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

On the call from MDOC: Sean Becker, Gus Byrom, Casey Lozar, Rebecca Ziegler, Annmarie Robinson, Carolyn Jones, Chad Moore, Heather Sobrepena-George, and Lindsey Hagmeir.

On the call from MEDA: Paddy Fleming, Tori Matejovsky, Gypsy Ray, Jim Atchison, Anne Boothe, Russ Fletcher, Brian Obert, Paul Reichert, and others who called in late who could not be identified.

Welcome and Program Updates

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

CDBG/Community Development Division – Gus Byrom	Gus reported there is a Community Development Division webinar this afternoon at 1:30 for impediments to Native American housing, in particular the mortgage issue. Due to reservation status, it is often a complicated process.
Technical Assistance Bureau – Casey Lozar	Dec 8 th at the Radisson, the Governor will present his annual Tribal Relations report during the tribal conference. Casey said over 300 people usually attend to learn and engage with Indian Country. The Office of Trade and Int'l Relations is putting together a formal export plan that will drive how the department works with export markets. Growth strategies for MT Exports will be included. The plan should be completed in early 2017.
Becca Ziegler, SBDC - Marketer	Regarding the Governor's Conference on Tourism in March – Becca reported SBDC will play a large roll in this conference and provide three of their most popular trainings. In addition, there will be solution lounges and a make-a-pitch event.
SBDC Director – Chad Moore	Chad reported he has hit the ground running and hopes to continue to open the lines of communication with SBDCs and its many partners.
Indian Country Programs – Heather Sobrepena George	Heather reported the local and state review process has been concluded for the Indian collateral program. Twenty-seven businesses were awarded small business grants. What has been so great is to match the awarded Indian Equity Funds with other program funds that are available, such as MTIP. A press release is pending from the Governor's Office.
BSTF and WTP – Annemarie Robinson	Annmarie shared 20 planning grants were received the end of October and five job creation applications; as well as four

	workforce training grants. Notifications should be out the middle of December or by the end of January depending on the program. Next deadline for applications – December 28 th . There is also a joint deadline with USDA for business development grants on March 1 st .
MTIP – Lindsey Hagmeir	Lindsey invited everyone to join a lunch and learn seminar next week on the MSU Campus.
Carolyn Jones – Loan Fund Manager	CRDC and Microbusiness loan programs continue to move forward as usual. Federal funds are being re-allocated with \$54,000 possibly coming to Montana. Turn-around needs to be very quick. Requests are due December 5 th . Wood Products still has funds available.

MEDA Update

Gypsy Ray facilitated the call for MEDA.

MEDA	Rotunda Day January 17 th ; the Ft. Benton Resource Team is set for December 7 th and 8 th .
Lake County Community Development – Gypsy Ray	Gypsy reported LCCD has been very active with BSTF applications and more recently job creation projects. LCCD is meeting with local economic development agencies to collaborate and set goals together for the region.
Great Northern Development – Tori Matejovsky	Tori reported GNDC has been very busy with housing issues and projects. Ft. Peck Tribes is about ready to submit its CEDS. GNDC is working with the City of Poplar to address blight and housing. Loan activity has also picked up; they are newly certified as a CDFI.
SEMDC – Jim Atchison	Jim Atchison reported on a BSTF award that they are working with; Jim noted it is coal money that is assisting with a timber project near Ashland. A Federal Land Access Program Grant was received and is being used in the Powder River Area. Mike Coryell retired from his position in Miles City, who also served as SEMDC’s loan officer. Regarding planning, the Coal Coalition is exploring workforce options and training to offset changes in the coal industry. Colstrip diversification strategy is also taking place beginning this Friday; it will be a three month process.
MBAC - Brian Obert	Brian reported they are also keeping BSTF busy. MBAC has run into problems with planning on Canyon Ferry regarding tentative agreements that were to provide match, but after the election the Bureau of Land Management have put everything on hold. The Helena mall has sold and a new developer is taking over. MBAC is also in need of a new part time staff person.
Prospera – Paul Reichert	Paul reported on an expansion within their organization in that four ex-officio board members have been brought on board to work with Park County, MSU, and the City of Bozeman – a more formal way to interact with its partners. Loan activity in Gardiner, Livingston, Bozeman, is increasing. BSTF applications have gone forward. A microloan program is beginning for the community of Big Sky from private funds from the Yellowstone Club Foundation. Loan funds are going to be re-activated through Rob Gilmore’s EDD. A lot of training takes place through the Women’s Center; looking at a jump start program for new business trainings in the near future.

MATR – Russ Fletcher	Russ Fletcher encouraged everyone to post jobs and events on the MATR website and welcomed suggestions for improving the site.
MMEC – Paddy Fleming	Paddy thanked everyone for their conference support. Feasibility studies are submitted for BSTF; MMEC is willing to help with the feasibility study process.
Misc – Gus Byrom	DEQ has funding for lead based paint processing – call Jason Saylor. 444 6447.