MEDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Conference Call
March 21, 2013
7:30am – 8:00am

On the Call: Paul Tuss, John Rogers, Steve Arveschoug, Brigitta Freer, Cindy Stergar, Tracy McIntyre, Jason Rittal, Jim Davison, Jim Smitham, James Grunke, Anne Boothe, Joe McClure, and Gloria O’Rourke.

HB590
President Tracy McIntyre called the board to order to address a recommendation from the MEDA Legislative Committee for MEDA to support HB590 Access Healthcare Montana. HB590 is Governor Bullock’s legislation to expand and reform Medicaid in Montana. Governor Bullock’s administration requested MEDA’s support on HB590 which would provide additional healthcare dollars for Montana, thereby providing a host of new jobs in the years ahead. HB590 will be heard on Monday, March 25th, and contains both reform and expansion criteria. Reform involves providing better access, better quality and cost containment.

Cindy Stergar, Policy Advisor on Health Matters, was on the call and provided additional information. Cindy related support for healthcare similar to support for infrastructure in other economic sectors. Federal dollars have been made available; if not used, another state will use the funds.

Following a discussion, Paul Tuss moved for MEDA to take a position in support of HB590; Anne Boothe seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Gloria will send a draft letter to Paul this morning; Rick, Tracy and Gloria will figure out testimony.

MAY BOARD MEETING

The board decided to meet in Helena the end of April following the close of the Legislative session. Gloria will send out a doodle with dates and times. A conference call option will be available.