Jennifer Pelej, and Carol Crockett.

On the call from MEDA: Cyndi Johnson, Russ Fletcher, Brett Doney, Sue Taylor, Brian Obert, Paul Tuss, Ken Richardson, Cheryl Ulmer (Sen. Tester), Kathie Bailey, Leslie Messer, and Gloria O'Rourke.

Welcome and Program Updates

Casey Lozar welcomed everyone to the call and facilitated the following MDOC updates:

<p>Market MT Symposium Jennifer Pelej Marketing Bureau Chief</p>	<p>Jeni Pelej shared information on the fast-approaching Market Montana Symposium and asked MEDA members to attend and encourage others to attend as well. The symposium is the third in the series of the Governor's Main Street Symposiums. After each keynote there will be focus groups on looking inward: recruitment, cultural aspects; and looking outward: promoting what we have to the world; stories of international success, etc. Jennifer will send talking points for Gloria to share across the MEDA listserv.</p>
<p>Montana Data Users Conference</p>	<p>Casey Lozar shared information on the Montana Data Users Conference to be held September 14 – 15, in Helena. The theme is about powering your economy through information. It is a free conference that lasts a day and a half, in the MDOC building.</p>
<p>International Trade Officer Technical Assistance Katie Willcockson</p>	<p>Katie Willcockson shared an update and information on this program. The agency is taking proactive steps and studying target areas for Montana's top ten country list based on commodities, exports, etc. Katie gave examples of how this information is being applied to Montana's tourism efforts. Brett suggested working together with MT Ambassadors, GOED, and MEDA to be more strategic with these efforts.</p>
<p>Economic Affairs Interim Committee Update and MDOC Spreadsheet</p>	<p>Casey updated everyone on today's Economic Affairs meeting and assured everyone that the 2019 programs are a high priority for MDOC in the coming Legislative session. Casey talked about a database that is being updated; the MEDA Legislative Committee hopes it is up-to-date by September 15th so that an interactive map can be created to demonstrate where programs were used and projects created.</p>

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MDOC – CDD Gus Byrom	Gus Byrom reported Sept 14 - 16 will be a conference at Fairmont on using the co-op model for housing projects. Gus also mentioned the Montana Main Street Conference will be in Butte, October 5 – 7.
BSTF and Primary Sector Workforce Annmarie Robinson	Annmarie reported today at 11:59 is the deadline for BSTF applications with the next round ending October 25 th . Annmarie said funding is still available in the Primary Sector grant.
CRDC and Microbusiness; Wood Products RLF Carolyn Jones	Carolyn provided information today to the Economic Affairs Committee and said the session went well. Funding is still available in the Wood Products RLF to assist distressed wood products companies.
MDOC Team in Ronan	As a result of the MEDA Resource Team Assessment, the Tourism Team will be in Ronan Oct 12 th to do a branding training. MEDA conference attendees are welcome to attend.

MEDA Update

Paul Tuss began with a reminder to everyone to register for the MEDA Fall Conference, Oct 13 – 14. Paul also shared the MEDA Board recently met with Governor Bullock to discuss legislative priorities and economic development activities. Paul said the meeting went very well and MEDA appreciated the invitation. In addition, the CRDC/EDD Working Group met in Butte; MDOC was thanked for attending. Attendees focused on specific issues for CRDC/EDD groups and shared best practices.

Bear Paw Development Paul Tuss	<p>Paul reported Ag Listening Sessions are planned September 8th in Chester and Havre and September 9th in Ft. Benton. GOED Road Shows are planned in Malta for September 21st and also in Ft. Benton. Malta is also holding a technology roundtable event on September 22nd.</p> <p>Bear Paw is becoming recertified as a microbusiness corporation via MDOC. In addition, two brownfield projects are underway in Havre, one in the downtown area.</p>
Great Falls Development Authority Brett Doney	Brett invited everyone to attend the Grand Opening Celebration of the Agri Tech Park September 9 th . The first train will arrive from BNSF during the celebration and other activities, including a tailgate party are planned.
MEDA Snowy Mountain Development Kathie Bailey	Kathie reminded everyone about the two MEDA awards that will be recognized during the MEDA conference. Applications are due September 5 th . Lewistown is starting its nine month leadership course (fourth class) with 16 students signed up. These classes result in improved leadership capacity in the area. USDA Strike Force listening sessions are beginning; these focus on high poverty rural areas. Kathie said the recharging of the Lewistown community and the surrounding area is in full swing.
Beartooth RC&D Sue Taylor	Sue reported Beartooth obtained a BSTF Planning Grant; a Strike Force meeting is to be held in Hardin. Hardin will likely serve as a pilot project for the coop housing conference in Fairmont. Sue said she is in the second phase of the old Roosevelt School in Red Lodge which involves bringing in national partners to review the building for the arts as well as conference activities. She hopes to soon be creating a business plan and operations plan for the building. GOED will be doing a Road Show in Columbus and Big Timber in October. Steering committee meetings have begun with a four state tourism effort.

<p>Lake County Community Development Corp. Gypsy Ray</p>	<p>LCCDC is co-hosting the MEDA Fall Conference and looking forward to the event. Momentum continues as a result of the Ronan Resource Team Assessment. A Strike Force listening session is being held, as well as the October 12th Ronan Branding workshop prior to the MEDA conference. Two feasibility studies are underway (event center, food processing facility).</p>
<p>Richland Economic Development Leslie Messer</p>	<p>Leslie shared RED hosted listening sessions as the Sidney Chamber is reviving and creating a young professionals group. Much of Leslie's time has been with the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation project which involves many meetings and water for irrigation as well as the sturgeon population. The canal ruptured recently and flooded over 200 acres. 40,000 acres of beets may not be processed if the canal is not repaired. Sidney will also have an Airshow Sept 23 and 24: Snowbirds from Canada.</p>
<p>MBAC Brian Obert</p>	<p>Brian Obert said MBAC just purchased an armory on a landfill full of lead. MBAC is also working with a business that is about to double in size, an irrigation district forming in Townsend, and an LED light project in White Sulphur Springs.</p>