MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

- MEDA Subcommittee Formed
- MEDA Scholarships
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- Committee and Working Groups Update
- Opportunities For You
- Montana BEAR Report
- What the Numbers Say
- Census 2010 Economic Development Committee
- My Turn: Take-homes from the IEDC Conference

MEDA SUBCOMMITTEE FORMED
When it was learned the MDOC/BRD was facing a Reduction in Force in the loss of the Regional Development Officer program, the MEDA Board met via conference call. Assuming the program would end December 31, 2009, the board formed a subcommittee to 1) address how the remaining program funds could best be used to build capacity of regional economic development activities, 2) recommend ideas on structure/restructuring current program delivery framework, and 3) compile a letter to the Economic Development Advisory Council asking for an opportunity for MEDA to provide input on next steps. Subcommittee members include: Dick King (Chair), Tracy McIntyre, Brain Gion, Paul Tuss, Jim Atchison, Jim Davison, Larry Mires and Andy Poole. The letter was shared with EDAC on October 22nd and is available on the MEDA Members Area webpage. The four esteemed and irreplaceable Regional Development Officers include Terry Dimock, Tod Kasten, Randy Hanson and Charlie Wright.

MEDA Rick Jones Memorial SCHOLARSHIPS
The deadline was Friday, October 30th for scholarship applications. Only two applications were received. The Awards Committee will soon review the applications. Stay tuned for the announcement of the winners.

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. Environmental Protection Agency: Brownfields Job Training Grants This program supports efforts to recruit, train, and place local unemployed and under-employed people, predominantly low-income and minority residents, so that these individuals have the skills needed to acquire careers in the green economy and brownfields redevelopment work.

3. The Growth Through Agriculture Program will hold only one more application period for this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2010. The last application deadline of fiscal year 2010 will be December 31, 2009. Any questions about the program or requests for application reviews must be received by the Department of Agriculture no later than December 11, 2009. All requests received after that date may not be addressed before the deadline due to holiday scheduling. For more information about the Growth Through Agriculture Program, please visit our webpage (http://agr.mt.gov/business/GTA.asp) or contact the Program Manager at gta@mt.gov or by phone at 406-444-2402.

Committee and Working Groups
Professional Development Committee. This committee met via conference call on October 19th to further review action plans in continuing professional development options for MEDA’s membership. After discussing options, the following tasks were decided:

1. Committee members to provide examples of other training programs.
   a. Tracy McIntyre – MSU Extension/Horizons and Community Economic Development
   b. Gloria O’Rourke – Louisiana’s State Certification and California’s stakeholder ppt
2. Brett Doney will put together a draft outline of the training for EDO’s as well as a draft for the primer for community leaders; Brett will have the draft done within the next week or two.
3. Eventually poll the board members and/or members as to feedback on the outline and suggested speakers.

Next Call: November 9th; 1:30pm. Committee members include: Brett Doney (Chair), Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Gloria O’Rourke, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.

**Web Page Committee:** While the work of this committee is complete, the behind-the-scenes work by Vauthier Ferguson Design continues. Additional data fields were suggested by MEDA members as they filled out the resource survey. These additions have now been added. A “rough” of the database is online and is being fine tuned.

**What happened to your Working Group?** Go to MEDA’s LinkedIn page and re-start your group’s discussion.

**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.

- For a comprehensive listing of events taking place in the state and the region, visit Montana Associated Technology Roundtables website. Russ Fletcher maintains this invaluable calendar and website that benefits so many.

- Montana Technology Innovation Partnership is holding a workshop titled LICENSING YOUR INNOVATION: Developing the Knowledge and Skills to Net the Best Deal. Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to build licensable value and engage in the licensing process. The workshop will be held November 5th, 9:00am – 4:00pm, in Butte. Full details are available when you register.

- MWTC SPECIAL EVENT: Selling & Sourcing in China; Featured Speaker is Nelson G. Dong. Event Details: November 12, 2009; 11:30 - 1:30, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, 15 Depot Park Kalispell, MT 59901 (map) Lunch will be provided. Cost: $25 MWTC Member/Affiliates; $35 for Non-Members/Affiliates

- CDFA is pleased to announce the availability of our newest publication: **Advanced Tax Increment Finance Reference Guide.** Pre-order your copy today to be one of the first to receive this timely and informative resource.

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

Report Highlights: Statewide press release results, what was learned at the IEDC conference regarding business retention and expansion and GoToMeeting IWT rollout in the works. View the report for all the details!

There were nine business visits in October – Yellowstone County 5, Big Horn County 2, Fergus County 1 and Deer Lodge County 1.

**WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY**
Did you know that Census data such as population and income is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal money? In 2008, over $400 billion was allocated nationwide based on census statistics. For information on Montana’s effort to have every Montanan counted, see CEIC’s Census 2010 web site at [http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp](http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp).

**CENSUS 2010 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**
A special subcommittee has formed for the purpose of engaging economic developers in the Census 2010 activities. Committee members include: Jackie Williams (Chair), Dick King; Gloria O’Rourke - MEDA; Jeanna Adkins - Great Northern; Jim Davison - Anaconda LDC; Kim Gillan - Legislator; Linda Twitchell; Luke Walander - War Shield; Mike Strang - Beaverhead EDC; Paul Tuss - Bear Paw; Tony Preite and Randy Hanson, MDOC; Rick Reid - MDU; Steve Arveschoug - Big Sky EDA; Ockert, Susan; and Warren Harden - Headwaters R C & D.
Montana received nearly $1.8 billion in census based federal funding. Over two-thirds of that funding was for Highway Planning and Construction and Medical Assistance for Medicaid. For information by the state and by county, contact Susan Ockert, Senior Research Economist at sockert@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740 for details. See CEIC’s Census 2010 website for more information on why the decennial census is so important at http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp.

My Turn – Take-Homes from the IEDC Conference

It was such a privilege to attend the IEDC Conference and present on behalf of the Montana BEAR Program. It is only fair that I share with you some take-homes I received from sitting in on sessions and learning from other economic developers.

- For stimulus activity provide timely, temporary and targeted assistance.
- Document distress so problems can be addressed
- http://recovery.iedconline.org
- Sometimes we focus on outreach and forget to inreach
- Startups: have dream, need means
- Feet on the Street event or Tennis Shoe Survey
  - Invite municipal leadership, economic developers, business resource providers to join the one day project.
  - This group gathers, is fed breakfast and is trained for ½ hour on their mission
  - Visit businesses in teams and ask three questions: How is business? What do you like about doing business here? What can we improve for you?
  - Aggregate data – ExecutivePulse would provide application. Share results.
- Must be present in all social media arenas: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and even YouTube.
- Taking the IEDC Certification Exam
  - Practice writing essay questions in under 30 minutes.
  - Know and understand the glossary terms.
  - Answer key comes from the manuals
  - 18 short answer questions, 70 multiple choice and 5 essay questions; oral exam is 3 to 7 questions
- Community questionnaire: what do you buy out-of-town that you would prefer to buy locally?
- County published a list of what they purchase – provided opportunity for local competition
- Shelf Art: reports published and never used.

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