MINUTES

Montana District Export Council

February 22, 2018 | Bozeman, MT

# In Attendance

Jenni – Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, DEC Chair

Angie – ExportMontana, Montana Department of Commerce, DEC Vice-Chair

Carey – US Commercial Service – Montana, DEC Executive Secretary

Sam – Crowley Fleck

Joel – Ascent Vision

Canon – ExportMontana, Montana Department of Commerce

B.D. – Satic

Adam – Resonon

Brigitta – Montana World Trade Center

Kyle – Agmor

Bill – MacBride Law

Dianna – TowHaul

Mara – Enell

Richard – The Law Office of Richarch Hegger

Scott – Rocky Mountain Bank

Barry – Wood’s Powr Grip

Wendy – Diversified Plastics

Tibor – Resodyn

Katie - Spika

# Idaho DEC Best Practices

Idaho’s USEAC, Amy Benson, and DEC member, Ernesto Penal, provided DEC best practices. Suggestions included:

* Purpose of the DEC:
	+ Advocate on trade issues on behalf of the state’s exporters
	+ Support the state’s exporters
	+ Support National DEC initiatives
* Form committees:
	+ Legislation and trade policy
	+ Education and outreach
	+ Marketing
	+ Sponsorship
	+ Members must join 1 committee
* Makeup of the DEC:
	+ Usually the Chair is an exporter, Vice Chair is a service provider, and Treasurer is a service provider
	+ Meet once per month, except for June and July; December is the DEC annual party
	+ Meetings:
		- Include: committees reports, USCS reports, New business, old business
		- Non-official members can attend
		- Committees sometimes meet before/after DEC meetings
* Regarding funding:
	+ Annual budget is $22k-$24k/year
	+ Funded by member fees and sponsorships; funds are spent on:
		- DEC meeting expenses
		- Exporter trainings and speaker travel
		- Support DEC member travel to National DEC meeting

# DEC Officer Elections

DEC members held elections for 2-year officer positions, resulting in:

* DEC Chair: Adam Stern, Resonon, Bozeman
* DEC Vice Chair: B.D. Erickson, Satic, Missoula
* DEC Treasurer: Brigitta Miranda-Freer, Montana World Trade Center, Missoula
* Contact information for DEC officers and members is attached

## Action items:

* By DATE, Jenni – MMEC will send out new member press release.

# Next Meeting

**Thursday, April 5, 2-4 pm**, Satic USA, 7151 Kestrel Dr., Missoula – contact BD Erickson, 406-274-6446

Topics:

* Exporter of the Year
* Manufacturing & International Trade Day panel topics
* Montana DEC development:
	+ Forming committees
	+ Developing our value proposition / mission statement
	+ Recruiting additional exporters
	+ DEC website
* International Trade Issues:
	+ ExIm reauthorization
	+ IC-DISC
	+ ITA funding
	+ Korea FTA
	+ Misc tariff bill
	+ NAFTA negotiations