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**MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
 June 29, 2016
 10:30am – 11:30am**

On the call from MDOC: Karyl Tobel, Sean Becker, Michael Finnerty, Heather Sobrepena-George, Annemarie Robinson, and Joe Rambler.

On the call from MEDA: Anne Boothe (Facilitator), Tori Matejovsky, Paddy Fleming, Gypsy Ray, Christie Bell, Kurt Keyser, Brian Obert, Barb Stiffarm, Jason Rittal, Roger Hopkins and Gloria O'Rourke.

Welcome and Program Updates

Sean Becker welcomed everyone to the call and requested the following program updates from MDOC:

<p>SBDC Michael Finnerty</p>	<p>Michael is leaving his position but he is pleased with the progress that has been made during the past seven months and is confident a new State Director will continue the progress. The position is now being publicized.</p>
<p>Heather Sobrepena-George</p>	<p>Heather reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Business Planning Grants roll out July 1; Tribal governments are the only eligible applicants. • August 1st is the Indian Equity Fund availability with two deadlines including local priorities (on reservation businesses) September 30th and at-large deadline for Tribal enrollees living off the reservation is October 31st. • Native American Business Advisors (NABA) is modeled after the SBDC program and will again offer technical assistance. • The Native American Development Corporation (NADC) conference will take place August 3rd and 4th in Billings; Heather encouraged everyone to attend.
<p>Gus Byrom Community Development Division -Planning</p>	<p>Gus shared the following deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1 – accepting CDBG planning grants- first come first served. • CDBG Public Facility Category grants are due Wednesday, July 6th, by 5pm. • July 20th CDBG Competitive Housing/Multi-housing applications are due. • August 1st Main Street Program apps due • Ongoing applications accepted for CDBG non-competitive housing rehabilitation program.

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<p>Carol Crockett Tourism Grants</p>	<p>Carol reported Tourism Grants are once again available on July 1st; the cycle is open and ongoing throughout the year including needs such as infrastructure, digital development, and event paid media advertising. Visit tourism.mt.gov. There are two important changes this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants will be issued based on the accrual of funds so that matching with, for example, CDBG Planning Grants could be possible. • Businesses can now apply directly to the program.
<p>Annmarie Robinson BSTF/WTG</p>	<p>The WTG Program had a record number of applications this year with the deadline of June 30th at midnight. The next deadline is August 31st.</p>
<p>Joe Rambler –Senior Economist MDOC</p>	<p>Joe gave an update on what is happening with tourism planning, research, and data within the division. As it has been nearly ten years since Montana did a brand study, an RFP was recently awarded to research, brand testing and visitor assessment services. A segmentation analysis will be used to find and reach Montana’s target audience. Other states like us have picked up the pace and that is why we see ads for Montanan’s to visit Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, etc. The plan is to have the analysis complete by October 12th so that data can be used for the Summer 2017 campaign. The research and advertising partnership is with Hoffman York and Shortgrass Web Development. The goal is to have a united front so outreach will be done across the state once decisions are made.</p>
<p>Angela de Yong Office of Trade and international</p>	<p>Angie reported her office focuses on clients and businesses selling outside the state of Montana. If a business owner wants to attend a trade show out of state there is a cost-sharing grant available to qualifying applicants. There is also an international program to assist with selling out of the state and out of the country which can include support for language translation services, market research and development, etc.</p>

MEDA Update

Anne Boothe facilitated the MEDA portion of the call and asked for updates from CRDCs, EDOs, and other agencies.

MBAC

Brian Obert reported MBAC is looking at a second building to purchase, remodel and repurpose. MBAC is finishing a CTEP project in White Sulphur Springs and working on a new Irrigation District involving Canyon Ferry Lake.

Lake County CDC

Gypsy Ray reported on a BSTF award for the Polson Fairground feasibility study. Gypsy is anticipating a CDBG Planning Grant for Ronan’s downtown streets as the need was listed as a high priority during the recent Ronan Resource Team Assessment. Sanders County has applied for a Housing grant. Gypsy will attend the EDA conference in Denver and participate in CEDS training. Lake County CDC is also serving as co-host for the MEDA Fall Conference to be held in Polson, October 12 – 14.

Great Northern Development

Tori will also attend the EDA conference and reported on several projects including a new apartment complex.

Eastern Plains

Jason Rittal is now working for Fallon County but reported for Eastern Plains. A new director has been hired for Eastern Plains and the community of Terry just opened bids for a hospital project. Jason cautioned there are now two Elizabeth’s working for Eastern Plains but the new director goes by “Beth”. Beth Epley can be reached at e.epley@outlook.com or 406.853.6471.

MMEC

Paddy Fleming said Rob Cook is no longer with MMEC so Claude Cook is the temporary contact for Central Montana. The Compete Smart conference is scheduled for October 6 – 7 this fall.

Opportunity Link

Barbara Stiffarm will forward the NADC conference information to MEDA. Opportunity Link is working on improvement of the area's public transportation system and a housing rehabilitation project.

SBA

Roger Hopkins reported the news that John Klayman is retiring July 8th. John has long served as the SBA finance and outreach office in Eastern Montana.

Triangle Communications

Anne Boothe reported on a Technology Roundup that will be held in Malta this fall. The information will be shared across the MEDA listserv.

MEDA Office

Gloria reported there are three Resource Team Assessments pending: Seeley Lake (September 19 – 20), Boulder, and Colstrip. Gloria also reported the Badlands BEAR Team is up and running in the Glendive area.