

MEDA NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

MEDA CONFERENCE [AGENDA](#) and [REGISTRATION](#)

Everyone wants to make the most use of their time and travel budget. The MEDA Fall Conference, hosted by Big Sky Economic Development, is packed with multiple meetings, trainings, and events that will prove to be a very valuable use of your time and money. Here are some highlights: Key Economic Development Tool Updates and Training, [Montana Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting – A Call to Action](#), Community Development Meets Economic Development; Marketing (and more marketing), MEDA Awards, outstanding plenary keynote speakers, and everyone's favorite: high level networking. Join us in Billings October 13th – 14th!



WHAT'S A TAGLINE, ANYWAY?

Thanks to the MEDA Marketing Committee, MEDA now has a tagline. What is a tagline, anyway? Google defines it as: a reiterated phrase identified with an individual, group, or product that emphasizes a purpose; slogan. MEDA's leadership tasked the Marketing Committee with crafting a tagline that would give members and non-members alike a clearer picture of what MEDA is all about. They did a terrific job. **Announcing MEDA's tagline: Leadership Dedicated to Building Montana's Economy.**

MEDA AWARDS DEADLINE EXTENDED

Summer vacation schedules made it very challenging for MEDA award applicants to obtain the necessary support letters within the deadline timeframe. Because of this, the MEDA Awards Committee extended the deadline to September 8th at 5:00pm. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and celebrate economic development achievements.



The two award categories are:

[The Montana Economic Developers Association \(MEDA\) Innovation Award](#)

This award recognizes an innovative project significantly impacting a Montana community and its citizens. The award is intended to recognize participants in a Montana innovative economic development project and to highlight best practices.



[The Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award](#)

This award recognizes a Montana Economic Developer Association member in honor of Anthony J. Preite, a native Montanan who devoted 50 years to local, state and federal development agencies in leadership roles, and is credited with significantly impacting Montana communities and her citizens. This award is intended for a Montanan practicing economic development full-time who has significantly contributed to the profession, to the association, their economic development organization, and to the communities as a whole.

An awards luncheon will be held during the MEDA Fall Conference, on October 14th, in Billings. Special thanks to the MEDA Awards Committee for creating the award format and criteria: Kathie Bailey (Chair), Kellie Danielson, and Brett Doney.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- ⇒ **Professional Development and Scholarship Committee:** Third Quarter Award Winners will soon be announced. Don't forget the Fourth Quarter [MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship](#) Round deadline is deadline to submit 11.16.2015 – award notice by December 1st (award 12.1.2015 to 3.1.2016)
- ⇒ **Marketing Committee:** As mentioned above, the MEDA Marketing Committee has been hard at work to put into place tools that will expand MEDA's presence and outreach. The committee is working on banner bugs that will be easy to use during conferences when display tables are allowed. Would you like to join this committee? All are welcome!
- ⇒ **Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting Committee:** The [agenda](#) for this important Call to Action meeting is set and will take place as part of the MEDA Conference on October 13th. MEDA is hosting the meeting with event sponsors helping with the reception costs. Be prepared to learn about opportunities lost and how Montana can move forward to invest in infrastructure.



Chris Cerquone and Jason Rittal are wearing new board member badges for when board members are out representing MEDA.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

- **The MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group** met for its summer meeting on August 11 – 12 to discuss a host of topics and learn best practices. The meeting was held in Great Falls at the D.A. Davidson Building. Some agenda items included: CRDC/EDD's and MEDA Strategic Imperatives, Worker Attraction, Partnering with Local Development Organizations, Review of Member Benefits, Funding, Vacant School Buildings, and RLF Management. At Noon on August 12th, a group from Montana Dept. of Commerce
- **Restart the MEDA RLF Working Group** – Several MEDA Members have requested a re-start of the RLF Working Group. In the past, this group met on a monthly basis to share what is working well in the loan arena, new information, loan portfolio management tips, etc. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Gloria at the [MEDA office](#).
- **Start a MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – A small group has been working with the Kettering Foundation to explore the existing Resource Team Assessment process and seeking to improve and possibly expand on what teams do. After several conference calls, the group decided to create a MEDA Working Group to formalize the group and invite others to join.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEDA's membership now stands at 245. To review all of the benefits of membership, [visit our webpage](#). New to MEDA: **Joe Easton**, Jackson Contractor Group, Missoula; **Carol Crockett**, Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, Grant Manager, Helena. Welcome, Joe and Carol!

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.
- **Reclamation and Development Grants Program Planning Grants – Call for Applications**
The 2015 Legislature authorized the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) \$800,000 in funds for Reclamation and Development Grants (RDG) Program planning grants. Approximately \$200,000 are available this cycle. **APPLICATION DUE DATE: by Midnight on Friday, September 25, 2015** The Reclamation and Developments Grant Program is using the State of Montana grant application and tracking database called WebGrants at www.fundingmt.org. Please call Alicia Stickney at [406-444-0547](tel:406-444-0547) or Stephanie Hester at [406-444-6691](tel:406-444-6691) for questions or technical support.
- **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.



Highlights for August or read the [Full Report](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT WORK – ONE TEE AT A TIME

At times those working in the fields of economic, community, and business development have a hard time describing to others just what it is they do.

Storytelling is all the rage these days as it has been proven that through telling a story, better understanding is shared. Mike Jackson, who has retired more than once, is serving as the BEAR meeting coordinator in Kalispell. Mike gave his permission to share this short story. Keep it handy when you need to explain what it is you do – even while networking or playing golf. [Economic Development at Work](#)

BEAR OUTREACH DATA FOR AUGUST

Number of business surveys conducted: 10

Flathead County - 1	Anaconda/Deer Lodge County - 1	Lewis and Clark County - 1
Lincoln County - 1	Gallatin County - 6	

BEAR Team Members conducting visits:

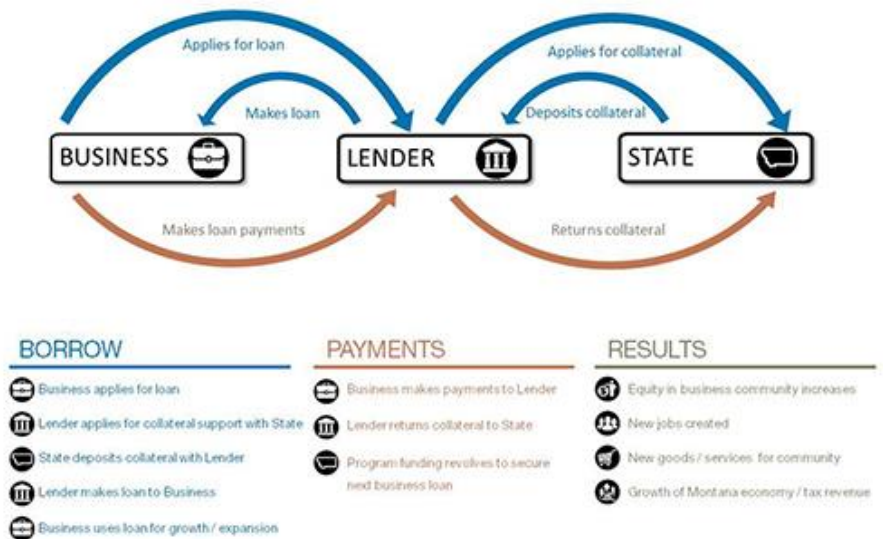
Mike Jackson - 1	Warren Vaughan - 6	Julie Schroeder - 1
Kristy McKay - 1	Gloria O'Rourke - 1	Brian Obert - 1
Kari Martell - 1		

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.

⇒ **The Montana Main Street Program and the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)** are happy to pass along information about the upcoming 8th Annual Montana Downtown Conference, hosted this year by the Kalispell Business Improvement District, Kalispell Downtown Association, and the City of Kalispell. Conference planning is currently underway with another great line up of sessions and speakers, including Barbara Wold, renowned international speaker in the retail and consumer industries. Additional agenda and registration information will soon be available online: downtownkalispell.com. September 23 – 25th.

⇒ **NEW TOOL FOR INDIAN COUNTRY CLIENTS**

The Montana Department of Commerce has recently rolled out a new loan support opportunity for funders to include more Native American owned businesses in their loan portfolios. The Native American Collateral Support Program (NACS) provides collateral support funding to lenders for Native American owned businesses that have all the C's of lending except for a shortfall of available collateral. Lenders identify an eligible Native American owned business, complete the NACS Lender Participation Form and then apply for collateral support funding to offset the lack of collateral the business is experiencing. To review program guidelines and to access NACS forms, please go to: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/NACS>



⇒ **NADO invites you to participate in a three-part webinar series aimed at helping executive directors, finance officers and other staff learn how the new OMB Uniform Guidance, also referred to as the Super Circular and OMB Grant Guidelines, will impact your organizations. Bob Lloyd of Federal Fund Management Advisors will provide the training** which will occur on September 9, September 21, and October 6. Each of the 90 minute webinars will begin at 2:00 p.m. ET and they will offer you a unique opportunity to hear from the leading OMB Grant Guidelines expert. **There is a nominal fee to participate in each webinar** (\$59 for NADO members and \$99 for non-NADO members) and you must register for each of the three webinars separately. **Two business days prior to the webinar you will receive an email from NADO confirming your registration and providing you with a link to access the webinar to which you registered.** [Click here to register](#)