



MINUTES

Montana District Export Council

March 22, 2023

DEC Mission Statement

The Montana DEC will **support Montana exporters** and **provide a collective Montana exporter voice** to advise on **export education** needs and disseminate education opportunities to its collective networks; and to **advise policy makers on export policies** under consideration and provide suggestions for future legislation.

DEC Member To-Do Items

1. Angie will put a “hold” on your calendar for these optional events; accept if you can make it:
 - a. May 17-18, Montana World Trade Center’s [World Trade and Investment Day](#), Missoula
 - i. Montana DEC Exporter of the Year award ceremony (Governor invited)
 - ii. DEC members get a discount on registration (use “DEC” at checkout)
 - b. Tentatively May 25 or 26, Montana DEC Exporter of the Year award ceremony at SRS Crisafulli, Glendive
2. For the Summer DEC meeting, [click on this link](#) to indicate your availability.
3. Consider sending donations to the DEC to increase the Treasury balance.
4. Follow the DEC’s [LinkedIn page](#) to increase our reach.

DEC Summer Meeting

More information, including the agenda, will be sent at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Date: [Click on this link](#) to indicate your availability the week of June 26. Meetings will be up to 2 hours.

Virtual: via Microsoft Teams (link to be provided once dates are final)

Topics:

- Guest Speaker: National Association of DEC's discusses DEC best practices and international trade update
- DEC business
- Export Service Provider updates
- Webinars & trainings

Attendees

Official DEC Members

Official DEC membership, controlled by the US Department of Commerce, can be accepted in June in even-numbered years.

Dianna – TowHaul, Chair

Linda – PDT, Vice Chair

Brigitta – Montana World Trade Center,
Treasurer

Carey – US Commercial Service, Executive
Secretary

Barry – Wood's Powr-Grip

Steve – Diversified Plastics

B.D. – Satic USA

Latashia – Intertribal Ag Council

Katie – Spika

Richard – Hegger Law

Jenni – Montana Manufacturing Extension
Center

Angie – Montana Dept of Commerce-Export
MT

Montana DEC Exporter of the Year Award

After reviewing the applications and much debate, DEC members chose SRS Crisafulli as the 2022 Montana DEC Exporter of the Year.

The DEC will offer two award ceremonies:

1. May 17-18, Montana World Trade Center's [World Trade and Investment Day](#), Missoula
 - a. Montana DEC Exporter of the Year award ceremony (Governor invited)
 - b. DEC members get a discount on registration (use "DEC" at checkout)
2. Tentatively May 25 or 26, Montana DEC Exporter of the Year award ceremony at SRS Crisafulli, Glendive

Angie will communicate to SRS Crisafulli on behalf of the DEC for the award ceremonies and press release.

In the Summer meeting, DEC members will discuss possible changes to the award:

- Add a "Best New Exporter" category
- Change the guidelines to 5 years between awards
- Review all criteria and add specificity

Treasurer's Report

Brigitta reported a balance of \$579.31. To **send donations to the DEC**, mail a check to the treasurer:

Brigitta Miranda-Freer, DEC Treasurer
c/o MT WTC, GBB, Ste 257
University of Montana – Missoula, MT 59812

DEC LinkedIn page

Angie reported that on the [Montana DEC LinkedIn page](#) there were 22 posts on the page in the last 12 months, with 68 page views.

National DEC

As a \$1,500 in-kind donation to the DEC, Angie will attend the [2023 NADEC Conference](#) in May in Washington DC, on the DEC's behalf.

Export Service Provider updates

Export Service Providers provided updates:

- MWTC
- Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- ExportMontana
- US Commercial Service

Webinars & Trainings

The DEC will support export webinars and trainings.

- **Pending in 2023:**
 - MWTC's [World Trade and Investment Day](#), May 17-18, Missoula
 - Rural Export Center's [International Market Research Workshop](#), May 24, Montana State University Billings
 - MWTC's Cybersecurity webinar, TBD
 - MWTC's Regulated Exports webinar, TBD

- **Completed in 2023:**
 - ExportMT's Export 101 webinar, February