The 2009 MEDA Spring Conference objective was to:
Equip Montana’s economic developers with up-to-date information on new recovery programs, new technology, and the tools necessary so they may serve as resourceful leaders in revitalizing Montana’s economy. If the evaluation feedback is any indicator, the objective was accomplished.

Thursday, June 11, 2009
The conference opened with a kickoff luncheon and keynote presentation from State Director, Montana Department of Commerce, Tony Preite. View Tony’s presentation titled “Budget and Legislative Outcomes 2009” regarding Montana Department of Commerce programs. Contact information: Andy Poole 841-2700 apoole@mt.gov; Marty Tuttle 841-2706, mtuttle@mt.gov; Heather Sobrepena – George 841-2775, hsobrepena@mt.gov; Kelly Casillas 841-2727, kcasillas@mt.gov; Dave Cole 841-2776, dacole@mt.gov, Bruce Brensdal 841-2844, bbrensdal@mt.gov; Karyl Tobel 841-2733, karylt@mt.gov.

Tony Preite addresses the MEDA Conference Attendees.

Following lunch, Rick Edwards and Brett Doney, MEDA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, provided an update on the outcomes of the 2009 Session.
EQUIPPING MONTANA WITH THE RECOVERY ACT
Rick Edwards, (left) facilitated presenters from various agencies who provided information regarding changes in existing programs and how to make best use of Recovery Act funding for Montana.

Presentation: EDA
One Page Handout: EDA Handout
Contact Info: John Rogers, (406) 449-5380

EDA
MT USDA/RD
USDA/RD MT Program Overview
Deborah Chorlton, Housing
John Guthmiller, Business
Steve Troendle, Water & Community
Dial 406.585.2580 for all MT USDA numbers.

Deborah Chorlton, left, USDA/RD Housing Commissioner Keith Kelly, right, MT Dept. of Labor

Presentation: MT Dept. Labor
One Page Handout: (please see powerpoint)
Contact Info: Keith Kelly, 406-444-9091

DEQ
Energy Recovery Programs
Kathi Montgomery, 406-841-5243

SBA
SBA Recovery Act Overview
Robert Much, 406-441-1084

MT Dept. of Transportation
MDT Summary
Jim Lynch, 406-444-6201

HUD
Contact Larry
Larry Gallagher, 406-447-1480

Networking and Break
According to MEDA’s evaluation responses, MEDA Members consistently most appreciate the time to network.

Kate McMahon and Brent Campbell
Tom Atkins, Brian Obert and Terry Myhre
Sam Korsmoe, Mike Coryell and Paul Lachapelle
The BBQ was a perfect time to relax, enjoy family and friends and great food.


Friday, June 12, 2009

Friday morning started with pre-recorded greetings from Senator Tester and a talk from Matt Jones, representing Sen. Max Baucus.

The segment “New Technologies for a Recovering Economy,” was geared to inform MEDA conference attendees of new tools and options available to build Montana’s economy.

**Presentation:**
- **Montana’s Supercomputer**
  Under Montana Dept. of Commerce
- **Solution Mountain**
- **Governor Schweitzer’s Marketing Strategies and Plan**
- **Green Jobs – Montana in Transition**

**Handouts**
- RMSC Offerings
- RMSC Executive Summary
- visit website
- see presentation
- see presentation

**Contact:**
- **Dr. Alex Philp**, 406-370-2262
- **Rob Gilmore**, 406-763-4412
- **Evan Barrett**, 406-444-5470
- **Keith Kelly**, 406-444-9091
MEDA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Paul Tuss (right) kicked off the 2009 MEDA Annual Meeting with a Nominating Committee Report. The following is the slate of officers and list of board members approved by MEDA’s membership for 2009:

President – Jim Davison, Anaconda Local Development Corporation
Vice President – Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Corporation
Treasurer – Larry Mires, Two Rivers Growth/St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group
Secretary – Gloria O’Rourke, Montana Economic Development Services
Past President – Rick Edwards, NorthWestern Energy

Brian Gion, Great Falls; Jim Atchison, Colstrip; Jim Smitham, Butte; Maria Valandra, Great Falls; Leslie Messer, Sidney; Anne Boothe, Malta; Jason Rittal, Miles City; Terry Myhre, Helena; Tracy McIntyre, Eureka; Andy Poole, Helena; Bob Hiatala, Bozeman; Lyle Phillips, Kalispell; Kathie Bailey, Lewistown; Paul Tuss, Havre; Steve Arveshoug, Billings; and Ken Richardson, Missoula.

Professional Development Committee

Brett Doney (left), Chair of the Professional Development Committee, provided an update as to the professional training MEDA members have received as part of the IEDC certification path curriculum. Lisa Perry and PPL Montana were thanked for donating $40,000 toward this purpose. Brett reviewed the survey results of a recent “next steps” poll and said the Professional Development Committee will meet soon to form a strategy based on the survey responses.

MEDA’s New Website

Adam Vauthier and Casey Ferguson of VauthierFerguson Design unveiled MEDA’s new website. Coming in the near future is a searchable database so that MEDA can find members with expertise in various areas, i.e., Revolving Loan Funds, Housing, etc. MEDA’s Working Groups will be accessible through LinkedIn.

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

Last but not least was a “Sneak Peek Fall Conference: Libby, Montana” presentation by Debi Davidson. Tentative date for the fall conference is the week of September 14th. View the beautiful presentation and get ready to travel to Libby!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEDA AGENDA COMMITTEE:
Andy Poole, Dick King, Chad DeLong, Jim Smitham, Rick Edwards, Linda Beck, Tracy McIntyre and Jim Davison