Working Agenda

Event Location: Billings Food Bank | 2112 4th Ave N | Billings, MT 59101

Wednesday, April 18

10:00 - 10:30 am  Registration / Check-in

10:30 – 11:00 am  Welcome, Introductions & Perspective
  • NACo, NADO, EDA-Denver Regional Office
  • Yellowstone County
  • Big Sky Economic Development
  • Margaret MacDonald, Montana State Senate

11:00 - 12:00 pm  Setting the Stage: An Overview of Economic Diversification
  • Dr. Erik Pages

12:00 - 1:00 pm  Keynote Luncheon: Lessons Learned from Appalachia
  • Kevin Loux, Shaping Our Appalachian Region(SOAR), Pikeville, Kentucky

1:00 - 2:30 pm  Conversation Café – Part I
  Facilitated and interactive small-group discussion.

2:30 – 3:45 pm  Afternoon Panel Discussion
  • Philanthropic Funders, Brownfields/Restoration Economy, Broadband

3:45 – 4:00 pm  Networking Break

4:00 - 5:00 pm  Billings Food Bank Tour & Service-Learning Opportunity
  Details forthcoming

5:00 - 6:30 pm  Networking Reception
  Details forthcoming
Working Agenda

Thursday, April 19

8:30 – 9:00 am  Breakfast Networking

9:00 – 10:00 am  Panel – Statewide Outlook & Opportunity
  ● Mark Haggerty, Headwater Economics
  ● Montana Governor’s Office of Economic Development (*invited*)
  ● Montana Governor’s Office of Outdoor Recreation (*invited*)
  ● Montana Main Street Program—Department of Commerce (*invited*)

10:00 – 10:15 am  Networking Break

10:15 – 11:15 am  Regional Plans in Action
  ● U.S. EDA-Denver Regional Office
  ● Coal Country Coalition: SE Montana, Snowy Mountain Development Corp., Beartooth RC&D, Big Sky ED

11:15 – 12:00 pm  Lessons Learned from the Colstrip Economic Diversification Strategy
  ● Jim Atchison, Southeast Montana Development Corp.
  ● Becky Bey, KLJ Engineering
  ● Molly Herrington, KLJ Engineering

12:00 – 1:00 pm  Lunch
  ● NACo & NADO: Legislative Updates and Overview of Free Resources & Tools

1:30 - 3:00 pm  Education & Workforce Development Mobile Tour
  Details forthcoming

3:00 – 4:00 pm  Conversation Cafe Part II
  Facilitated and interactive small-group discussion

4:00 – 4:30 pm  Final Thoughts, Next Steps and Adjourn