



OCTOBER NEWS

REGISTER BEFORE OCT 5th to save \$
2016 MEDA FALL CONFERENCE



Check out the updated agenda!
[Agenda and Registration](#)



Oct 3: Big Sandy [Strikeforce](#) Meeting
Oct 4: Chinook and Ft. Belknap [Strikeforce](#) Meetings
Oct 5: Havre and Liberty Co [Strikeforce](#) Meetings
Oct 5: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Oct 5 – 7: [MT Downtown Conference](#), Butte
Oct 5 – 7: [MT League of Cities and Towns](#), Missoula
Oct 6-7: [Compete Smart/MMEC](#), Fairmont
Oct 11: [MT Biz Hall of Fame Honorees](#), Billings
Oct 12: Branding/Tourism Workshop –Ronan
Oct 12-14 [MEDA Fall Conference](#) – Polson
Oct 18: MEDA RLF Working Group Call, 10:00am
Oct 19: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Oct 26: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call, 10:30am
Oct 28 – 29: The [Governors Food and Ag Summit](#)

MEDA CONFERENCE AGENDA UPDATE

There are several exciting changes to the MEDA Fall Conference Agenda. Governor Bullock will be joining us for lunch on Thursday, October 13th and Greg Gianforte will be speaking to MEDA later that evening. Senator Jon Sesso has confirmed he will attend the Legislative Update; stay tuned for other legislative leaders to commit as well. Kathie Bailey and her Awards Review Committee have completed their process.... excitement is building to learn of the 2016 MEDA Award Winners! Our hosts, Lake County Community Development Corporation and The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation are going all out to provide an interesting and dynamic conference experience.



OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is October 26th, 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into featured programs during each call. In September, participants learned of behind-the-scenes tourism data research and activities involving our CRDCs, EDDs, and EDOs. Check out the other program updates and news by reading the [meeting notes](#).



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 meeting is set for October 18th at 10:00am. [notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group will meet again on November 10th, at 9am to continue to fine-tune Montana's Resource Team process. Pending Resource Team Assessments include Ft. Benton and Chinook. [Notes from the September 8th call](#). Learn more about MEDA's assessments [here](#).

SEELEY LAKE RESOURCE TEAM – SUCCESSFUL PHASE 1



The Seeley Lake Resource Team Assessment was held September 19 – 20 with over 160 people participating in Listening Sessions. The local host was the Seeley Lake Community Foundation under the leadership of Anne Beach. It was a pleasure for the team to work with the “retired” Jim Smitham and re-connect with Condon resident Bill Barr.

The people of Seeley Lake indicated major issues to address include infrastructure (sewer), housing, improved communications with Missoula County, tourism, economic development, broadband, healthcare, and emergency services.

L to R: Lyle Coney, Eliud Uresti, Jenni Graff, Debi Davidson, Richard Knatterud, Jim Smitham, and Gloria O'Rourke.

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fourth Quarter round is now open with the deadline of November 10th. [Criteria and Application](#) Submit your application today; three applications were received in the 3rd Quarter with all being awarded \$825: Jen Kreiner, Adam Vauthier, and Gypsy Ray.

MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **MEDA Membership Committee** – Chris Cerquone, Chair, held a meeting September 22nd to address areas and issues of making MEDA the best it can be for its members. Several ideas will be taken to the MEDA Board for consideration on October 14th. Any MEDA Member is welcome to join the call. [Meeting Notes](#)
- **MEDA Legislative Committee** – Rick Edwards, Chair, has called for a 7:00am Legislative Committee meeting to be held Wednesday, October 5th and again on Wednesday, October 19th. Progress continues to be made in planning for the 2017 Legislative Session. All MEDA members are encouraged to reach out to their area legislators and inform them of the value of Montana's key economic development tools and programs.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

September was a great month with five new members! Welcome to Jenni Graff and Nicole Rush of Missoula Economic Partnership; Jerry Meerkatz, Missoula West Economic Development; Maureen Porter and Charly Loper, Headwaters RC&D.

MEDA BOARD TO MEET

The MEDA Board will meet on Friday, October 14th, at 10:30am, immediately following the MEDA Fall Conference. All are welcome to attend. Welcome to the MEDA Board, Jerry Meerkatz, Montana West Economic Development.



Highlights for September 2016

NEW OUTREACH VISITS IN SEPTEMBER

Four BEAR visits were entered in to the database in September with Gallatin County being the sole participant. Warren Vaughan conducted four business visits with the assistance of Angie Frazier on one visit.

IWT UPDATE

Montana Dept. of Labor will likely submit legislation that will remove the SBDC/BEAR/MMEC recommendation step as part of the IWT grant application process. Without the referral from SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, a business could directly apply to IWT funding from the state. As not all areas are readily served by SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, this change will allow direct access for an employer to apply for incumbent worker training assistance.

JSEC and BEAR in HAMILTON NOVEMBER 15th

Mike and Gloria have been asked to present during a JSEC meeting, in Hamilton, on November 15th. Save the date and join the meeting if you wish.

MEDA WEBSITE NUMBERS

Every wonder who is visiting the MEDA Website? If you are a visitor, you are in good company! Google Analytics for MEDA website September 2016:

- There were 1,821 page views on the MEDA website in September.
- MEDA had 549 site users with 60% of visitors being return users.
- The most popular page was the home page, followed by the newsletter page, then the membership page.
- Visitors stayed an average of 2.35 minutes on the site.

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.

- Montana Historic Preservation Grant Writing Workshop – Join the Montana History Foundation and participate in a free workshop to get you started on the path of writing winning proposals. You must register by October 6th. The workshop will be held October 13th, 10am – 2pm, at 118 E. Seventh Street, Third Floor Conference Room, in Anaconda. Contact [Gloria](#) if you wish to attend.
- Nominations are [now being accepted](#) for one small town to receive a \$500,000 transformation and to be featured in a video series starring Shark Tank's Robert Herjavec. The town that wins the "Small Business Revolution on Main Street" contest and its small businesses will receive a \$500,000 revitalization in the form of one-on-one guidance from Herjavec; marketing and business services from Deluxe Corporation, a leading provider of small-business marketing services; and upgrades to the town's public spaces. More details appear at [SmallBusinessRevolution.org](#), and here's the [nomination page](#). This marks the second "Small Business Revolution on Main Street" contest, which awarded a \$500,000 transformation to Wabash, Indiana, this summer. An award-winning film crew spent the summer in Wabash capturing the process, and the inspiring series just debuted at [SmallBusinessRevolution.org](#). Nominations are open through October 21st.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- The Department of Commerce Community Development Division will begin accepting Montana Main Street membership applications for the 2017 membership application cycle on October 1, 2016. The Montana Main Street Program membership application and guidelines can be accessed on the website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainSt...elinesForms>
- [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.