



## NEWS FOR APRIL 2014

### NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

- **MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE**  
[Online Registration](#) Now Open!
- **SCHOLARSHIP APS DUE**
- **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- **MEDA WORKING GROUPS**
- **WEB PORTAL SUPPORT – THANKS!**
- **GRANT AND FUNDING OPS**
- **CEIC – POP ESTIMATES**
- **OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS FOR YOU**
- **BEAR HIGHLIGHTS**



Oscar-like Selfie: MEDA Members networking at the MT Ambassador Conference (L to R) John Rogers, Jeremy Vannatta, Rep. Ankney, Governor Bullock, Tracy McIntyre, Liz Ching, and Leslie Messer, at Big Sky.

### **MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE May 6th and 7<sup>th</sup> – [Registration](#) is now open!**

Details for the MEDA Spring Conference are coming together thanks to the hard work of the MEDA Spring Conference Agenda Committee. In addition to great speakers (Governor Bullock and MSU President Waded Cruzado to name two) and a focus on addressing the needs identified in the Main Street Montana Report, the meeting will include professional development training, program training, special speakers and a dinner theater. Program training and Professional Development training will begin at 8:30am on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, with the conference beginning at Noon and concluding at 2pm on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Agenda Committee includes: Paul Tuss, Chair; Michelle Burchard, Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Davison and Kellie Danielson. Bear Paw Development is serving as host with the location for the conference at MSU Northern, in Havre. **Follow us on Twitter during the conference at #MEDA2014.**

### **MEDA SPRING SCHOLARSHIP ROUND ABOUT TO CLOSE**

Anne Boothe, Scholarship Committee Chair, recently announced the spring round of the [Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship](#) awards. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide in-depth training to enhance the knowledge of those working in the field of economic development. The deadline is 5:00pm on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The MEDA Membership Committee held its second meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee is charged with reviewing current MEDA membership benefits, making suggestions on improving, changing, and/or adding benefits, listserv information, conference fees, as well as promoting MEDA and recruiting new members. Any and all MEDA Members are welcome to join the work of the committee. Next meeting: April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am. Jim Smitham is serving as Chair and joined by Alyssa Townsend-Hudders, Roger Hopkins, Tracy McIntyre, Marie Mahugh, Julie Foster, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Martin DeWitt. A new [Membership Benefits List](#) is now available.

The MEDA Membership Committee held its first meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Jim Smitham is serving as Chair and joined by Alyssa Townsend-Hudders, Roger Hopkins, Tracy McIntyre, Marie Mahugh, Julie Foster, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Martin DeWitt. The committee is charged with reviewing current MEDA membership benefits, making suggestions on improving, changing, and/or adding benefits, listserv information, conference fees, as well as promoting MEDA and recruiting new members. Any and all MEDA Members are welcome to join the work of the committee. Next meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup>; 1:30pm.

## **MEDA WORKING GROUPS – Are You In?**

MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group – The next conference call for the CRDC/EDD Working Group is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The group will meet with Jodi Duncan, EDA, to review EDA reporting issues. The CRDC/EDD webpage is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/crdcedd/>

MEDA BEAR Working Group – The 2014 MEDA BEAR Roundup will take place immediately following lunch on May 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the MEDA Spring Conference. A luncheon will be held with Montana BEAR Teams to discuss all things BEAR, including a roundtable with MT Dept. of Commerce program officials. Time will also be set aside for training on Montana Dept. of Labor programs that are a fit with economic development projects. The BEAR website for the working is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/bear/>

MEDA Transportation Working Group – As a result of a meeting held in February, action items have been completed and resources are posted on the Transportation Working Group site [here](#).

MEDA Brownfields Working Group – Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, facilitated the second conference call for this group on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Great information was exchanged. Minutes are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/brownfields-environmental/> The next call is set for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 11:00am. All are welcome to participate; dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279.

## **MEDA WEB PORTAL – THANKS!**

A statewide webinar was held on March 18<sup>th</sup> to gather comments and feedback as to what the Economic Gateway should contain. In addition, a survey was emailed across the MEDA listserv to obtain more feedback and ideas. Excitement is growing for the project as everyone gets a clearer picture of the possibilities for the gateway. **Special thanks and recognition are due** to those MEDA partners that contributed funds to match the Montana Dept. of Commerce Big Sky Trust Fund Grant: NorthWestern Energy - \$10,000; MEDA budget \$5,000; and \$5,850 from the following: Beartooth RC&D \$1,000, Montana CDC \$1,000, Bear Paw Development \$250, Lake County Community Development \$500, Snowy Mountain Development Corp. \$250, Eastern Plains EDC \$250, Sweetgrass Development \$250, Headwaters RC&D \$250, Prospera \$250, MCDC \$1,000, Eureka Rural Development Partners \$250, and Montana West Economic Development \$350.

## **GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- [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.
- The Department of Commerce Community Development Division **has released the FINAL 2014 Treasure State Endowment Program Application Guidelines and Grant Administration Manual**. You may access the guidelines and administration manual by clicking on these links: <http://comdev.mt.gov/TSEP/tsepapplyingforgrants.mcpx> and <http://comdev.mt.gov/TSEP/tsepadminmanual.mcpx>. **The TSEP application due date, as listed in these guidelines, will be Friday, May 2, 2014.** If you have questions regarding the TSEP program, please contact Community Grants Bureau staff at [\(406\) 841-2770](tel:4068412770) or via email at [DOCTSEP@mt.gov](mailto:DOCTSEP@mt.gov)

## MEDA Online News – April 2014

### County Population Estimates 2012-2013

Source: US Census Bureau - Population Division

Data: 2013 County Population Estimates

Compiled 3/25/2014 by the Census & Economic Information Center, MT Dept of Commerce

Area	Economic Region *	Change 2012 - 2013			
		Number	Number Rank	Percent	Percent Rank
<b>Montana</b>	<b>Montana</b>	<b>9,671</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	<b>--</b>
Eastern Region Totals	Eastern	1,169	--	1.52%	--
North Central Region Totals	North Central	733	--	0.49%	--
Northwest Region Totals	Northwest	2,340	--	0.76%	--
South Central Region Totals	South Central	2,727	--	1.33%	--
Southwest Region Totals	Southwest	2,702	--	1.01%	--
Yellowstone County	South Central	2,255	1	1.48%	16
Gallatin County	Southwest	2,055	2	2.22%	6
Flathead County	Northwest	1,408	3	1.54%	15
Missoula County	Northwest	704	4	0.63%	33
Cascade County	North Central	600	5	0.73%	27
Lewis and Clark County	Southwest	460	6	0.71%	28
Richland County	Eastern	397	7	3.67%	2
Roosevelt County	Eastern	222	8	2.04%	9
Carbon County	South Central	221	9	2.18%	7
Ravalli County	Northwest	197	10	0.48%	35
Dawson County	Eastern	182	11	1.96%	10
Hill County	North Central	158	12	0.96%	22
Valley County	Eastern	126	13	1.68%	13
Stillwater County	South Central	122	14	1.33%	17
Mineral County	Northwest	112	15	2.69%	3
Glacier County	North Central	96	16	0.70%	31
Sheridan County	Eastern	92	17	2.57%	4
Park County	Southwest	90	18	0.58%	34
Custer County	Eastern	84	20	0.71%	30
Big Horn County	South Central	84	19	0.65%	32
Jefferson County	Southwest	81	21	0.71%	29
Deer Lodge County	Southwest	72	22	0.78%	26
Sweet Grass County	Southwest	69	23	1.92%	11
Wibaux County	Eastern	65	24	6.16%	1
Pondera County	North Central	56	25	0.91%	23
Silver Bow County	Southwest	55	26	0.16%	39
Fergus County	South Central	53	27	0.46%	36
Phillips County	North Central	49	28	1.19%	20
Fallon County	Eastern	40	29	1.32%	18
Wheatland County	South Central	34	30	1.62%	14
Granite County	Southwest	28	31	0.90%	24
Garfield County	Eastern	27	32	2.14%	8
Meagher County	Southwest	25	33	1.31%	19
Prairie County	Eastern	22	34	1.90%	12
Golden Valley County	South Central	19	35	2.26%	5
McCone County	Eastern	17	36	1.00%	21
Daniels County	Eastern	14	37	0.79%	25
Teton County	North Central	14	38	0.23%	37
Carter County	Eastern	2	39	0.17%	38
Petroleum County	South Central	-3	40	-0.59%	45
Lake County	Northwest	-8	41	-0.03%	40
Powder River County	Eastern	-12	42	-0.68%	47
Judith Basin County	South Central	-13	43	-0.64%	46
Liberty County	North Central	-29	44	-1.21%	51
Sanders County	Northwest	-29	45	-0.25%	42
Madison County	Southwest	-33	46	-0.43%	44
Treasure County	Eastern	-33	47	-4.50%	56
Beaverhead County	Southwest	-34	48	-0.36%	43
Lincoln County	Northwest	-44	49	-0.23%	41
Musselshell County	South Central	-45	50	-0.96%	50
Blaine County	North Central	-53	51	-0.80%	48
Chouteau County	North Central	-72	52	-1.22%	52
Rosebud County	Eastern	-76	53	-0.81%	49
Broadwater County	Southwest	-77	54	-1.33%	54
Toole County	North Central	-86	55	-1.65%	55
Powell County	Southwest	-89	56	-1.26%	53

\* Montana Economic Regions are defined by the MT Department of Labor & Industry

Based on percentage growth, the fastest-growing county in Montana between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2013, was Wibaux County, whose population rose 6.16% in one year followed by Richland County (3.67%), Mineral County (2.69%), Sheridan County (2.57%) and Golden Valley County (2.26 percent). The ranking of these counties is primarily due to the small population base on which growth was calculated. For example, Wibaux County is estimated as having 1,121 residents as of July 1, 2013. The estimate for the same date for Golden Valley is 859 total residents. It should be noted that many of the communities in Eastern Montana have had significant percentage and numeric increases in the individuals living in the county but, since these are primarily workers who have relocated as permanent residents, they are not part of these county population estimates from the Census Bureau.

With respect to numerical growth, Yellowstone County added 2,225 residents over the period, more than any other county in the state. Yellowstone was followed by Gallatin County, which grew by 2,055 residents, Flathead County (1,408 residents), Missoula County (704 residents) and Cascade County (600 residents). Yellowstone County remains the most populous county in Montana, with an estimated 154,162 residents.

Looking at population declines, the largest estimated decline was in Treasure County which fell by 4.5% dropping from 733 to 700 residents. Numerically, Powell County had the greatest decline with an estimated 89 fewer residents. Overall for the period, 39 counties had increases in resident population and 17 had decreases.

This information is based on annual population estimates for each of the nation's counties, county equivalents, metropolitan areas and micropolitan areas since the 2010 Census and up to July 1, 2013. Internet tables are available showing rankings and components of population change (births, deaths, migration).

**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.

- **NADO: New Executive Director Training!** May 15 – 17. This new and comprehensive training program is designed for new (three years or less) executive directors; training topics will include leading a regional development organization, getting into the business, your board and your owners, personnel, finance, marketing, and much more. Registration and more information will be coming soon. For additional questions, please contact NADO Executive Director Joe McKinney at [jmckinney@nado.org](mailto:jmckinney@nado.org) or [202.624.5947](tel:202.624.5947).
- **W2ASACT Links:** W2ASACT has made a series of powerpoint presentations available for Montana entities to explore the Spring 2014 water and wastewater infrastructure funding resources. From their website, you can download the presentations on applying for: RRGL (Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program), SRF (State Revolving Fund), CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), and several other grant and loan programs. <http://www.vibrantfuturesmt.org/document/wasact-water-wastewater-and-solid-waste-action-coordinating-team>



**BEAR stands for Business Expansion and Retention and is the statewide program for keeping and growing Montana's businesses. [See Monthly Report](#)**

In March:

- **IWT:** BEAR Team members attended a IWT Procedures Review in Helena to further fine tune the process of Incumbent Worker Training Grant awards. Three items are emphasized for BEAR Teams: 1. Follow-up is essential in six months and a year following an employer's IWT grant award. This information is to be entered in ExecutivePulse. 2. More attention needs to be paid to the Strategic Plan piece of the application and make sure it reflects the goals of training and addresses measurable outcomes. 3. The day is coming when the entire process will be paperless; all forms filled out online.
- **Bozeman BEAR:** Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County Planning and Community Development, reported on some milestones for the Bozeman Bear Team. In the past 2 years, Bozeman BEAR has worked with over 100 businesses (107 to be exact). Additionally, the team connected those businesses to about 275 resource providers/mentors, and directed around \$50,000 in IWT training dollars into this community. Twelve IWT applications have been submitted in the last three weeks.
- **Butte/Anaconda/Deer Lodge/Dillon BEAR:** On March 4<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was hosted by the Butte Chamber of Commerce to gather the area's BEAR Team(s) and explore ways of expanding the existing team and its outreach. Jim Smitham, Butte Local Development, is initiating a BEAR Enhancement project involving paid interns from Montana Tech who work with local businesses needing assistance. NorthWestern Energy is a partner in the project.

## March Retention Visits

There were 37 Retention Visits held in March! Montana BEAR Teams are on the move!

Counties with retention visits: Deer Lodge – 1, Flathead – 9, Gallatin – 9, Lake – 1, Missoula – 5, Ravalli – 1, Silver Bow – 1, Stillwater – 3, and Yellowstone – 7. Gallatin County had six action items listed with two closed.

**March Outreach Specialist Visits:**

Angie McDonald – 1	Ann Clancy – 1	Bill Silverman - 2	Brigitta Miranda Freer - 1
<b>Chad Moore – 7</b>	Deborah Derrick Gass – 1	Dena Johnson – 3	Gloria O'Rourke – 2
Jim Davison – 1	Jim Smitham – 1	Joel Bertolino- 1	JR Strand – 1
Kathy Wojcik – 1	Kiki Huls – 1	Lynn Lagerquist – 1	Marissa Hauge – 2
Michele Letendre – 1	Michelle Twist – 1	<b>Mike Jackson – 9</b>	Mike Williams – 2
Mora McCarthy – 3	Todd Erickson – 2	Vickie Steele – 1	Vida Wilkinson – 1
<b>Warren Vaughan - 8</b>			

***See you at the MEDA Conference!***