



MEDA Board Meeting
MBAC Conference Room
November 23, 2015 10:00am – 2:00pm
Dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279

Present: Paul Tuss, Sean Becker, Brian Obert, Rick Edwards, Sarah Converse, Jim Davison, and Gloria O'Rourke.

Joining via Phone: Steve Arveschoug, Mike O'Rourke, Luke Walawander, Anne Boothe, Tracy McIntyre, Kathie Bailey, and Tim Guardipee.

1. Summary of Call to Action Meeting

Following roll call, Vice President Paul Tuss asked Steve Arveschoug, Co-Chair of the MEDA Relevancy Committee, to give a summary of the Montana Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting – Call to Action held October 13th, in Billings. The summary document will be updated after today's meeting, shared with the MEDA Board for edits, and then sent out to the membership and town hall meeting attendees.

2. Report of the Infrastructure Coalition Meeting held November 4th - Brian Obert

Brian Obert reported on the Infrastructure Coalition meeting which was organized by the Montana Chamber. It was thought that strategizing would begin for the 2017 Legislative Session but Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns, strongly encouraged broad, long term planning and long term solutions for this complex issue. The meeting resulted in four subcommittees being formed to tackle the complex issue of funding infrastructure for Montana. Brian suggested at least two MEDA members participate in each subcommittee. It was noted this commitment will be a long term assignment and people must commit to be engaged. Brian noted MEDA's connections with the general public and County Commissioners would serve as a conduit for sharing the ideas across the state once they are in place.

The Infrastructure Coalition Subcommittees:

- ⇒ Charter Subcommittee – framework of the coalition itself (Jason and Gloria)
- ⇒ Narrative Subcommittee – develop plans for moving forward
- ⇒ Funding Subcommittee – Brian Obert is Chair; investigate how to fund infrastructure, i.e., coal tax, bed tax, bleed-off options, etc. (Tracy McIntyre offered to assist with this subcommittee.)
- ⇒ Outreach Subcommittee – educate legislators AND the general public

3. Discussion Results

- a. Definition of Infrastructure: ***MEDA believes that infrastructure is defined as local and state capital improvement and development that drives continued economic growth including: roads, bridges, highways, water, sewer, and essential community needs.***
- b. Town Hall Meeting Next Steps
 - i. Gloria will add the MEDA Infrastructure definition to the Call to Action Summary, noting that the Infrastructure Coalition and MEDA will address the next steps included in the summary. Gloria will send out the document to the board, and then out to the membership and those who attended the conference, asking for commitment from MEDA members willing to serve on the Coalition subcommittees.
- c. MEDA's Immediate Involvement in the Coalition
 - i. Gloria will collect names of MEDA members interested in serving on the Coalition subcommittees for Jason Rittal's review and final selection.

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- ii. A conference call will be scheduled for the first week in December with Webb Brown, Glenn Oppel, Jason Rittal, Brian Obert, Rick Edwards, Cary Hegreberg, Steve Arveschoug, and James Grunke to assure that MEDA continues to be involved and share the names of those willing to serve on the subcommittee.
 - iii. It was suggested Jason and Gloria serve on the Charter Subcommittee; Tracy offered to assist on the Funding Subcommittee.
- d. MEDA Information Gathering
- i. Ask MEDA members and partners how projects are funded to learn of new and different ways to fund projects. For example, Tracy McIntyre used stream bed money to improve a road as it stabilized the stream bank.
 - ii. Begin collecting success stories using the same format for the Rotunda Day powerpoint slides.