If you had to miss the MEDA Conference you can click on the presentation links and enjoy some photos of those who attended.

**May 2nd**

**Pre-Conference Professional Development:** Caution! Construction Zone! Infrastructure Planning and Financing ~ Roads, Bridges, Water & Sewer Improvement.

MEDA Members requested training on planning and funding infrastructure. MEDA's Anne Boothe, Kathie Bailey, and Marie Hirsch along with W2ASACT leadership Alice Stanley, Gus Bryom and Anna Miller organized the session.

**Opening Luncheon – Sponsored by BNSF**

MEDA was welcomed by Brett Doney and MEDA President Paul Tuss.
**Special Report & Discussion:**
**Status of TIFs in Montana**
with Janet Cornish, Community Development Services of Montana and Lanette Windemaker, AICP

**TIF's in Montana**

**Ignite Montana!** Wow! According to the evaluations, Ignite Montana should be repeated each and every MEDA conference.  [Here are all of the presentations](#)!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angie Nelson, MT Dept. Of Ag, Crooked Yard Hops</th>
<th>Lillian Sunwall, GFDA, West Bank Landing Brownfield</th>
<th>Lindsey Hagmaier, MDOC/MTIP Cowboy Cricket Farms</th>
<th>Jason Nitschke, GFDA, Small Business Coaching Success</th>
<th>Katie Weaver, MSU Park Co Extension, Workforce Efforts</th>
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<td>Demetrius Fassas, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Harvest of the Month</td>
<td>Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, Re-Developing Historic Properties</td>
<td>Jenni Graff, Missoula Economic Partnership, Inc. 5000</td>
<td>Alyssa Townsend, MDOC, Bacterin International</td>
<td>Annemarie Robinson, MDOC, Historic and Downtown Redevelopment</td>
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**Social Media Strategies** – Cooper Fischer, Butte Local Development Corporation and recent graduate of Montana Tech, provided an outstanding presentation on:  [Strategies to effectively utilize low-cost social media](#) to support and amplify the success of economic development marketing.

Photo: Rick Edwards introducing Cooper.
Tour Time! MEDA toured Creative Development Success

West Bank Landing riverfront mixed-use development made possible by EDA planning, EPA & DEQ brownfield assessment and clean-up, tax increment financing, and economic development bridge financing.

Stahly Engineering Exhibitor Networking Reception
Exhibitors included:  KLJ, MDOC/CDD, MDOC/BSTF, GFDA, GTA, MT Housing Coalition, USDA, Made in Montana, MTIP, and TD&H Engineering.

Wednesday, May 3
Table Topic Networking Breakfast – NorthWestern Energy
The MEDA evaluations suggested that 7am is a little too early to begin the second day of a conference. Needless to say, there was a great turnout for the Table Talk Discussions including: Main Street, Big Sky Trust Fund, Community Development Division, Growth through Ag/MT Dept. of Agriculture, USDA/RD, Made in Montana...and more.
MEDA 2017 Annual Membership Meeting
MEDA Members elected Officers and Board Members and heard Committee Updates.

Legislative Report & Discussion
Legislative and Infrastructure Coalition reports were given; the discussion has begun on MEDA’s strategy for the 2019 Legislative Session.

Rick Edwards, MEDA Legislative Chair, provided an overview of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Darryl James, Executive Director of MT Infrastructure Coalition reported to MEDA. On right: Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development.

Dan Villa, State Budget Director, reported on the last 48 hours of the 2017 Session.

Another Tour Time!
New Education and Workforce Training Ideas to Support Economic Development

A quick-paced, interactive round-robin walking tour was held on the Great Falls College MSU Campus which included: 1) Simulated Hospital; 2) Industrial Technology; and 3) Computer Programming & Coding.
Montana Congressional Candidate Forum

Rob Quist, above left and Greg Gianforte, above right, spoke regarding their views for the future of Montana. Both candidates answered questions from the audience.

Closing
It was announced the MEDA Fall Conference will be held in Red Lodge; a date is pending.

Pam Haxby-Cote was presented with a tiara; she promised to wear it at every MEDA conference.

Thanks to our MEDA Spring Conference Committee: Brett Doney, Chair; Paul Tuss, Karyl Tobel, Rick Edwards and Anne Boothe.

See you in Billings, at the Innovate Montana Symposium, July 11 - 13
This conference was made possible by our generous sponsors:

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Great Falls, MT Development Authority
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Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development
BNSF Railway

Silver

TD&H Engineering
Stahly

Thanks to Brett Doney and Great Falls Development Authority for serving as MEDA Conference Hosts!