ONLINE NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2013

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MEDA FALL CONFERENCE – Ready, Set, Ignite!
About 75 MEDA members and partners are expected in Sidney this week. **On Wednesday**, Professional Development will begin with a unique workshop based on Real Colors taught by Certified Trainer Mike O’Rourke. Real Colors, once identified for each person, will strengthen leadership skills and reveal paths to better engagement in the workplace. The workshop is professional, interactive and enlightening. Following this workshop, Professional Development will continue with Montana USDA/RD program training. The goal of the training is to strengthen Montana applications so that Montana can obtain more of the project funds available. Wednesday night will conclude with a social at the MonDak Heritage Center.

**Thursday** starts with Program Dating which is an opportunity for attendees to learn more about key economic development programs. The next hour is for Ignite Montana! in which innovative ideas will be shared in the brisk five minute format. Attendees will learn of the progress made in MEDA’s Legislative Strategy and receive an update on the MEDA Web Portal Project. To prepare for the tours, the Eastern Montana Impact Coalition will provide an update on energy development and impacts in Eastern Montana. Due to a mandatory training and safety issues, the tour to an oil rig had to be cancelled; however, there are other stops that will be made on the Sidney tour bus of interest to attendees. Thursday night will end with a special 20th Anniversary Dinner to celebrate MEDA’s partnership and progress.

**Friday** morning will kick off with a breakfast sponsored by MT Dept. of Commerce and the State Action Plan project. Next, MEDA members will be challenged to come up with ideas and resources as the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and MT Dept. of Commerce share Main Street Project results with MEDA. Following this, MEDA attendees will learn more about the Bank of North Dakota framework as well as Working Cross Borders with the EDA in Alberta. Jason Rittal will share about his recent trip to Washington DC which will be followed by Montana Dept. of Commerce giving out Partnership Awards. Last but not least, the conference will wrap up with the sealing of the MEDA time capsule to commemorate 20 years of progress and partnerships.

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

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT WRAP-UP
The Montana Jobs Summit has come and gone but positive impacts as a result of the summit continue to be reported in the press. MEDA served as a sponsor for the Montana Economic Development Summit and co-sponsored a pre-summit social with the Montana Ambassadors. Sen. Jon Tester and Governor Steve Bullock addressed the crowd. MEDA tended a booth that informed potential new members about the organization and MEDA Members assisted with coordinating one-on-one networking opportunities offered throughout the summit.
MEDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
Anne Boothe, Chair, recently announced the winners of the MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships including John Sisson, SEMDC-SBDC, ASBDC Annual Conference and Training $600; Brigitta Miranda-Freer, Missoula Economic Partnership, U of O Economic Development Institute $300, Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, IEDC Certification and Speaker $300; John Winegart, Lake County Development, NDC ED201 $900; Kellie Danielson, Montana West Economic Development, IEDC training $300; and Lorene Hintz, Great Northern, QuickBooks Trainer Certification $300. Congratulations!

MEDA Online News – October 2013
New Agricultural Dashboard

CEIC has a new Agricultural Commodities Dashboard on its website. [http://ceic.mt.gov/Economics/AgricultureDashboard.aspx](http://ceic.mt.gov/Economics/AgricultureDashboard.aspx)

The site features price and yield statistics for wheat, hay, barley, flaxseed, lentils and oats. CEIC staff is currently working on an additional table that would feature livestock information.

Like all CEIC dashboards, the figures are real-time so the minute new information is released, the table is updated. If you have other commodities you would like us to feature or want additional types of information included, please contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.
LOCKWOOD RESOURCE TEAM – Gearing up for 300+

In partnership with Beartooth RC&D and Big Sky Economic Development Authority, the Lockwood Steering Committee hosted a Lockwood Resource Team Assessment September 23 – 24th. Diann Lehm, Big Sky EDA, served as the liaison for the project and worked with the team as well as the local officials to ensure great attendance for the team listening sessions. Over 175 people participated. Rep. McNiven has begun a campaign to have 300+ in attendance for the team’s return visit on October 24th to shape the future direction of Lockwood. Team members include: Eleanor Kindness, USDA/RD; Stan Jonutis, MDT; Dale Detrick, Engineer; Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development Corp.; and Shannon Peterson, CTA Group.

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.

- FY 2014 Application Guidelines now available The Montana Indian Equity Fund is a grant to assist a current Native American business or a new Native American business owner. The funds are available only to enrolled members of Montana’s federally recognized tribes in Montana and to enrolled members of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. To find out more about the grant, if you qualify and if you need additional information or assistance please contact Philip Belangie at (406) 721-3663 or pbelangie@mt.gov.

- The draft FFY 2013-2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application and Guidelines for Housing and Public Facilities Planning Grants has been posted on the Department of Commerce Website for review and comment. You may view the documents by clicking on this link: http://comdev.mt.gov/CDBG/cdbgplanninggrants.mcpx. The Department of Commerce will hold a public hearing on October 9th, 2013 beginning at 9am in Room 504A of the Park Avenue Building at 301 South Park Avenue, Helena, Montana, to consider the proposed adoption of the CDBG Planning Grant Application and Guidelines for the FFY 2013-2014 application cycle. Interested parties may comment on the proposed Planning Grant Application and Guidelines by submitting their data, views, or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing or throughout the comment period ending at 5:00pm on October 23rd, 2013. Comments may be submitted directly to the Department of Commerce, Planning Bureau, 301 South Park Avenue, PO Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620-0523; by telephone (406) 841-2770; by fax (406) 841-2771; or by email DOCCDBG@mt.gov, and must be received by October 23rd, 2013. Interested parties who cannot attend the public hearing in person may participate via conference call: United States: +1 (877) 273-4202 Conference Room Number: 1728638

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.

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Census & Economic Information Center

Planning for Montana's Future
Free Data User's Conference in Helena
301 South Park (Old Federal Building)
November 5 & 6, 2013

The Census & Economic Information Center (CEIC) at the Montana Department of Commerce is hosting a FREE Day and a Data User's Conference. The conference features two tracks.

**TRACK 1 - Hands-on Workshops - 1/2 Day Each**

- ArcGIS Online with Published Datasets
- Manipulating Census Data in ArcGIS
- Using American Fact Finder and Other Data Query Tools

**TRACK 2 - Presentations**

- Population Projections - Montana’s Aging Population
- CEIC Website Overview & Basic Profiles
- Eastern Montana Population Projections
- State of the Montana’s Economy
- State of Montana’s Health
- Montana’s Future Population & Hospital Costs
- Montana Exports - Information and Data Tools
- Census Bureau API Tools - Tiger Web Development
- Planners are Planning for Montana’s Future

*Agenda order and content subject to modifications

There are only 20 spots available for each hands-on workshops and room capacity for each presentation is about 30. To reserve a spot in the workshops and presentations, please email Leslie Zobman at lzoobman@mt.gov or ceic.mt.gov.

Attendees are responsible for all hotel accommodations, lunch, and dinners. A limited item continental breakfast each morning, plus beverages and snacks are provided.

Discounted rooms can be reserved at the Holiday Inn Downtown (406) 841-4329) until October 14. Attendees will receive the state government rate (58% + tax). Ask for the “CEIC 2013 Data User’s Conference” block group. The Holiday Inn Downtown is located on the Walking Mall 1/2 mile away from the conference site.

Call (406) 841-2740 or email ceic.mt.gov for more information.
In September:

- There were 8 Retention Visits held in September with 3 Action Items closed or updated. Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 5, Yellowstone – 1, Deer Lodge – 1, Carbon - 1. Action Items: Gallatin – 2; Carbon 1

Outreach Specialist Visits:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Jackson</td>
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<td>Chad Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mora McCarthy</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Dena Johnson</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Joe Strelnik</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.

**MY TURN: Team MEDA**

MEDA members had a very busy September, and October is looking the same. I am fortunate from where I sit to see the incredible teamwork that MEDA member’s initiate that allows them to accomplish so much. From BEAR, resource teams, summit support, working groups, committees, business recruitment, program expertise and task forces, Team MEDA can get things done and get them done well. See you in Sidney – which will be another successful conference with Team MEDA at work.

MEDA/MT Ambassador pre-summit social, Headframe Spirits, Butte, MT