Hosted by Beartooth RC&D

MEDA members and partners gathered in Red Lodge to build on their superpowers to further build Montana’s economy and communities. The conference location was unique; attendees became a part of the conversion of the Old Roosevelt School and its transformation into a community center.

Thursday, October 5th

Empowering Workforce Development
Thanks to the sponsorship of Billings JSEC, a dynamic pre-conference professional development training was held on empowering, attaining and attracting a great workforce. Presenters: Bryce Ward, Founder, ABMJ Consulting, Karen Baumgart, Director of BillingsWorks, and Ryan Van Ballegooyen, Manager, Job Service Billings

NorthWestern Energy served as host for the 2017 MEDA Awards Luncheon. Following greetings from Mayor Shoenike of Red Lodge, and Montana’s Congressional Delegation, MEDA’s Vice President Steve Arveschoug and Kathie Bailey, Awards Chair, kicked off the celebration. Honored: John Rogers, 2017 Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award and Great Falls Development Authority AgriTech Park with the Innovation Award.
John Rogers

2017 Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development

Networking Break - always a great opportunity to connect with old friends and new.

Julie Foster, Ravalli County EDA (pictured on the left) meets new-to-MEDA Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Port Authority.
The Old Roosevelt Story – A Redevelopment Case Study

Tracy Timmons, Executive Director, Red Lodge Community Foundation, shared the story of the on-going transformation of The Old Roosevelt School into a community center that will benefit the economy of Red Lodge.

According to the evaluations, MEDA attendees were delighted to take part in the transformation of Old Roosevelt School.

Presentation by Tracy Timmons

Superheroes Ignite Montana!

Sue Taylor, Beartooth RC&D, thanked each of the presenters who used the Ignite (fast paced and power-packed) Format to share resources and success with MEDA participants.
Team-up with GOED
Liz Ching, pictured left, and Aaron Pratt, shared information on the new Office of Outdoor Recreation, what is next for Innovate Montana, StartUp Weekends, and more.

Stahly Engineering sponsored the Red Lodge Mountain Tour. Participants learned about the mountain’s fuels reduction program and spotted a bear that had not registered for the tour. Thanks, Karyl Tobel, for sharing the photo.

Next, attendees signed up for a Dine Around and joined colleagues at dinner spots for networking.

Friday, October 6th

Superheroes Breakfast – Finding Solutions
MEDA enjoyed a hearty Montana breakfast sponsored by Newfields and explored answers to project sticking points using the Solutions Wall.

Sue Taylor, Conference Chair, was thanked by Steve Arveschoug, MEDA Vice President, with a Wonder Woman mask and great applause for putting together a powerful conference.

Calling all Superpowers:
Legislative Strategy Update
Exploring both State and Federal Issues
Rick Edwards, Left, MEDA Legislative Chair and Pam Haxby-Cote, Right, provided updates on Montana and Federal funding for economic development.
Superpower Breakout Sessions were sponsored by Big Sky Economic Development. Attendees could listen to three out of five presentations in an hour and a half.

**Launching a Local Food Program**
Presenter: Northern Plains Resource Council

**Conserving Natural Resources**
Presenter: Rhyno Stinchfield, Floating Islands International [Presentation](#)

**Resource Team Assessments 2.0**
Presenter: Sue Taylor, Beartooth RC&D

**Power Up and Mobilize – Getting things Done**
Presenter: Paul Reichert, Prospera

**Ripple Effect Mapping**
Presenter: Paul Lachapelle, MSU Local Gov’t Center

Contact Information for Speakers and Presenters
Creating a Montana Sense of Placemaking

Tash Wisemiller, Montana Main Street Program, wrapped up this amazing conference on a topic of interest to all: placemaking.

Tash’s Presentation

Thanks to our dynamic conference team superheroes: Sue Taylor, Chair; Karyl Tobel, Russ Fletcher, Bill Foisy, Kathie Bailey, Tracy Timmons, Paul Tuss, and Gloria O’Rourke

Thank you for joining us.

See you in Dillon, in April 2018!
This conference was made possible by the following sponsors:

**GOLD**

NorthWestern Energy

CTA

ARCHITECTS ENGINEER!

MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JSEC

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**SILVER**

STAHLy

NewFields


**BRONZE**

GreatWest engineering

KLJ

Thank you!