



**MEDA Community Review Working Group
December 5, 2019
10:00am**

On the call: Becky Bey, Kay Reynolds, Steve Simonson, Kelli Roemer, Sue Taylor, Gus Byrom, Alyssa Townsend, Craig Erickson, Jan Stoddard, and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Introductions

Gus Byrom – Outreach Coordinator, MDOC; Becky Bey, KLJ Engineering; Kay Reynolds, Resource and Tools for Business Success; Steve Simonson, Beartooth RC&D; Kelli Roemer, Montana State Student, Grad Student, rural community planning student; Sue Taylor, NADC; Alyssa Townsend, Program Specialist, BSTF, MDOC; also a grad student in Public Admin. Craig Erickson, Certified Grant Writer, Great West Engineering; Jan Stoddard, Tourism & Marketing, MDOC.

2. Update on

a. Choteau, Poplar, Fort Benton [Community Reviews](#)

Choteau: Continues to make great progress. The Visiting Team is invited each month to join the monthly meeting for updates. A return celebration and REM visit is pending in 2020.

Poplar: as a result of the Community Review, Poplar was made eligible for an intense USDA project and is continuing its work.

Fort Benton: A Phase 2 and 3 team just visited Fort Benton on October 29 – 30; a report is almost ready for sharing.

b. Mini-Grant and Ripple Effects Mapping Grants [REM](#)

Gloria noted REM has taken place in Deer Lodge, Laurel, Fort Benton, Lockwood, Victor, Darby, Stevensville, Malta, Ronan. The communities that have taken advantage of the mini grant are Lockwood, Laurel, Victor, and Ronan.

3. Review Updated Guidelines and Application

a. Share thoughts on new deadlines

The Montana Design Team would like to try having application deadlines as this has worked well for Wyoming and Idaho. The group discussed and agreed on the value of having deadlines of February 15 and June 15th.

b. Share edits on Guidelines and Application

Sue will assist with changing the budget columns. Others in the Working Group will share edits by December 13th.

4. Interested Communities

a. Ideas on how to "land this plane" and get applications submitted.

It was thought the new two-year deadline would be helpful. Once an application is sent, MEDA would check in within four weeks. Request a one month turn-around on the applicant. Kay suggested sharing the outcomes of past reviews and share those successes with interested communities.

Gloria shared Chester, Shelby, and Joliet have applications in hand.

b. On the pending/interested list: Shelby, Chester, Troy, Whitehall, Ennis, and Joliet.

c. Additional communities

Those on the call will submit suggestions as perspective communities arise.

5. Misc. and Next Meeting

a. Jan offered to place Community Review info in the Friday Flash from MDOC

b. This group will meet every other month, unless needed sooner.

Gloria thanked everyone for their time and for their willingness to assist the Community Review process as well as Montana communities.