ONLINE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2013

- LOCKWOOD RESOURCE TEAM RETURN VISIT
- ONE OF THE BEST YET!
- MEDA BOARD UPDATE
- CEIC: DATA USER’S CONFERENCE
- GRANT AND FUNDING OPS
- OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS FOR YOU
- BEAR REPORT
- MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
- MEDA WORKING GROUPS
- MY TURN: WOMEN OF MEDA

LOCKWOOD RESOURCE TEAM RETURN VISIT
October 24th was a history making day for the community of Lockwood and the MEDA Resource Team Assessment Program. It is estimated 250 people came to the Lockwood gym to learn details of the Lockwood Resource Team Report, set priorities, and join working groups to address issues in Lockwood. This was the largest town meeting audience in Lockwood’s history – as well as MEDA’s Resource Team Assessment history. Rep. Jonathan McNiven, Dianne Lehm (Big Sky EDA), and the Lockwood Steering Committee made a huge effort to ensure the success of the meeting.

Following a review of the assessment process, the crowd divided into small groups to begin addressing projects and issues of most interest. As a result, working groups were established, action items defined, and next meeting dates set on the following issues: Governance of Lockwood, Water and Sewer, Streets and Paths, This and That, Image and Media, Business Development, and Schools and Education. Team members include: Eleanor Kindness, USDA/RD; Stan Jonutis, MDT; Dale Detrick, Engineer; Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development Corp.; and Shannon Peterson, CTA Group.

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE = One of the best yet!
The feedback from evaluations indicated the 2013 MEDA Fall Conference was a great success. Attendees raved about the tours, IgniteMontana! presentations, the amazing 20th Anniversary Dinner, and the excellent networking opportunities. If you had to miss the conference, you can view the presentations and photos here.

Thanks are due to the hard working MEDA Agenda Committee: Leslie Messer, Chair; Jason Rittal, Jim Atchison, Kellie Danielson, Martin DeWitt, Karyl Tobel, Brett Doney, and Tracy McIntyre.

Left: Marie Mahugh and Lorene Hintz apply their signatures to seal the 2033 MEDA Time Capsule.

MEDA BOARD UPDATE
The MEDA Board met at the Sidney Country Club at 6:00pm on October 2nd. Action items that are in progress as a result of the meeting:
   1. Improve interaction with partners such as MACo, League of Cities and Towns, Montana Chamber, etc.
2. Submission to the Program Review Committee regarding Petrol.
3. Explore Professional Development options.
4. Consider name badges and shirts for the MEDA Board and Membership.
5. Indicate via letter to Senator Baucus support for a future summit opportunity.
6. Continue to build MEDA’s Legislative Strategy.

MEDA Online News – November 2013

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.

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.

- **Montana Department of Commerce Announces Funding** [MT.org](#)

- **Mobilizing Community Partnerships in Rural Communities: Strategies and Techniques**
  Describes how rural communities can develop and maintain organizational and community partnerships with local health departments, community health centers, healthcare organizations, offices of rural health,
In October:

- There were 11 Retention Visits held in October with 14 Action Items created and 11 closed. Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 4, Yellowstone – 2, Deer Lodge – 1, Gallatin – 2, Missoula - 1, Ravalli – 1.

- Action Items: Gallatin – 13; Park 1

**Outreach Specialist Visits:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Visits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Albee</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mora McCarthy</td>
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<td>Jim Davison</td>
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<td>Shirley Cortright</td>
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<td>Allen Kawasaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah McAtee</td>
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<td>Dena Johnson</td>
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**BEAR Team Outreach Specialists are still strongly encouraged to click:** 1. Add; 2.: Metrics Survey; 3. Last business contacted, and input their time spent, jobs retained or created, private and/or public funding, etc. Entering this data will further demonstrate the value of the program

**MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:**

MEDA gained one new member in October: Cheryl Sawyers, Marketing Director, TD&H Engineering, Great Falls. MEDA’s membership stands at 204.

**MEDA WORKING GROUPS**

**CRDC/EDD WORKING GROUP** – This working group is addressing action items discussed during an August meeting: 1. Compile a letter to EDA to discuss reporting issues, and 2: Consider Impact Analysis reports using a NorthWestern Energy Grant opportunity.

**OTHER WORKING GROUPS** – MEDA is making a push to re-ignite its Working Groups. Working groups provide members an opportunity to learn of new items, issues, and funding on a specific topic.

**MY TURN: Women of MEDA**

MEDA is fortunate to have women in leadership as part of its organization. To commemorate the Women of MEDA, Ann Desch and Anne Boothe purchased a copy of the book “Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead” by Sheryl Sandberg. A list of past Women of MEDA was inserted in the book and current Women of MEDA were invited to sign the inside cover. The book was placed in the 2033 MEDA Time Capsule for safe keeping. Thank you, Women of MEDA, for your service to our organization and the betterment of Montana.