



## **MEDA Five Committee Meeting**

**Including: MEDA Board, EDA Working Group, CRDC/EDD Working Group, Online Project Subcommittee and MEDA Legislative Committee**

Elkhorn B Room, Holiday Inn, 22 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena 7:00pm

January 14, 2013

**Present: Brett Doney, Ken Richardson, Shannon Peterson, Paul Tuss, Michelle Burchard, Chris Mehus, Jolene Bach, Jim Davison, Paul Tuss, Collin Watters, Steve Arveschoug, Marcy Allen, Brian Obert, Billie Lee, James Grunke, Andy Poole, John Rogers, Meg O'Leary, Steve Holland, Martin DeWitt, Tracy McIntyre, Andy Shirtliff, Chris Bell, Karyl Tobel, Tony Preite, Jennifer Hannay, Carolyn Jones, Julie Foster, Anne Boothe, Rick Edwards, Brent Campbell, Joel Clairmont, Jason Rittal, Sarah Converse, Steve Arveschoug, Anne Pichette, Steve Holland, Ken Richardson, and Gloria O'Rourke.**

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### **Introductions and Greetings – Tracy McIntyre, John Rogers**

MEDA President Tracy McIntyre requested introductions from all present. The floor was then turned over to John Rogers, Chief Business Officer, Governor's Office of Economic Development. John said Montana is fortunate to have Governor Bullock in place and John will be depending on members of MEDA in the weeks ahead. John explained MEDA has a part to play in the Governor's vision for Montana and MEDA's input is needed. Regional roundtables will soon be organized with emphasis on including private sector business representatives with ideas to share.

### **CRDC/EDD Working Group Update – Paul Tuss, Meg O'Leary**

Paul said the big agenda item right now for the CRDC/EDD Working Group is the online economic development gateway project. Meg O'Leary mentioned tonight that she wants to meet with the CRDC/EDD Working Group to discuss various issues. Chris Mehus provided an update on the online economic development gateway; Rick Edwards shared what a similar project has done for economic development in South Dakota.

Informational points on the project:

- Collaborative effort to define what we all do – identify diversity as well as commonalities.
- Build an online umbrella for all economic development organizations.
- Organizations with their own websites can keep their own website.
- Funding will likely come from private investors.

### **EDA Working Group Project – Tracy McIntyre, John Rogers**

When the EDA Working Group met previously, it was decided to use a survey format to add more information to the Regional Sector Analysis Report prepared by RTS. Once more information is gathered, the report will be used as Montana's economic development activities move forward. The MEDA Spring Conference will be used for MEDA members to identify areas

and projects for collaboration. The survey will be sent to the CRDC/EDD Working Group next week.

**MEDA Legislative Committee– Rick Edwards**

Rick thanked the CRDCs and LDO's for their support of tomorrow's Rotunda Day event titled IMPACT – Partnerships that Work.” Rick said the weekly Wednesday 7:00am calls have begun and the MEDA Legislative Committee is following a list of bills. Steve Arveschoug has arranged for key partners such as MACo, League of Cities and Towns and the Montana Chamber to meet tomorrow afternoon to compare agenda. Key issues for MEDA include:

- Business climate issues
- Sustaining economic development tools
- Leadership and partnerships
- Inflationary increase of most 2019 programs

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.