MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR MAY 2013

- REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE
- MEDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES
- MEDA BOARD UPDATE
- CEIC – MONTANA EXPORTS BY COUNTRY
- BEAR REPORT
- MEDA WORKING GROUPS
- GRANT AND FUNDING OPS
- OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS FOR YOU
- MY TURN: MEDA ANNUAL MEETING IS ALL ABOUT YOU

20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS
MEDA 2013 SPRING CONFERENCE

The MEDA Spring Conference promises to be well attended with almost 100 registered to be in Hamilton May 8 – 10th at the Bitterroot River Inn. Attendees will enjoy an in-depth Professional Development Workshop on May 8th, sponsored by PPL Montana and organized by the MEDA Professional Development Committee. Dr. David Kolzow will be presenting and will focus on key principles and practices of professional management for both corporate and non-profit organizations based on extensive research and experience. Ravalli County EDA and the Montana Arts Council will provide grilled pizza during a social following the training.

May 9th begins with a morning of tours. Attendees can choose from Rocky Mountain Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, Huls Dairy, Bitterroot Tool & Machine, Montana Suri Alpacas Ranch and Alpaca Hill Design. Lunch will feature Montana grown food provided by Riversong Gourmet with the rest of the day containing speed presentations and lengthened breakout periods for attendees to visit further with speakers on subjects of most interest. The evening wraps up with a Speed Program Dating event and a brew tasting.

May 10th is all about MEDA and celebrating 20 years of partnership and progress. The MEDA Annual Meeting will be held with officers and board members elected. Everyone is asked to bring an item for the time capsule that will be closed following the MEDA Fall Conference. View the agenda and registration.

MEDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Nominating: The MEDA Nominating Committee met twice in April and has a slate of officers and board nominations for the MEDA Board’s consideration. The MEDA Membership will vote on the candidates Friday, May 10th.

- Scholarship: The Rick Jones MEDA Scholarship winners for the spring round include: Brigitta Freer, Missoula Economic Partnership, was awarded $1,000 to attend IEDC’s Basic Economic Development Course. Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County, received $1,000 to the second NDC course on Business Credit Analysis. Jen Kreiner, Sanders County Economic Development, received $800 to attend an in-depth grant writing course.

- Legislative: The MEDA Legislative Committee held its final weekly 7:00am conference call on April 24th. Rick Edwards will provide a summary of the session for MEDA members during the conference on May 10th and begin strategies for the 2015 session.

- Professional Development: The MEDA Professional Development Committee has made all of the arrangements for the May 8th training titled “Managing Organizations for Efficiencies and Sustainability”. Presenter Dr. Kolzow is currently President of Kolzow and Associates which does economic development consulting and recently served as the Chair of the Department of Economic Development & Planning at the University of Southern Mississippi for four years. He has over twenty-five years of consulting experience in site selection, real estate development planning, and community economic development.

MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board will meet the evening of May 9th at 6:30pm in the RCEDA Conference Room. Agenda items include committee updates, a presentation on a MSU Extension/Community Foundation project, Web Portal RFP, and preparation for the Friday annual meeting.
MEDA Online News – May 2013

New Interactive Export Map Shows Trade by Country

CEIC’s GIS Coordinator Leslie Zolman has created an innovative interactive Montana Export map for the Commerce’s Office of Trade and International Relations.

The size of the circle indicates the dollar value of the trade; and, if you click with your mouse on a country, a table pops up showing the top exports for 2012 and the total exports by year from 2002 to 2012. The figures do not include bulk grain since most is shipped to a US port before transported overseas.


Montana Exports by Country for 2012 - NAICS …

For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.

See Monthly Report

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In April:

- Laith Wardi joined the Missoula area BEAR Team members to provide webinar training on Executive Pulse. Angie McDonald organized the training for the team.
- Nineteen business visits were held in April; twenty-three action items were generated with twelve closed. Visits in each county: Flathead – 8, Gallatin – 6, Missoula – 2, and Deer Lodge – 1.
- Almost 50 BEAR Team members are planning to attend the BEAR Roundup on May 10th. Attendees are asked to bring samples of materials that they use to share with other BEAR Team members.
- The IWT Task Force will meet in May to continue fine-tuning the IWT forms and criteria.
MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

MEDA Economic Development Web Portal Working Group
This newly formed group which is a blend of the CRDC/EDD Subcommittee and the MEDA Board continues to pursue the building of an online presence for Montana’s economic development efforts. Chris Mehus, Chair, held a meeting on March 8th during which the group asked Chris to compile a draft Scope of Work for the project. Chris completed the draft which was approved by the committee and will be put before a vote of the MEDA Board on May 9th.

RLF
The Revolving Loan Fund Working Group met via conference call on April 9th and discussed a variety of topics relating to revolving loan funds. Minutes are available.

BEAR
The MEDA BEAR Working Group met via conference call on April 18th to plan the 2013 BEAR Roundup. Agenda items for Friday morning, May 10th include: Legislative and IWT Update, BEAR at Work, Team Sharing of Materials and the traditional Roundup photo.

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.

- USDA Rural Energy for America Program deadline extension. Could your farm, ranch, or rural small business be more energy efficient in its operations? Then you can greatly benefit from the USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Deadline has been extended to May 31st to apply.

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.


2. Want to have a say about your community’s housing, infrastructure, and economic development? Please participate in the Consolidated Plan meeting with Julie Burk, Consolidated Plan Coordinator, Montana Department of Commerce. Be involved with decisions that affect your community’s economic development, affordable housing, public facilities, infrastructure, and other critical community needs. You’re invited to attend a public meeting on Wednesday, May 22, at the Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 S. Pattee St., Missoula, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Attendance at the Consolidated Plan breakfast is free. For more information, please call 406/841-2734 or view the Montana Housing Partnership Conference’s website at http://www.nwmt.org. You may also send written comments to the Montana Department of Commerce at the address below, or email them to: DocConPlan@mt.gov.

3. If you need current data about your county, here is a wonderful resource. Very easy to use, simply click on your county on the interactive map. http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt/geography

4. The Eastern Montana Energy Expo is pleased to announce the dates for 2013. The event will be May 15-16, 2013. There will be two days of tradeshows and seminars in areas of interest to the energy industry. A Job Fair will also be going on during the event. Anyone interested in exhibiting, having a Job Fair booth or attending, please call or visit our website at www.emtenergyexpo.com or call 406-377-7792

5. The Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) will be sponsoring Spring 2013 infrastructure planning and finance- two workshops and two webinars. The WASACT brochure can be found at: http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ResourceDevelopment/wasact/
6. **Commercial Development Opportunities on State Land**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has management responsibility for over 5.1 million acres of School Trust Lands. Known as school lands, trust lands or grant lands, these former federal lands were conveyed at the time of statehood to assist in the funding of public education and other public purposes. To meet this need, DNRC strives to advance development of specific lands when they are most “ripe” for growth.

- For developers, Trust Lands offer unique opportunities as these lands are often at the front edge of commercial and residential growth in population centers.
- Leases on trust lands reduce the need for large upfront capital costs, and can be secured for up to 99 years. Additionally, leases are assignable to other business entities.

Currently, there are Trust Land Properties Available for commercial development in Belgrade, Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula and more! Please see our website for details flyers of each of our available properties: [http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/Trust/Commercial/Default.asp](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/Trust/Commercial/Default.asp).

**MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Two individuals joined MEDA in April: John Winegart, Lake County Community Development and Joe Willauer, Headwaters RC&D. MEDA’s membership stands at 202.

**MY TURN: MEDA ANNUAL MEETING IS ALL ABOUT YOU**

Friday morning of the MEDA Conference is all about you. It is your opportunity to provide input as to what changes you would like to see in our organization and/or how you can become more involved. During the Annual Meeting the MEDA Strategic Plan will be reviewed. While it is easy to place action items on paper, the hard part is placing boots on the ground to accomplish the work. MEDA attendees will review MEDA’s existing Working Groups and make changes to begin work on new topics of interest. Finally, MEDA will wrap up with a celebration of partnership and progress for the past 20 years. Plan to bring an article or time for the time capsule so that you are a part of MEDA’s history as well. See you in Hamilton!