MONTANA SUPERHEROES – BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES
What a conference! MEDA attendees became a part of the transition story of the Old Roosevelt School and sharpened professional skills at the same time. If you had to miss it, here is the summary.

Above: Ignite presenters; Right: Paul Reichert and Strategic Doing breakout session.
FEATURED MDOC PROGRAM AND PARTNERS

It was learned that sufficient applications have been received to fully allocate both BSTF Planning Grant Funds and Worker Training Grant Funds. No new proposals are being accepted until July 2018. Funding is still available for Job Creation Grants.

New funding has been received for Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP):

INTRODUCING FAST PHASE 0!

MTIP is pleased to present a new and exciting opportunity. Fast Phase 0 is designed to reimburse Montana small businesses for costs associated with applying to the Phase I SBIR/STTR program. FAST Phase 0 offers grants of up to $3,000. For more information and/or to apply, visit MTIP’s website.

If you have any questions about the FAST Phase 0 grant please contact the MTIP Program Manager, Lindsey Hagmaier, by phone at (406) 841-2734 or through email at DOCMTIP@mt.gov, marketmt.com/mtip

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Congratulations to our 2017 Award Winners!

Welcome to our new MEDA Members:

- Brianna Ewert, Mission Mtn Food Enterprise Center
- Thom MacLean, Big Sky Economic Development
- Sandy McIntyre, Rural Economic Designs
- Rachel VandeVoort, Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Tracy Timmons, Red Lodge Area Community Foundation

For contact information on the new members, visit our website at http://www.medamembers.org
New! Share your SUCCESS STORIES WITH MEDA

Click this link to have your projects and success stories on the MEDA Project Director. It is fast, it is easy….[click here]

MEDA BOARD AT WORK
The MEDA Board met during the MEDA Fall Conference and reviewed a full agenda of topics from Legislative Strategy, MEDA Spring Conference, and checking in with MEDA’s Strategic Plan.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group** – If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next RLF meeting is set for December 19th. [Notes]

- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – The next meeting will be November 9th at 9am. An update will be provided on the three state grant that is reviewing and improving Resource Team Assessments. [Notes from the call] Learn more about MEDA’s assessments [here]

MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Update
Anne Boothe and the Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce two winners for the Fourth Quarter Scholarship Round: Kim Morisaki and Brianna Ewert. Kim is preparing to become a Certified Economic Developer and Brianna will be learning more in-depth knowledge on Cooperatives. Congratulations!

MEDA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
This committee has been very busy and made several recommendations to the MEDA Board regarding a special dues rate for retired members and a survey for current members. It was also decided to re-ignite the MEDA Marketing Committee. If you would like to join any MEDA Committee, please contact Gloria at gloria@medamembers.org.

SPAMMED, ANYONE?
The MEDA office was recently notified that members have been approached via email by someone selling databases for economic development purposes. Member’s emails were obtained by the online Membership page via the MEDA website. Golden Shovel, MEDA’s web provider, said:

There are companies which manually acquire email addresses, and they will still be able to harvest those addresses as long as they are on the site. The only way to prevent further harvesting of your member emails is to remove them from the site entirely (please note that this will only stop future harvesting; your member emails being on whatever lists they’ve already been added to is not reversible). This decision of including or excluding email addresses from a site is always a balancing act between the benefits of having contact info available versus the risk of spam. Different clients find their balance point differently; in your case you also need to also consider the needs of your members in terms of both networking availability and privacy. You may wish to give your members the choice of whether they individually want their email address included on the site, and update your listings accordingly.
**TIF in MONTANA**

About 25 people from all over the state enjoyed an in-depth and very technical workshop on TIF in Montana. Thanks to NorthWestern Energy for sponsoring! Instructors: Janet Cornish and Lanette Windemaker.

**TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.

- **Nonprofit Administration Online Program**
- **Montana Code Annotated 2017**
- **Update of Census Addresses Workshop – 10am, Helena and Webinar** Montana receives $1,989 per person annually from federal assistance programs that distribute funds based on Decennial Census. Montana can lose $19,890 over 10 years for each person that is not counted in Census 2020!

- **Tools Available from EDA Assisting Communities Impacted by Recent Disasters**

  The [U.S. Economic Development Administration](https://www.eda.gov/) (EDA) provides resources to communities involved in disaster response and recovery under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](https://www.eda.gov/frameworks/national-disaster-recovery-framework/) (NDRF). Under the framework, EDA leads the [Economic Recovery Support Function](https://www.eda.gov/frameworks/economic-recovery-support-function/) which allows the agency to coordinate disaster recovery planning and project implementation with partners including Economic Development Districts (EDDs), University Centers, and institutes of higher education. Click [here](https://www.eda.gov/) to access EDA-supported disaster recovery tools and resources.
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants!
   http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html

⇒ USFS has announced a Request for Proposals for the 2018 Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity.
   See press release: US Forest Service to award $7 million in grant applications for projects that expand wood
   Contact Julie Kies, Wood Innovations, jkies@fs.fed.us

⇒ USDA Community Development Grants

⇒ Ag Development Council extends GTA program deadline
   The Agriculture Development Council met last week and voted to extend the deadline for the
   popular Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program, from September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017. The
   deadline was extended to allow more time for producers to apply for funding.

⇒ Applications Open to Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program
   On September 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Request for Proposals (RFP)
   announcing the availability of Brownfields Cleanup grants. Under the program, funds are available for
   cleanup-related work at brownfields sites under ownership by the grant applicant. Either multiple or
   individual cleanup sites may be included in one application and each proposal may request up to
   $200,000. Applicants may submit up to three proposals. Applications are due November 19. Click here for
   more details.

⇒ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.

⇒ Farm to School Grant Request for Applications is live. Applicant Resource Page
   RFA on Grants.gov Contact: Mieka at (farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov) if you have any questions
   Deadline: December 8, 2017. Application Deadline:

⇒ Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) – Applications being accepted now.
   January 24, 2018 for electronic applications; January 31, 2017 for paper applications
   The objective of this grant program is to assist viable Independent Producers, Agricultural Producer Groups,
   Farmer and Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Businesses in starting or expanding
   value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products. Grants will
   be awarded competitively for either planning or working capital projects directly related to the processing and/or
   marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and
   increasing producer income are the end goals of the program. All proposals must demonstrate economic viability
   and sustainability in order to compete for funding.

   Links to program information, including APPLICATION TOOLKITS and the Federal Register Notice are found
   at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants/mt