MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2010

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LEGISLATIVE TOOLS FOR YOU
The countdown begins to the 2011 Legislative Session. The MEDA Interim Legislative Committee has been working since the close of the 2009 session in preparation for the 2011 challenges. With input from MEDA Members, key issues and strategies have been identified. Here are tools you will find helpful as MEDA Members share information with legislators and local leadership on the importance of our programs:

One-Time-Only One Page Flyer One-Time-Only Programs Information Booklet 2019 Programs Information Booklet

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink. Check out these great community grant links. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.

2. The State Historic Preservation Office has received funding through Preserve America to subgrant funds for community planning projects promoting economic development through heritage tourism and historic preservation. These subgrants are available to designated Preserve America communities, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, or communities in the process of applying for Preserve America status.
   Two funding sources are available:
   - Promotion of economic development through heritage tourism and historic preservation; and
   - Development of downtown planning and capacity building through the Montana Department of Commerce’s Main Street program.
   If your project involves Main Street, please contact Julie Burk, Main Street Program Coordinator, regarding funding availability and the application process for these projects. Her phone number and e-mail address are: (406)-841-2756, jburk@mt.gov

3. NeighborWorks has a Real Estate Acquisition and Development Loan Fund that has been capitalized by Department of Treasury’s CDFI program as well as a $2.5 million loan from NeighborWorks Capital. We have had the money fully deployed since we received the loan and the first CDFI grant, but right now we have funds available to lend for housing projects in Montana. The loan funds can be used for acquisition of land, predevelopment, and development of housing projects sponsored by non-profit and public organizations. We received our second CDFI grant this year and immediately deployed it into HomeWord’s Solstice project in Missoula, and we are in the process of applying for another CDFI grant at this time.
   Contact: Maureen Rude, Operations Director, NeighborWorks Montana, 406-458-8704, mruide@nwmt.org

MEDA WORKING GROUPS: REACTIVATED
A great response was received from MEDA Members to reactivate our Working Groups. Below is a list of scheduled conference calls and participants in each group.

Conference calls scheduled (dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279):
- December 2, 1:30pm Innovation and Strategic Planning
- December 7, 10:00am Transportation
- December 9, 10:00am Workforce and Education

Missed the 2010 BEAR Roundup?
Catch the Summary.
December 10, 9:00am  Value Added Agriculture

BEAR
Gloria O'Rourke (Chair), MEDA, Debbie Berg, Bozeman Job Service; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka Rural Development Partners; Rae Lynn Benson, Lincoln County Extension Agent; Dale Mahugh, NorthWestern Energy; Nancy Axtell, Bozeman Job Service; Jessica Allred, Missoula Area EDC; Carrie Mantooth, Snowy Mountain Development; Brian Edwards, Big Sky EDA; Shawn Mohn, Lewistown Job Service; George Palmer, Missoula Job Service; Chris Parson, SBDC/Kalispell Chamber; Heather Mousley, Hamilton Job Service; Saundra Long, Missoula Job Service; Todd Erickson, Lake County Job Service; Vernetta Torgerson, Sidney Job Service; Carol Cunningham, Lake County Community Dev; Terry Myhre, MBAC.

BROWNFIELDS
Gib Turner (Chair), Lake County Community Dev; Linda Twitchell, Great Northern Development Corp.; Mark Albee, Bozeman Job Service; Brian Obert, Montana Business Assistance Connection; Christin Hileman, Bear Paw Development Corp.; Linda Brander, State Restoration Coordinator; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

ECONOMIC GARDENING
Marcy Allen (Chair), BREDD, Inc.; Kara Graetz, Bozeman Job Service; Kim Morisaki, Montana West Economic Dev; Anne Boothe, Triangle Communications; Julie Jaksha, Headwaters RC&D/SBDC; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

ENERGY
Debbie Singer (Chair), NorthWestern Energy; Warren Harden, Headwaters RC&D; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka Rural Development Partners; Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development; Lisa Perry, PPL Montana; Kathi Montgomery, DEQ Energy Program Specialist; Pam Lemer, Bear Paw Development Corp.; Cheryl Curry, Pondera Regional Port Authority; Brian Obert, Montana Business Assistance Connection; John Guthmiller, USDA/RD Business and Industry; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

INNOVATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR ED IN MT
Steve Arveschoug (Chair), Big Sky EDA; Anne Boothe, Triangle Communications; Marcy Allen, BREDD, Inc.; Sam Korsmoe, Madison County EDC; Russ Fletcher, MATR; Rick Edwards, NorthWestern Energy; Philip Fletcher, Park County Community Dev; Wolf Ametsbichler, Missoula Job Service; Nicole Hagerman Miller, Montana World Trade Center; Pam Haxby-Cole, US Senator Jon Tester, Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT & TRAINING
Gib Turner (Chair), Lake County Community Dev; Kara Graetz, Bozeman Job Service; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Barbara Stiffarm (Chair), Opportunity Link; David Glaser, MCDC; Rodney Miller, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes/Ft. Peck Reservation; Susan Ockert, MDOC/CEIC; John Guthmiller, USDA/RD Business and Industry; Chris Mehus, Beartooth RC&D; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND
Christin Hileman, Chair Bear Paw Development Corp.; Tina Oliphant, Montana West Economic Dev; Maureen Rude, NeighborWorks Montana; Jillann Knutson, Beartooth RC&D; Jessica Allred-Meyers, Missoula Area EDC; Kathi Montgomery, DEQ Energy Program Specialist; Jim Rexhouse, Sanders County Development Corp.; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

TOURISM
Mike Strang, Gold West Country (Chair); Cynthia Andrus, Bozeman Chamber; Webb Brown, Montana Chamber; Ray Trumpower, Fairview Chamber, etc.; Mona Madler, SMART; Jim Rexhouse, Sanders County Development Corp.; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

TRANSPORTATION
Zanya Betley (Chair), Livingston Job Service; Brian Gion, Montana Cooperative Development Cr., Kara Graetz, Bozeman Job Service; Cheryl Curry, Pondera Regional Port Authority; Nicole Hagerman Miller, Montana World Trade Center; Hal Fossum, MDOT; Douglass McBroom dmcbroom@mt.gov Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.

VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE
Jan Tusick (Chair), Lake County Community Dev; Philip Fletcher, Park County Community Dev; Collin Watters, MT Dept. of Ag/Growth Through Ag; Joel Claimont, MT Dept. of Agriculture; Brian Gion, Montana Cooperative Development Cr.; Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka Rural Development Partners; Pam Lemer, Bear Paw Development Corp.; Cheryl Curry, Pondera Regional Port Authority; John Guthmiller, USDA/RD Business and Industry; Joel Bertalino, Beartooth RC&D; Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU
Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

1. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has just completed its Phase II development of a GIS database that will allow Montanans to view restoration projects that are impacting the state and local areas. To access the State Restoration GIS database visit www.restoration.mt.gov and select Projects Map. This database can help economic developers measure the economic impact of the restoration projects that are impacting the economic base in their geographic areas as well as identify rural and urban projects that conserve and or restore the natural resources.

2. Register today for CDFA’s newest online educational offering, the Intro Tax Credit Finance WebCourse. Held this December 7-9, 2010 from 1-5pm (EST), the WebCourse will examine the application of tax credit programs in greater economic development finance efforts including brownfields, new markets, low income housing, historic preservation, and state-specific programs. This course qualifies for the CDFA Training Institute’s Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program. Start down the road to personal and professional advancement today.

MONTANA BEAR Report  Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program’s monthly report.

View the November 2010 report and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 11 business visits held in November in the following counties:

- Stillwater County – 1
- Gallatin County – 1
- Yellowstone County - 1
- Missoula County - 2
- Granite County - 1
- Flathead County – 5

Missed the 2010 BEAR Roundup? Read the summary.

Turning Data into Knowledge

In November, we celebrated American Indian and Native Alaska Heritage month. Below are some interesting facts about American Indians in Montana. To view more information about each topic, click on the link provided.

- Montana is one of five states where American Indians are the largest minority. The other states are Alaska, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Oklahoma. Open Excel File
- Four Montana counties have American Indian minority majorities: Big Horn, Blaine, Glacier, and Roosevelt. Open the Map
- Counties with reservations within their boundaries are expected to see ever increasing American Indian populations in population estimates through 2040. Open Excel File
- American Indian farmers and ranchers on the Blackfeet Reservation produced $19.5 million in market value in 2007 with Fort Peck’s market of $17.0 million second. Open Excel File
- American Indian-owned businesses grew 18% between 2002 and 2007, outpacing all Montana business growth of 14%. Open Excel File
- With a population of over 28,000, according to the three-year estimates for the American Community Survey, Flathead Reservation can now use annual decennial-like data for planning, economic development and infrastructure assessment. As a new product from the US Census Bureau, the American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the
decennial long form and will be producing Demographic, Economic, Housing, and Social profiles every year instead of just once a decade. Flathead Reservation 2005-2007 and Flathead Reservation 2006-2008

My Turn: January 25th
Have you marked your 2011 calendar for January 25th? It is MEDA Day in the Rotunda. Actually, it is turning out to be Economic Development Day in the Rotunda as many of our partners are working together to make this a very, very special event. The idea is to showcase our key economic development programs by sharing success stories and making time via lunch to network with legislators. Stay tuned for more details and how you can become involved.

Do you have a Success Story to share? Download the report template and send to MEDA.