



MEDA Remote/Telework Working Group

May 29, 2019

10:00am

On the Zoom call: Anne Boothe, Jayne Morrow, Grow Remote – Tracy Keogh, Ireland, Dan Brunell, Tina Oliphant, Liz Ching, Diane Smith, Kev Campbell, Jessie Rucker - Grow Remote, US; Tod Kasten, Russ Fletcher, Liz Moore, Barbara Stiffarm and Gloria O'Rourke.

Introductions

Anne Boothe requested introductions from everyone on the webinar. Jayne Morrow introduced Tracy Keogh, a founder of Grow Remote, which is a grassroots remote worker effort out of Ireland. A Montana Chapter now exists.

Grow Remote

Learn all about Grow Remote on their [website](#).

This is a key tool for community development.

How to engage remote workers (what state chapters do, too):

1. Get community employed – share about remote opportunities
2. Attract new people – repopulate your community (Ireland uses Town Tasters to meet)
3. Connect workers – catering for isolation of the “hidden employed”

Benefits for communities:

- Talent
- Skills
- Environment
- Fair Competition

Lessons:

- Typical business model doesn't work for rural areas
- Respect the cultures of remote and rural
- Awareness is not enough

Operation Five –

Involves raising local awareness, training and learning of the remote platform (learn remote skills then tie in to businesses) and engage the employer partner piece.

Jessie Rucker – United States lead connection to Grow Remote

Jessie partners with people who share initiatives who are paid by their companies. They are not volunteering but people in paid positions to achieve goals.

MEDA Remote Work Working Group Next Steps:

- a. How best to use Montana's Grow Remote site.
- b. Review the guidance on holding community meetings on Grow Remote. Customize for your community.
- c. Learn more about using the Grow Remote Portal – Anne, Liz, Dan, Tina, Gloria, Dianne and Barb are interested in this. A work session will be scheduled.

Pending:

- **Innovate Montana presentation.**
- **Investigate a Utah program that provides remote work certification.**

Misc.

- Montana Chamber – meet and greet for new Director



Making Remote Work Local.

Discovery Days

It can be frustrating to hear the number of people who don't know Shopify, Wayfair, or the 100s of opportunities available to them locally. Invented by the Portumna chapter, Discovery Day creates a pop up Grow Remote shop on the main street and invites people in to ask questions about remote work.

Tools

- A shared Google Drive to create the resources we could use to help people learn
- An office on the main street that we would be allowed to use

Monetary Cost

Free

Makers

- Elodie Golden, Portumna
- Rose Barrett, Ballaghaderreen
- Helena Conlon, Loughrea
- Paul Ellingstand, Ennis

Notes

From companies looking for remote workers to people getting their first taste of remote, this really was a huge success.

The Loughrea Chapter are on the second iteration, and Ennis, third.



Making Remote Work Local.

Town Tasters

Town Tasters allow people to explore a place by showing them what it's like to live in a location over two days. Visitors meet the local school, cycling group, book club or go for a drink. They include a one hour session on finding remote work or local employment.

Tools

- Slack to share learnings from different chapters
- Eventbrite to sell (free) tickets
- A press release to market the event

Monetary Cost

Free

Makers

- Deirdre Bhailis, Dingle
- Maurice O'Connell, Abbeyfeale
- Colum, O'Connell, Valentia Island
- Chris McCarthy, Achill

Notes

- 1) A partnership with a hotel is key, as is promotion of the event.
- 2) Latest result include Valentia Island securing two families to begin to make the move!
- 3) We learnt that remote work can be seen as a safety net to encourage people to take local jobs.

