



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

**MDOC MEDA Opportunity Call
 May 31, 2017
 10:30am – 11:30am**

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

On the call from MEDA: Paul Tuss, Gypsy Ray, Kathie Bailey, Sue Taylor, Anne Boothe, Kurt Keyser, EDA; Jason Rittal, Joe Willauer, Brett Doney, Jim Atchison, Angie Nelson, and Gloria O'Rourke

MDOC and Partners - Program Updates

Sean reported MDOC is working on the 2018 – 2019 budget. Potential impact of SB261 is a budget balancing mechanism that has triggers based on budget shortfalls. By August 15th of this year a certified projection will be received. At that time impacts will then need to be initiated. For MDOC it looks like cuts would involve the MT Indian Language Program and ½ percent from the top of the General Fund and an 8% cut from the Lodging Facility Tax with equals about \$6million. A final budget should be in place by September. What it means for MEDA is that the 5% rebated and the reduction in the General Fund, plus 6% total in personal services, budgets will be lean. MDOC is looking for creative ways to leverage existing resources. Sean appreciates SBA pulling together the conference call to better utilize all our partners and resources.

<p>SBDC, Trade, etc. - Casey Lozar</p>	<p>The budget process is challenging and will be for a few years. The concern is for no momentum to be lost within MEDA or within our communities. In terms of SBDC, Miles Community College is joining the network as the host for the Southeastern MT region. Casey thanked Jim Atchison for his assistance with SBDC in the past. In terms of trade, a team is being sent from the photonics industry the end of June to explore new export markets. A team will be sent the end of August to Australia for manufacturing opportunities. SB309 was signed by the governor which adds funding to Tribal Tourism.</p>
<p>BSTF – Annmarie Robinson</p>	<p>Annmarie reported new BSTF guidelines are posted on the website and the language is going through the ARM process. Public comments are due July 7th. Also posted are new application dates. There is only just over \$600,00 for the entire year. July 9, October 9th, January 9th, and April 9th are dates for the quarterly applications with about \$150,000 for each quarter. All deadlines are posted on the website. Last year \$1.4 million was allocated. The legislature transferred 5.5 million out of the fund to support economic development projects in other areas. Funds should go up in the following year.</p>

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PAUL TUSS, PRESIDENT, HAVRE * KELLIE DANIELSON, VICE PRESIDENT *
 * RICK EDWARDS, TREASURER, BUTTE * JASON RITTAL, PAST PRESIDENT, BAKER * GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY *
 * JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP * (PENDING) BUTTE * JAMES GRUNKE, MISSOULA * BRETT DONEY, GREAT FALLS *
 * LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY * ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA * CHRIS CERQUONE, MISSOULA * SARAH CONVERSE, GREAT FALLS *
 * PAUL REICHERT, BOZEMAN * BRIAN OBERT, HELENA * STEVE ARVESCHOUG, BILLINGS * TRACY MCINTYRE, EUREKA * JIM DAVISON, ANACONDA *
 * STEPHANIE RAY, LIVINGSTON * RUSS FLETCHER, MISSOULA * KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN * TIM GUARDIPEE, BILLINGS *

MT Board of Research and Commercialization - Karyl Tobel	Karyl reported MT BRC received 24 aps for this year's grant competition. The board is making final decisions with letters going out around June 8 th .
CDBG – Gus Byrom	Gus received funding from TSEP and will be accepting proposals starting June 26 th for preliminary engineering reports. Later in the summer: planning grants for CDBG; a date for applications is pending. Housing funding is also available – call Gus at 841-2777.
GTA - Angie Nelson	Angie reported for MT Dept of Ag: applications are posted, deadline is November 15 th . The Food and Ag Center RFP should go out next week. Angie is hosting a Growing Montana booth at the state fair and will use 15 – 20 company's products.
CRDCs- MicroLoan - Carolyn Jones	Carolyn Jones gave an SSCBI program update: the annual report was submitted and reviewed. \$12.8 million was received for the state. \$12.35 was sent out across the state with leverage ratio of 9 to 1. The impact to Montana: created and/or retained over 1250 jobs. The re-lended funds to date have served 16 loans which brought in additional leveraged funds and jobs. The future of a second round of funds is uncertain at this time. Sean congratulated everyone for work well done.

Update from MEDA:

Paul Tuss commented on the SSCBI program and agreed with Sean that it was a tremendous program with long term fiscal impacts. Paul wanted everyone to be aware of the federal level hits. NADO just released their report on the impact of the proposed budget as it relates to economic development.

Paul noted the in person CRDC Working Group meeting is pending.

Paul asked Gloria to provide an update on the Innovate Montana Symposium and encouraged everyone to attend. Gloria noted special workshops are being designed and presented by MEDA Members on July 11th and 12th.

Gus Byrom was asked to share NDC Training for Housing with MEDA.

Paul noted the Federal Reserve survey is out; please take it. Closes June 2nd.

Bear Paw – Paul Tuss	Director Pam Haxby-Cote will be the speaker for Bear Paw's annual meeting on June 15 th .
Snowy Mountain Development Corp – Kathie Bailey	June 21 st is the date for Snowy Mountain's Annual Meeting. Special awards are given for business of the year, etc; many of the awards involve BSTF grants so Kathie is alarmed at the reduction of funds in the program. Snowy's Brownfield projects have been successful with a total of 16 properties being cleaned up and re-utilized. These projects were also a result of the Big Sky Trust Fund. PTAC is well used by Snowy Mountain – this year the format has changed. A survey was sent with very positive feedback obtained and acknowledgement of the benefit(s) of the program. Concerns for funding at the Federal Level are great.
Lake County Community Development - Gypsy Ray	Lake County Community Development is starting a nine-month leadership program similar to others around the state. There were 28 applications for the first class which will begin this September. Four new BSTF grants were awarded. A new microloan fund has begun as many small businesses have

	<p>cash-flow issues. Lake County is reviewing its growth policy; Ronan just completed its one year Resource Team Assessment review with great success. A cooperative brewery is one outcome from that effort which is in progress. Another project that resulted from the assessment is Restore the Ronan Arch. Update on Marie: she is recovering well from neck surgery.</p>
Prospera – Paul Reichert	<p>Paul mentioned the partnership with Headwaters and how several projects have caused them to work together. Paul said several BSTF projects are going right now. Prospera’s annual luncheon is June 20th which is highlighting a BSTF project.</p>
Beartooth RC&D – Sue Taylor	<p>Sue reported on a feasibility study for a sports complex. A partnership was formed with various entities interested in the project. Two PARs are wrapping up in Red Lodge and Hardin.</p>
Southeastern MT Development Corp.	<p>Jim is also concerned about BSTF dollars. There are major studies going on including CEDS, and Colstrip Diversification Strategy (KLJ was the contractor). Handling the media over the results has been time consuming. The number one request from the public was additional broadband capacity. The report is on the SEMDC website and contains six goals.</p>
Headwaters RC&D – Joe Willauer	<p>Five year CEDS update is in progress; information is now being compiled. Joe recently met with Paul Reichert to brainstorm how to work better together. Food program projects have been very busy – malting facility just had a ribbon cutting at the industrial park in Butte. BSTF planning grant was awarded for the Deer Lodge Hotel. Food businesses (over 150) have been guided in being pro-active to prepare for food safety changes. New coordinated meetings with Butte city officials have been very productive.</p>
Update emailed from Great Norther:	<p>Tori reported: Our apartment complex in Wolf Point should start taking applications for tenants in July and rent-up in October. GNDC has been accepted as part of the NeighborWorks Montana homebuyer education network and our housing specialist is obtaining certification to offer homeowner courses and counseling. Our Native American Business Advisor completed his AASBDC certification so once our SBDC Director takes her test, we will have two certified small business advisors serving our region. And, last but not least, GNDC received a BSTF planning award this round to assist Columbia Grain Inc with a feasibility study for the expansion of their Plentywood facility.</p> <p>I (finally) have a meeting this Friday set up with Poplar and a few local organizations to review whether they are still interested - and prepared - for a Resource Team Assessment; I will let you know how that meeting goes! We’ve got lots more going on - including a full schedule of training and workshop events for the region this summer and fall!</p>
MBAC – Brian Obert	<p>Lewis and Clark Brewery just expanded and is “pretty damn cool” according to Brian. Brian expects to be out of loan funds by the end of the year. He noted contractors are hurting for workers. BSTF is a very important funding source.</p>
Great Falls Development Authority – Brett Doney	<p>Brett reported Great Falls opened its first outdoor beer garden a few weeks ago. They are also using a parklet to encourage downtown pedestrian traffic. Four 504 loans have been approved this month; Brett is out of loan capital at this time.</p>

	<p>Monthly launch point meetings are going great; the meetings allow the SBDC Director to save time with group sessions. The monthly manufacturers roundtable continues to be helpful. The Great Falls team traveled to Idaho to learn of best practices going on in that state. The meeting was so successful they plan to repeat the meeting in another state next year. The November Ballot will have an economic development mill levy proposal. Household labor surveys have gone out. Great Falls is the location for the Ag Summit hosted by Sen. Daines. GFDA is internally working on new software for various projects to make its team more productive.</p>
--	--