



**MEDA Community Review Working Group
February 20, 2020
9:00am**

On the call: Kay Reynolds, Gus Byrom, Alyssa Townsend, Dorothy Meyer, Paul Lachapelle, Jan Stoddard, and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Introductions

Gloria welcomed everyone to the call and requested introductions.

2. Updates

a. Choteau

Continues to make great progress. A return visit is being discussed to conduct Ripple Effects Mapping and a post community review survey.

Fort Benton: First coach report in.

Dorothy said there is still some struggle to get the community engaged to volunteer with trail projects. Dorothy put the trails committee in touch with Gene Townsend and progress is being made. Railroad abandonment process is important; more people must be involved to accomplish this.

b. Mini-Grant and Ripple Effects Mapping Grants

What is in pending for Choteau: REM, another grant, post survey.

3. Discussion/Comments on Troy Application

a. Readiness also see: <https://mainstreetmontanaproject.com/rural-partners/community-partners/troy/>

Overall, the committee felt Troy is ready for a review.

Discussion:

- How poor is the internet?
- They are ready to get going on the planning.

- “River guide” Jim Hammons is a terrific asset.
- Remote work potential; MEDA Working Group
- The review process would build toward a Master Plan.
- Dorothy is interested in the broadband aspect and has ideas for partners.
- Fat tire race – Dorothy is a resource.
- Paul: homework has been done; Troy is motivated to move forward.
- There are five focus areas which is a bit ambitious.
- Jan: spent time there during Christmas Bazaar. Troy has some great tourist features already in place. Tourism is an option but they are at ground zero. New research tools will help Troy. Short term rentals in rural areas are becoming revenue generators. Need social media on tourism. Jan wants to see a one page tourism plan.
- Superfund stigma – people think Libby not so much Troy.

b. Ideas for expertise to address needs

Kay Reynolds

Dorothy Meyer

Annamarie Robinson

Jan Stoddard

Michelle Cushman (tourism grants)

Gus Byrom – CDD – would be the contact for MDOC.

4. Other applications

a. Chester, Shelby, and Joliet have applications in hand.

b. Other communities of interest?

Alyssa has spoken with Red Lodge. Evergreen, Somers, Lake Side are pondering the process with Dorothy.

5. Misc. and Next Meeting – April for next call.

a. New Main Street Project Resources

<https://mainstreetmontanaproject.com/resources/>