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## MEDA BROWNFIELDS WORKING GROUP January 14, 2014 10:00am – 11:00am

**Participants:** Katharine Thompson, Chair; Mike Smith, Karyl Tobel, Karen Sweeney, George Palmer, Sarah Converse, Wayne Gardella, Jason Seyler, Brian Obert, Chris Shove, Turner Askew, Roger Hopkins, Katie Weaver, Teresa McKnight, Haley Beaudry and Gloria O'Rourke.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Katharine Thompson, Chair, welcomed everyone to the call and requested introductions. Participants shared their interest and/or role in working with Brownfields:

Participant	Agency	Interest or Role in Brownfields
Katharine Thompson	City of Kalispell/Community and Economic Development	Kalispell has three Brownfields Grants
Brian Obert	Montana Business Assistance Connection	Projects in the works with Lewis and Clark County and with the Prospera, MBAC, Lewistown Coalition
Mike Smith	WGM Group	Wants to learn and expand firm's work in Brownfields area
Sarah Converse	Sweetgrass Development	Applying for an assessment in the future
Karyl Tobel	MT Dept. of Commerce/BRD/Assist. Div. Admin	Share MDOC Program Information that may be a fit for Brownfield Projects in some way
Karen Sweeney	Snowy Mountain Development	SMDC has an RLF for clean up; new application pending with coalition members: Prospera, MBAC, Lewistown
George Palmer	Missoula Job Service	Wants to be informed about Brownfields
Jason Seyler	MT DEQ/Brownfields	Assists in identifying, assessing and cleaning up brownfield sites
Chris Shove	Montana Business Assistance Connection	In process of purchasing Brownfields site to remediate it
Turner Askew	Flathead County Industrial Authority/ Board Member	Involved with a developing Brownfields project.
Wayne Gardella	SBA District Director	Share SBA Program information that may be a fit
Roger Hopkins	SBA Deputy Director	Some clean up experience; share SBA Program information that may be a fit for Brownfield Projects in some way
Katie Weaver	Park County/Extension (ED & CD)	Wants to be informed about Brownfields
Teresa McKnight	MSU Innovation Campus/Executive Director	Seeking information; Share Innovation Campus information
Haley Beaudry	Mining/Civic Engineer	Works with company that purchases old business sites and finds new use

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## **2. Group's Purpose**

A discussion was held as to the purpose and focus participants have of the MEDA Brownfields Working Group:

- Need to learn more about Brownfields program and funding options
- Learn of other funds from other entities that might fit, i.e., planning grant from MDOC; SBA, etc.
- Identify what is possible – Brownfields 101 GoToMeeting format

Jason Seyler defined Brownfields as: any property with real or perceived contamination which is restricting or prohibiting redevelopment of that property. Jason further explained that Montana has benefited from Brownfields grants and has had success in redevelopment.

## **3. Topics for Next Meetings**

- a. Brownfields 101; include Sarah Converse's slide show for informing the public
- b. Project descriptions from around the state; showcase various types and locations
- c. Funding partners such as MDOC, SBA, DNRC, DEQ, EPA, etc.
  - i. List all funding partners with funding sources and deadlines

## **4. Set Next Meeting and Agenda**

The group decided to meet every other month and take advantage of MEDA conferences to meet face-to-face when possible. The next conference call will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The first half hour will focus on Brownfields 101 with the second half hour showcasing one project.

## **5. Misc.**

- Gloria was asked to send out contact information for those on the call.
- Jason Seyler asked everyone to look around his/her community and give him a call regarding blight or abandoned properties.