



## **MEDA NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2014**

### **HARVESTING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS MONTANA**



The MEDA Fall Conference was held October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, in Helena, at the Great Northern Hotel with 119 registered to attend. Montana Business Assistance Connection served as host with Chris Shove serving as Conference Chair. Nineteen evaluations were received with the majority having a very favorable conference experience. As always, there is room for improvement. [View the photos \(check out the carousel riders\) and review the presentation files.](#) The MEDA 2015 Spring Conference will be held May 4 – 6, with Great Falls Development Authority serving as host. Brett Doney is the conference chair.

### **GOED AND MEDA WEBSITE COLLABORATION**

MEDA conference attendees provided feedback to both the [GOED website](#) and the new [MEDA website](#). Evaluation comments and membership feedback indicated both websites will be extremely valuable. The GOED website provides countless resources and connections of value to community, business, and economic development interests across the state. The MEDA site will promote an individual MEDA member as well as his/her business or agency and showcase projects as well. Wherever possible, the sites will share data and make links as seamless as possible. One example of this collaboration is the event calendar – both sites will share the same calendar page. MEDA Members are encouraged to send updated information for their membership profile to the MEDA office. GOED is looking for success stories from Economic Development Organizations. Contact Davey Madison at [damadison@mt.gov](mailto:damadison@mt.gov).

### **MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS UPDATE**



October was a very busy month for MEDA Resource Teams.

#### **Big Timber – October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Big Timber MEDA Resource Team arrived on October 7<sup>th</sup> and listened to over 200 people share their thoughts and ideas as to the strengths, challenges and vision for the community of Big Timber and Sweet Grass County. The team will return on November 18<sup>th</sup> to assist in identifying priorities and projects for the

area. Team members included: Gloria Hawkins, USDA/RD; Michael Dann, USDA/RD, Karyl Tobel, MDOC; Tara Mastel, Jefferson Local Development Corp.; Billie Lee, Lake County

Community Development Corp.; and Stuart Leidner, Prospera Business Network. [Check out more information on our website.](#)

### **Malta/Phillips County – October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Malta/Phillips County Team gathered and hit the ground running on October 21<sup>st</sup>. PhillCo Economic Growth Council is using the data gathered by the team to set future goals and direction for Phillips County. Team members will return the first week in December. Pictured L to R: Anne Boothe, Kathy McLane, Debra Demarais, Michael Dann, Gloria O'Rourke, Cheryl Curry, Steve Zeier, Julianne Snedigar, and Warren Vaughn.



### **Celebrate Lockwood!**



After a year of hard work, Lockwood celebrated on October 14<sup>th</sup> the progress the community has made since the MEDA Resource Team visit in September 2013. Working Groups provided brief updates; display tables allowed people to stop by and learn of progress on various issues. Lockwood is proud of its progress. Team members: Dianne Lehm, Stan Jonutis, Eleanor Kindness, Dale Detrick, and Kathie Bailey.

### **MEDA BOARD UPDATE**

The MEDA Board met Monday evening, October 27<sup>th</sup>, and tackled a lengthy agenda including multiple committee updates: Scholarship, Nominating, Membership, Web Portal, Legislative and Spring Conference. The board accepted a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to not fill Brian Gion's board seat until the Spring of 2015 when elections typically take place. Members will be asked to submit letters of interest to the board for nomination.

### **MEDA WORKING GROUPS**

- MEDA Brownfields Working Group – Katharine Thompson organized a brief meeting during breakfast on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, as part of the MEDA Conference. Wendy Thomi provided important updates on the Brownfields grant cycle. The MEDA Brownfields Working Group has submitted legislative issues for MEDA to consider supporting in the 2015 Legislative Session.
- CRDC/EDD Working Group – Montana Dept. of Commerce requested a meeting just prior to the MEDA conference with Montana's CRDC/EDD Working Group. Karyl Tobel facilitated the meeting to learn what is working well and what needs to be improved with key economic development programs administered through the Business Resource Division. Practitioners and state employees felt the meeting was very worthwhile with several issues clarified and communicated.

### **MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

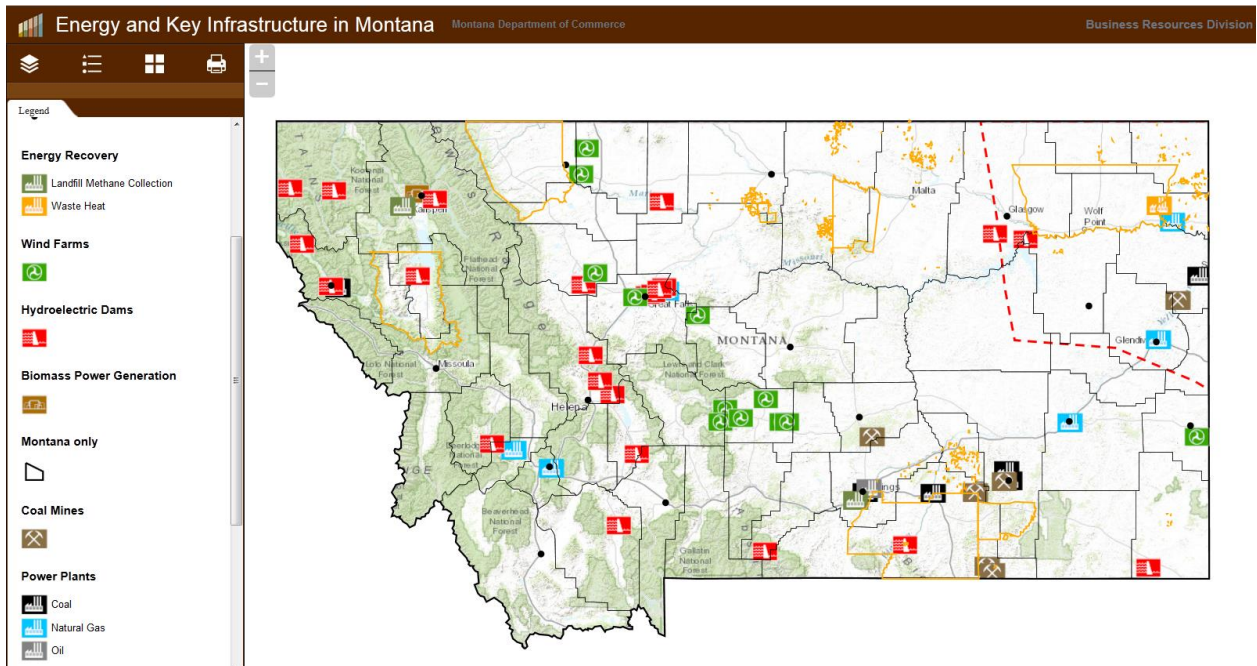
MEDA's membership count is at 210. New members include Jennifer Ewan, Missoula Economic Partnership; Rich West, DOWL HKM; Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering; and Meagan Lannan, Livingston Job Service. Welcome to MEDA!

### New Interactive Map of Energy Layers

CEIC’s GIS Coordinator Leslie Zolman has created an innovative interactive Montana Energy map for the Commerce’s Industrial Development Program (IDP).

The map features 23 layers of energy information including oil & gas fields and well data, wind farms, coal, and biomass power facilities. The map is updated as new data become available.

The Montana Energy map can be accessed on CEIC site <http://ceic.mt.gov/Maps/EnergyApp/index.html>.



For more information, contact CEIC staff at [ceic@mt.gov](mailto:ceic@mt.gov) or (406) 841-2740.

### MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - October

#### BEAR at MEDA

The MEDA Fall Conference showcased BEAR in several ways: [Next Generation BEAR](#), Traditional BEAR, and SBDC - all of which access MDLI Incumbent Worker Training. Debra Demarias provided information on the MDOC/Worker Training Program that is available through MT Dept. of Commerce/CDBG Program.

Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County BEAR, shared the model of his next generation BEAR team. Emphasis is placed on matching business owner’s needs with a strong and responsive resource group. Mike Jackson, Kalispell Job Service, shared the traditional model of BEAR and gave examples of how easy it is to

obtain referrals for a BEAR visit. Lorene Hintz, Great Northern Development Corp., shared how she uses IWTG to assist businesses that come through the SBDC program.



L to R: Mike Jackson, Kalispell Job Service; Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County/Bozeman BEAR; Debra Demaris, [MDOC/CDBG](#); Lorene Hintz, Great Northern Development/SBDC.

**Lunch and Learn Webinars: The third Lunch and Learn Webinar will take place Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Noon.** There were about 15 participants for the second webinar; feedback was very positive. These sessions help users maximize the BEAR database and keep apprised of the continual updates that are being made.

Date/All times at Noon	Webinar Info	Topic
Wednesday November 19 <sup>th</sup> Noon	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/893913565">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/893913565</a> Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) Or, call in using your telephone. Dial <a href="tel:+16467493122">+1 (646) 749-3122</a> Access Code: 893-913-565 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting Meeting ID: 893-913-565	Reports and Analytics. This session will focus on getting reports and analytics out of the BEAR database. Review both user-defined and custom reports for a variety of purposes. You'll see how to easily generate these reports and then export, print, e-mail and even map them.
Wednesday December 17 <sup>th</sup> Noon	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/737111317">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/737111317</a> Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) Or, call in using your telephone. Dial <a href="tel:+16467493122">+1 (646) 749-3122</a> Access Code: 737-111-317 Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting Meeting ID: 737-111-317	This session will focus on advanced group and communication features in the BEAR platform. You'll learn how to create groups and communicate with these groups efficiently using integrated system functions.

### Data Highlights for October

- There were 29 BEAR Retention Visits held in October. Wow!
- Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 4, Gallatin – 9, Missoula – 3, Lake - 1, Park – 7, Butte/Silver Bow – 1, Ravalli – 2, and Stillwater County - 2.

- **October Outreach Specialist Visits and Business Updates**

The following BEAR Team members completed Business Retention Surveys and/or update reports for the businesses they have contacted.

KiKi Huls - 2	Chris Parson - 1	Joel Bertolino - 1
Jimmie Rude - 2	Jillann Knutson - 1	Denise Rabe - 1
Deborah Derrick Gass - 1	Dale Mahugh - 1	Warren Vaughan - 9
Vickie Steele - 2	Mike Williams - 2	Mike Jackson – 3
Marissa Heggem - 1	Marissa Hauge - 2	Jodie Rasmussen - 2

### GRANTS AND FUNDING

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink.](#) Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS 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.

- **2014 CDFA National Development Finance Summit** agenda and schedule of events. Check out the full agenda online, and register today to take advantage of all the incredible education and

networking opportunities. Join us November 18-21 in Scottsdale, AZ for a can't miss conference. The **2014 CDFA National Development Finance Summit** will cover bonds, TIF, special assessment, tax credits, rural financing, EB-5, P3, crowdfunding, and many more hot topics.

- **MEDA Fall Scholarship Round** – As so few members applied for a scholarship, the MEDA Scholarship Committee will ponder changes to the awards process. Stay tuned!