

MEDA Office Hours
January 25, 2022
Noon

Participants: Marie Hirsch, Christy Cummings Dawson, Joe Willauer, Jacy Head, Alyssa Townsend, Annmarie Robinson, Sue Taylor, Jennifer Olson, Frederick Van Den Abbeel, Russ Fletcher, Cameron Johnson, Cole Mack, Tash Wisemiller, Karl Unterschuetz, Kev Campbell, Tori Matejovsky, and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Welcome
2. Executive Director Update
Joe reported the Executive Director Committee meets on a weekly basis. Nine applications were received for MEDA Professional Services. The Executive Director Committee meets tomorrow to rank the applications. Jennifer hopes that there will be a meet-and-greet for the new Director.
3. Members and Sponsors Update
It was noted new options were established to raise revenue for MEDA and new leadership of the Executive Director. [View the sponsors here.](#)
4. Community Review Training February 16th, 10:30am – Noon.
5. Roundtable:
 - a. Lorraine Roach – Working for Stevensville on a new community center. Suggestions for help/examples: Ennis, Joliet, Missoula Senior Center, Lolo, Gus Byrom; find an anchor for the building, i.e., bus barn. Stevensville has a new free training school – in the third six month class. Also working with a new treatment court in Ravalli County. Stevensville: Summitcarecenter.org Model from Denver is called crosspurpose.org
 - b. NADC – Sue Taylor, developing a statewide tribal CEDS. Weekly meetings are taking place; also working on Good Jobs Challenge grant as there are two very different approaches between NADC and Accelerate. Still, both groups are working together with the hope of collaboration should one get funding over the other.
 - c. EDA tourism grant for indoor riding arena in Madison County – Headwaters RC&D.
 - d. Jennifer Olson – HUD; new regional administrator Dominique Jackson, appointed by President Biden. She hopes to visit Montana soon. Also, contact Jennifer for Section 3 projects. HUD Opportunity Portal – for HUD funding projects.
 - e. Marie Hirsch, MEDA Scholarship are still available – whether through NDC or some other training.
 - f. Annmarie Robinson – MDOC is postponing the acceptance of BSTF Planning Grants. Unsure of when they will be reopened.
 - g. Russ – we now have a Broadband Coordinator for Montana.

- h. Fredrick Van Den Abbeel – reported on Move Buddha Report in which Montana ranked highest on incoming folks per-capita and this includes those moving out. Also, Miles City is getting a new wind farm. Fredrick noted not all attraction projects have a workforce demand; not always a labor component.
- i. Karl Unterschuetz – Accelerate MT – exploring a statewide capital survey to identify clearly the needs for funding. It will also explore what existing funds are available. Is there a market here for investors? Data will be available.
- j. Jacy Head – conducting a housing study today. Beartooth is wrapping up a lot of projects and looking at a business park for Stillwater County.
- k. Tash Wisemiller – starting up CARES Act fund projects; about to announce another round of Main Street Grants. Also working on historic preservation projects that the Legislature approved. February 28th is the next deadline for historic preservation projects. Downtown Conference April 6, 7, 8 – in Billings. Two national speakers are coming!

Chat:

- Missoula Senior Center <http://www.themissoulaseniorecenter.org/>
- Registration Link for Community Review Training February 16th, 10:30am - Noon
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97584388809?pwd=OGQwUmpmMkIrOGxNWXAzbTdOZldwQT09>
- \$150,000 Lowe’s grant helps Sunburst, Montana with community center

“I had found out in August that the little town that I had grown up in – Sunburst, Montana – submitted an application, unbeknownst to me,” said Bill Boltz, executive vice president of merchandise for Lowe’s.

<https://matr.net/news/150000-lowes-grant-helps-sunburst-montana-with-community-center/>

- Search of Community Center on MATR:
<https://matr.net/?s=%22community+center%22>
- Great news! Montana latest state to build broadband coverage map

The same company that helped Georgia and Alabama build their statewide broadband maps has contracted with the State of Montana to create its own map, Gov. Greg Gianforte announced on Monday. <https://matr.net/news/montana-latest-state-to-build-broadband-coverage-map/>

- Unsettled State: The move Buddha 2021 Migration Report – How does Montana rate?

In 2021, Montana had the highest net inflow of moves per capita, with 73% of moves inbound. Billings was the #1 destination with a 3.9 to 1 inbound to outbound ratio. <https://matr.net/news/unsettled-state-the-movebuddha-2021-migration-report-how-does-montana-rate/>

- In Montana, there are more job postings than there are people unemployed in the state, with every industry being hit hard by the national Great Resignation.

The Montana Labor & Industries Job Board has about 19,000 job openings right now and 1,250 of them are in Missoula. <https://matr.net/news/in-montana-there-are-more-job-postings-than-there-are-people-unemployed-in-the-state-with-every-industry-being-hit-hard-by-the-national-great-resignation/>

- Montana reports a record number of new businesses in 2021

The Montana Business Economic Report contains information about where, by ZIP code, new businesses are located. The 59901 ZIP code (Flathead County) had the highest increase in 2021, with more than 7,000 new businesses registered. <https://matr.net/news/montana-reports-a-record-number-of-new-businesses-in-2021/>

- Montana Department of Commerce News https://matr.net/news_category/montana-department-of-commerce/
- BRCD & Cushing Terrell are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cushingterrell.zoom.us/j/93178943870?pwd=RIFXWGx4ckQ1M05pRFU4azhWYTZYZz09>

Password: 207096 Meeting ID: 931 7894 3870