Nearly 100 people gathered in Hamilton to obtain professional development, learn of new programs and updates, and perhaps best of all, network. The conference was hosted by Ravalli County Economic Development Authority. Below is a summary of the conference including presentation files and photos. Unique to this conference was a 20th Anniversary celebration of MEDA; the time capsule will be sealed during the Fall Conference in Sidney, set for October 2 – 4, 2013.

Pre-Conference
MEDA Professional Development sponsored by PPL Montana

“Managing Organizations for Efficiencies and Sustainability” by Dr. David Kolzow
About 30 people enjoyed a day with David Kolzow as he defined excellence in economic development management and explained the fundamentals of managing for results and outcome-based performance.

Download Dr. Kolzow’s Book: Managing For Excellence

Ravalli County Economic Development Authority and Montana Arts Council Social Hosted a fabulous grilled pizza social.

Chef Julie Foster and Patti Furniss

L to R: Chris Bell, Danielle Williams, Ronja Abel, Larry Watson and Angie Nelson
Pre-Conference TOUR TIME!

As MEDA attendees learned, the Hamilton area has many unique businesses. Ravalli County EDA organized the following interesting, enjoyable and educational tours:

![Image](image1.png)

Left: MEDA tour goers receive instructions before loading the bus to Rocky Mountain Laboratories.

![Image](image2.png)

Ladies in Leadership: Julie Foster, Kellie Danielson and Tracy McIntyre

Save the date:
MEDA 2013 FALL CONFERENCE: Oct 2 – 4, Sidney

The MEDA Kickoff Lunch featured Montana Made and Grown Products prepared by Riversong Gourmet
Below, Julie Foster welcomed everyone to Hamilton

Lunch Presenter: Jan Tusick, Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center, Lake County Community Development Corp

Maximizing Local Food for Economic Development
The MEDA Conference Agenda Committee decided to try something new – and the attendees loved it: SPEED PRESENTATIONS 1

The idea was to hear brief presentations from various speakers, then provide a lengthy break for attendees to seek out more information from the presenters of particular interest. According to the evaluation feedback, the format was a great success!

**Profiting from Safety**  
Fred Miller, MT Dept. of Labor and Industry

**Sustainable Business Workshop: Using Environmental Friendly Techniques**  
Dylan Boyle, Crown of the Continent

**Using the Montana CEIC Interactive Map Library**  
Mary Craigle and Leslie Zolman, MDOC/CEIC

**Montana Artpreneur Program for Ec Development**  
Cinda Holt, and Cindy Kittredge, Montana Arts Council

**NARA – Northwest Advanced Renewables**  
Vikram Yadama, Assistant Professor Department of Civil and Environ Engineering

**Informational Break** – Attendees visited the presenters display table for more information

**Geo Tourism:**  
Multi-Regional, Multi-State, Multi-Country  
Dylan Boyle, Crown of the Continent

**Crowd Funding**  
Lynne Egan, Deputy Securities Commissioner

**Commercial Development of School Trust Land**  
DNRC, Michael Collins, Trust Lands Program Manager

**MT Eco Devo Tool: Wetland and Stream Mitigation Banks**  
Nola Freestone, Eco-Asset Management, Helena MT

Above left: Kate McMahon visits with Dylan Boyle for more information; Above Right: Fred Miller shares more about Profiting from Safety with John Winegart.

**SPEED PRESENTATIONS 2**
Once again, the MEDA Conference Agenda Committee came up with a unique idea: allow participants to have about six minutes to visit with various program representatives. Tickets were handed out at each table with a drawing for a Kindle Fire as the incentive to visit as many tables as possible. Some of the program participants included: MDOC Big Sky Trust Fund, Workforce Training Grant, CDBG, Economic Development and Public Facilities, SBA, MTIP, Fast Grant, Made in Montana, USDA, DNRC, PTAC, Growth through Agriculture, and MSU Extension-Community Foundations.

Montana Artrepreneur Display – artists were featured from the MAP project.

Linda Kindrick visits with SBA and SBDC representatives Roger Hopkins and Ann Desch

Steve Arveschoug and Roy Jones visit with DNRC representatives.

Products were enjoyed from Hidden Legend Winery

Thanks to:

Hidden Legends Winery / Ken Schultz *  Higherground Brewing Company / Fenn Nelson
Montana CiderWorks/ Lee McAlpine *  Swanson's Mountain View Distillery / Lukas Swanson
Wildwood Brewing / Jim Lueders
The final day of the MEDA Spring Conference began with the 2013 BEAR Roundup. Montana BEAR Teams met to receive updates on latest BEAR team trends, IWT data and changes, BEAR training and best practices.

MEDA ANNUAL MEETING - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS

MEDA Members nominated the following officers: President Tracy McIntyre, Vice President Jason Rittal, Past President Larry Mires, Secretary Gloria O’Rourke and Treasurer Rick Edwards. Two new board members were added: Linda Kindrick and Chris Cerquone.

MEDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Rick Edwards, Chair

MEDA STRATEGY SESSION
Chris Mehus, Chair, Web Portal Working Group

MEDA Scope of Work – Web Portal
MEDA Strategic Plan 2013 – Sign Up!
MEDA started celebration 20 years of Partnership and Progress during the spring conference. Historians Tony Preite, Jim Smitham and Jim Davison shared a slideshow on the history of MEDA. A time capsule was opened to place items of importance to MEDA’s history and MEDA’s membership. The capsule will be sealed following the 2013 Fall Conference in Sidney.

MEDA History

Ron Klaphake, MEDA’s 1st President

Many thanks to Ravalli County Economic Development Authority for hosting the 2013 MEDA Spring Conference!

Thanks to the MEDA Agenda Committee: Julie Foster, Chair; Tracy McIntyre, Billie Lee, Kathie Bailey, Kellie Danielson, Stuart Leidner and Karyl Tobel.