



## **MEDA Board Meeting via Zoom**

**September 3, 2020**

**Noon to 2:00pm**

**Participants: Brian Obert, Jason Rittal, Charles Robison, Sara Hudson, Brett Doney, Leslie Messer, Rick Edwards, Joe Willauer, Tori Matejovsky, Beth Epley, Paul Tuss, Toni Schneider, Sarah Converse, Tim Guardipee, Brent Donnelly, Paddy Fleming, Ken Fichtler, Tracy McIntyre, Grant Kier, Austin Trunkle, Paul Reichert, Adam Vauthier, Terry Brockie, and Gloria O'Rourke.**

1. Welcome and Approval of August 19 Minutes - Brian  
Paul Tuss moved to approve the minutes; Toni seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Fall Conference Schedule and MOU Approval – Russ and Toni  
Toni shared an update from the MEDA Fall Conference Committee regarding plans to hold the conference, candidate forums, and professional development training. The proposed dates of October 14 and 15 conflict with IEDC's conference. Grant said Missoula is holding a three day conference October 6 – 8. After much discussion, the date was not decided upon for the conference; the committee will reconvene.

Some suggested the candidate forums would be more meaningful if MEDA could share our priorities rather than the other way around. The committee will consider holding an hour long MEDA listening session and ask the candidates to join in on separate sessions. The session would be facilitated with a content outline; MEDA would have a somewhat scripted approach and use the Next Gen Report as a resource.

Conclusions: The Fall Conference Committee will reconvene and consider the storytelling workshop prior to the candidate listening sessions, etc.

Brett moved to approve the MOU with Tell Us Something leaving it up to the committee to schedule the training. Sarah Converse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Next Generation Report – Brian and Steve
  - a. SurveyMonkey Feedback including message from MDLI  
Gloria reviewed the summary of the 46 responses received from the feedback survey. In addition to the five questions, a response was inserted from Kathleen O'Leary, Deputy Commissioner, MDLI.
  - b. Discussion and Vote  
Brian shared a discussion with TIP Strategies regarding the usage of the word "redundant" in the report. TIP suggested the following language: "shared/or overlaid service areas with other economic development groups."

Discussion:

- i. Multiple edits harm the independence of the report.
- ii. Accept the report rather than endorse; "endorsement" comes as MEDA moves forward and select priorities.

Rick moved to accept the report as submitted with the inaccuracies corrected including the redundancy language. Brett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Next Steps:

After some discussion, it was agreed that the MEDA board must next meet to internally identify Legislative priorities and begin strategizing. The study will be used as a resource as well as the feedback survey. It was pointed out that the MEDA Board needs to provide guidance to the MEDA Legislative Committee before it can move forward.

Tracy noted the Broadband Committee is already formed and working as a result of the Next Gen strategy session held in July. Tracy was asked to keep communication open with the board before determining any policy.

Paddy requested guidance on continuing the Value Added Ag group that met as a result of the Next Gen session in July. It was determined that MEDA members could participate in other existing Value Added Ag groups and report to the board on activities and policy updates.

The majority agreed that MEDA must focus on preserving existing economic development tools during the upcoming Legislative session.

Gloria will send a doodle for the best date/time of the MEDA Board Meeting.

4. Misc.

Brett noted the Impact Awards deadline is this Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. He has received seven applications and strongly encouraged everyone to submit projects.