

# MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT

## A BUSINESS PLAN *For Montana by Montanans*

**January 29, 2016 Housing and Construction KIN meeting**  
**301 South Park Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Helena MT**  
**11:00AM – 4:00PM**

*KIN Members present:*

Dick Anderson, Anderson Construction, Brad McCall, McCall Development, Greg McCall, McCall Development, Brent Campbell, WGM Group, Pat Corrick, Farran Group Contractors, Rasta Douglas-Walid, Contractors Information Bureau, Sheila Rice, Neighbor Works Montana, Kevin Germaine, Moonlight Basin Realty, Jim Morton, Human Resource Council, Michael O'Neil, AWARE, Alex Burkhalter, Housing Solutions, Keith Allen, IBEW & AFL-CIO Board member, Mario Martinez, Carpenters Union, Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development Corp, Warren Vaughn, Gallatin County Planning and Community Development, Amber Sundsted, Billings Association of Realtors, Wyeth Friday, Planning Department, Billings, Tim Robertson, Century Companies, Deb Poteet, Poteet Construction  
Peter Bing, Blue Ribbon Builders

*Staff/Public*

Governor Bullock

Jim Molloy, Governor's Office

Stacy Collette, Montana Department of Commerce

Penny Cope, Montana Department of Commerce

Joe Ramler, Montana Department of Commerce

Mary Craigle, Montana Department of Commerce

Peggy Trenk, Government Affairs Coalition

Amanda Casey, Governor's Office

Bruce Brensdaal, Montana Board of Housing

Dave Cook, MT Department of Labor & Industry, Permits and Licenses

Nancy Ray, National Association of Home Builders

**11:00AM** Introductions and welcome remarks from Co-Charis Dick Anderson, Brad McCall and Greg McCall.

**11:15 AM** Preliminary comments by and discussion with Governor Steve Bullock.

- Welcome remarks
- He reminded us that Montana is a great place to live. We have great communities, economic opportunities, and schools. As we think about this Main Street Project, remember that no matter what your business is, as we add employees, or grow our business, we put together a business plan. As a state, we have never done that.

- During these KIN meetings, keep that model in mind as we discuss what provides opportunities, what are the obstacles, etc.
- The Main Street Project started out with surveys in each county, they developed 5 pillars of industry functionality.
- The group was challenged to think about where can government can help, where does it get in the way, and how do we all advance and make Montana better.
- He hopes the outcome of these meetings becomes an institutional guideline, a business plan for Montana, guiding and inspiring public and private efforts.

Open for questions:

Sheila Rice asked what can we do that is best for you to be able to act on? What can we produce that will help you act? The sweet spot is different for each industry, but the report should be concrete, concise, real, budget cycle minded, understandable, tangible, tangible. Don't just think about state government. MDOC can't reach everything. How can we facilitate, perhaps?

Michael O'Neil asked what common challenges have you seen? Workforce. How can those needs be met in each industry? Infrastructure, how to have a vibrant community without sewer and water. Diversify our economy. What is the best solution for workforce? Through Main Street we have 200 small businesses, we are trying to rethink what type of education and training should look like. What kind of certificate programs or apprenticeships could be available? Health care has a great need in future, working with schools, all level. We should engage k-12 and higher.

Dick Anderson stated that he would like to see the k-12 promote the trades more. Stated that he believes teachers should be persuaded to encourage their students. Can put together a document that is understandable. He thinks teachers are entrenched in the status quo curriculum.

The discussion was turned to organized labor should be talking to students. In the 2-yr schools there are good courses. He believes there is a trend. 28% of Montana has 4yr degree.

What will make them want to come here or stay here. Quality of life. Like sales taxes, income taxes, diverse industries and economy. Attracting people to big sky and other tourist areas, housing is a big problem.

Rasta Walid thinks there should be an equivalent certificate to 4yr degrees. With workforce discussions, when contractors are looking for employees we need a way to find them..... they are here. We need to focus on technology and innovation.

**11:45 AM** Joe Ramler presentation.

**12:05 AM** Discussion: If you were granted one (realistic) wish that would help the development of construction and housing in Montana, what would it be?

**12:35 PM Break for Lunch**

**12:50 PM** - Jim Molloy gave a status report on what happens next in the KIN recommendation process. The three things that the chairmen were told to do.

- It is to be non-partisan.
- It is essential to have private business participation to succeed.
- The governor is committed to keeping this as a core component of his administration and he hopes it lives beyond.

The Main Street Montana plan was put on the backs of state agencies to review, some will stay some will go.

**1:05PM** Assessing our current state: SWOT. Break into groups

**2:00PM** Break

**2:15PM** Prioritizing issue areas and actions across 5 pillars.

**Next Steps:**

The KIN priority areas included the following:

- We will send all pillar ideas to KIN members via survey monkey for votes on priorities
- We will send out income data, etc.
- Information on unmet housing need in Montana
- What unmet need is there in applications by cities for infrastructure.
- Priorities for construction
- Priorities for housing
- Housing opportunities for all, first time homebuyer, next level, down size, smaller lots

**3:30PM** Discussion on where do we go from here?