

RSCC Economic Development Subcommittee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 2
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Attendees: Russ Hobbs (Ch), Representative Ryan Lynch, John Rogers, Dan Lloyd, Christopher Dorrington, Diane Myers, Walt Ainsworth, Jim Lewis, Katie Hofman, Kathy Fasso, Dan Harbeke, Melissa Lewis

2:00 pm **Welcome & Introductions**

Russ Hobbs welcomed everyone to the call and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

2:10 pm **Port of Montana Car Volume Update**

Russ Hobbs explained that equipment availability and matching the right handling and shipping resources for a specific move is critical to economic development. Plum Creek is currently working with Union Pacific to obtain boxcars for medium density fiberboard (MDF) through the Port of Montana. This logistics exercise may help the RSCC and other producers identify challenges to potential future opportunities.

Russ Hobbs asked if the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) has received any movement or business development inquiries lately. Dan Lloyd and John Rogers indicated that GOED has not fielded any such calls recently.

Kathy Fasso with the Port of Montana noted that she has received the container shipping source data used to produce the Montana World Trade Center report “Trends and Opportunities to Improve Access and Create Freight Efficiencies for Montana Companies” (http://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/rsc/doc/freight_assessment.pdf) and will discuss this topic on behalf of the Economic Development Subcommittee at the Dec 11th RSCC meeting. The Port of Montana is analyzing the data to see if volumes exist to support container freight movements at the Port.

2:30 pm **Montana Transportation Toolkit Discussion**

The transportation toolkit idea is to have a digital/printed resource containing information on Montana’s transportation infrastructure, assets and service providers. The goal is to develop a relatively comprehensive overview of transportation options and opportunities in Montana to assist existing and potential businesses to better understand and more efficiently move goods to markets.

Various sources of information exist in disparate places but could be helpful to existing and potential businesses if collocated. The idea is to make helpful information readily available in a single resource location. Such information could include:

- Contact information for grain shuttles and elevators
 - Webmap created by MDT and with the data managed by MT Department of Agriculture could serve as a baseline template

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/rscc/agricultural-storage.shtml>

- Rail infrastructure, including subdivision information
- Contact information for rail service providers listed in the 2010 State Rail Plan
 - Jim Lewis of MRL suggested listing sales/marketing contacts and real estate contacts
 - Katie Hofman of BNSF Railway offered to provide the same information
- Existing transload facilities for BNSF and MRL, and others including BNSF premier transloading facilities in Montana:
<http://domino.bnsf.com/website/premtransloader.nsf/ie6-sbdest?open>
- Existing rail-served industrial parks, trucking-served areas as well
- Current unit/shuttle train loop track
- Specialized facilities (cold storage, large gathering facilities, etc)
- General information on licensing and permitting large highway loads
- Third party logistics providers/consultants/brokers
- Motor carriers
 - Walt Ainsworth noted there are many different motor carriers (regional, national, truckload and LTL) and will connect w/ Spook Stang with the Motor Carriers of Montana Association to see if a comprehensive list of carriers exists, prior to the Dec 11 RSCC meeting, noting that the association typically protects this membership list in its entirety.

The intent is for the toolkit to initially provide basic information already available. It could start with the existing grain elevator map and then incorporate rail lines, subdivisions, transload facilities, port facilities, industrial parks, motor carrier licensing/permitting and contact information, and other relevant resources.

Information that is available will be sent to Chris Dorrington for incorporation into the webmap draft.

2:45 pm Russ Hobbs summarized the conversation and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.