2010 SPRING CONFERENCE SUMMARY
June 9–11, Miles City Town and Country Club, Miles City, MT

Thanks for attending the conference and making it a success!

Montana’s Economy: Life Outside the Boot

Your Hosts: Southeastern Montana Development Corp., Miles City Area Economic Development and Eastern Plains EDC
Sponsored by: PPL Montana, NorthWestern Energy, Montana Dakota Utilities, Great Lakes Airlines, Miles City Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Rivers Communications, TransCanada, Brosz Engineering, Community First Federal Credit Union and Victory Insurance.

Wednesday, JUNE 9TH

Pre-Conference Activities

The morning of June 9th pre-conference activities began with golf and an historic walking tour. The golfers had beautiful weather and the walkers said the tour was fantastic.

USDA RD In-Depth Program Training

Matt Jones, (left) Montana USDA/RD State Director, kicked off the pre-conference training. Attendees learned program details regarding applications for housing, community facilities, water and environment, business and energy funding. All of the information presented is available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt/about.htm

Mona Madler (SMART) and Randy Hansen (R. D. Management Consultant) are ready to begin.

Table Talks with Multiple Program Specialists


Left: (LtoR) Kellie Danielson, Sara Warren, Alyssa Townsend-Hudders and Angela Nelson. Middle: Denise Smith and Larry Mires
The day ended with a Meet-N-Greet in the Sun Room of the Miles City Town and Country Club. Mike Coryell (right) introduced special guests who shared entertaining information on historical Miles City.

Thursday, JUNE 10TH

2010 MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE

MEDA attendees were greeted by a host of local officials and MEDA President Jim Davison. MDOC State Director Tony Preite and Deputy Director Andy Poole presented on “The View from Here” regarding what is next for Economic Developers in Montana.

Susan Ockert, MDOC Senior Research Economist, presented on The Treasure State’s Treasures.

Breakout Session 1A

MARKETING OUTSIDE THE BOOT
Coordinator: Linda Twitchell, Great Northern Development Corp.; Presenters: Lorene Hintz, GNDC; MT Trade and International Relations, Sara Warren; Bruce Smith, Dawson County Extension Agent.

MT Trade and International Relations presentation by Sara Warren.

Montana Food to Table Presentation by Bruce Smith.
Breakout Session 1B

ENERGY PRODUCTION IN EASTERN MONTANA
Coordinator: Lisa Perry, PPL Montana; Presenters: George Luther, Great Northern Properties; Beth Jensen, Director, Government Relations, TransCanada; Rick Reid, MDU

[Images of presenters]

TransCanada - Beth Jensen Presentation

MDU - Rick Reid Presentation

Breakout Session 2 A

AGRICULTURE – FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

[Images of presentations]

Breakout Session 2B

BROWNFIELDS – Identifying and Utilizing the Opportunity
Coordinator: Ted Lanzano, Brownfields Program US EPA, Region 8 (EPR-B); Presenters: Mark Walker, Community Brownfields Foundation; Melissa Hartman, Miles City Housing Authority; Amy Steinmetz, Montana DEQ, State Voluntary Cleanup Program.

[Images of panel discussion]

Brownfield Panel Presentation

Left to Right: Ted Lanzano, Amy Steinmetz, Mark Walker and new MEDA Member Gib Turner, Lake County CDC.

LUNCH SPEAKER:
EVAN BARRETT, GOED

[Image of lunch speaker]

MONTANA UPDATE - Presentation
TOUR TIME!

Tour Overview – Leslie Messer; Tour Guides: Jason Rittal, Mike Coryell (pictured left).

Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory: Fort Keogh, a historical 1876 Army Calvary post is now a 55,000 acre USDA rangeland beef cattle research facility with a state of the art laboratory.

Miles City Livestock Commission Company: Miles City Livestock, which began by shipping thousands of military horses, is one of the oldest stockyards in this part of America. Today, the operation has grown to handling over 80,000 head of cattle annually.

Quality Meats of Montana: Once on the verge of closing, the Quality Meats of Montana meat packing plant was saved by an employee led effort to purchase the business which now has over 20 employees. The business used numerous economic development tools including the SBDC and gap financing opportunities.
Sanjel: Sanjel is one of Miles City’s major employers specializing in oil and gas field services in five areas including acidizing, cementing, coiled tubing, fracturing and nitrogen. Sanjel uses some of the most modern equipment technology and features the top national laboratory for this industry.

Cornerstone Housing: The Cornerstone Housing Project is a remarkable low income housing success story which took many years and numerous funding sources to complete. Melissa Hartman of the Miles City Housing Authority led the multi-faceted effort to return a vacant yet historic hospital into a community asset again.

Miles Community College (MCC) Biofuel Demonstration Project: MCC is one of only three community colleges in the State of Montana. One of the areas of special interest is the MCC Biofuel Demonstration Project which incorporates the only one of its kind in the nation.
Miles City Depot Acquisition and Renovation Project:
The historic Miles City Railroad Depot was scheduled for demolition by Burlington Northern. The City of Miles City, Miles City Economic Development and the Historical Preservation Commission have teamed together to put a plan in place to save the site and restore the historical building.

Tongue River Vineyard: By working with the University of Minnesota for the past five years, Bob and Marilyn Thaden have developed a two plus acre vineyard showcasing a variety of grapes. The new winery building is in the final stages of completion next to the picturesque Tongue River.

Time to relax! MEDA Social Hosted at (and by) The Custer County Art and Heritage Center
The art center has two large, elegant galleries and an alcove gallery, with changing exhibitions throughout the year from its permanent collection and exhibitions from around the United States. This is the former water works plant for the city which has been transformed to a very unique and beautiful purpose.
**FRIDAY, JUNE 11th - LAST DAY OF THE 2010 MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE**

BEAR Teams met for breakfast and talked all things BEAR as well as IWT. Remember, IWT Webinar/Training is set for June 16th at 2:00pm.

**MEDA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – It’s all about our members!**

The Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting will be included in the July Online Newsletter. Here are the highlights:

- Officers for 2010-2011 include President Jim Davison, Vice President Terry Myhre, Treasurer Larry Mires, Past President Rick Edwards and Secretary Gloria O’Rourke.
- There are no new board members; all agreed to serve an additional term. Thank you!
- Anne Boothe, Scholarship Committee Chair recognized Spring 2010 Scholarship Winners
- Larry Mires reviewed items currently on the MEDA Legislative Agenda
- Kellie Danielson, Professional Development Committee, provided details on “Managing your Economic Development Organization and Strategic Planning” to be held August 10th and 11th in Billings.
- Working Groups will be re-formed during the fall conference.

Above Left: Scholarship winners Warren Harden, Sam Bixler and Lorene Hintz. Above Right: Larry Mires, MEDA Treasurer, providing Legislative Agenda information.

**FINANCING TOOLS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Coordinator: Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corp.; Speakers included Linda Kindrick - MT Community Finance Corp. on the SBA 504 Program; David Glaser, MT Community Development Corp. on New Markets Tax Credit Opportunities and Herb Kulow (pictured far right) with Montana Board of Investments.

AND BEFORE THE GRAND FINALE....THANKS TO:

Many thanks to the 2010 MEDA Spring Conference Agenda Committee for their hard work in producing a dynamic conference: Jim Atchison (Chair), Jason Rittal, Mike Coryell, Lisa Perry, Andy Poole, Leslie Messer, Linda Twitchell, Lorene Hintz, Martin DeWitt and Jim Davison.

Thanks to Murdoch’s for their generosity in granting affordable hats.
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

GRAND FINALE:

A dog and pony show!

Great Lakes Airlines ticket winner: Larry Watson, Gallatin County

SEE YOU AT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AUGUST 10TH AND 11TH IN BILLINGS!