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MCA to fund economic impact study of Otter Creek project

During its May 5 meeting in Missoula, the MCA Board of Directors voted to use some the Association's reserve funds to pay for a comprehensive economic impact study of the proposed Otter Creek coal project in southeast Montana.

The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), known for its annual economic outlook seminars and publications, will begin the study within the next few weeks and has estimated a 4-6 month completion time. The BBER is seeking

additional sponsors for other phases of the project such as professional publishing the finished report and a public opinion poll to determine the level of support for the coal development.

The base study to be funded by the MCA will estimate the number of construction jobs to be created during actual development of the project, and the economic "ripple effect" to industries and businesses around the state. It will also analyze the impacts to local and state tax collections in addition to the royalties paid to the school trust since much of the coal is located on state school trust land.

"We know the potential impact of this project for construction is hundreds of millions of dollars," according to MCA executive director Cary Hegreberg. "This economic impact study should help convince the public and decision makers just how important it is that permits be issued to get those Otter Creek tracts developed as quickly as possible.



Your Board hard at work...from left, Russ Olsen, R&R Taylor, Deb Poteet, Poteet Construction; Dwayne Rehbein, Riverside Contracting; Jeff Hollenback, Mountain West Holding.

Hegreberg praised the Board for taking a leadership role by anticipating the political obstacles to getting the project underway. "Everyone knows

environmental activists will pull out the stops to stymie this project. By getting out there early with solid economic data, Montanans will understand the opportunity cost of not moving forward."

The board also discussed the Montana Wildlife Federation's unfortunate role with the National Wildlife Federation.

On May 13, the MCA, along with the Motor Carriers of Montana, sent a letter to the Montana Wildlife Federation calling on that group to come clean with affiliated local sportsmen's organizations

Con't on page 5.

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Guest editorial
Marv Jordan, MCCF

Cutting WorkSafeMT bad for Montana's workers, businesses

This editorial by MCCF/WorkSafeMT Director Marv Jordan first appeared in the Great Falls Tribune.

I was very saddened by the Governor's veto of HB 186 "Continue allocation to WorkSafe Montana thru assessment on work comp insurer" earlier this week which would have provided public funding for WorkSafeMT (WSMT) a grass roots public and private partnership whose goal is to educate Montanans about workplace safety. The troubling part of the veto is the funding would have come from an assessment that many of those paying the assessment felt was justified. Montana is the leader in workplace fatalities and some of the highest work comp rates in the country so you would think promotion of safety would be a priority. Ironically the day of the veto a 24 year old man was killed on the job in Helena. I'm not saying WorkSafeMT could have

saved him but it was created to try and prevent these needless deaths.

As a founding member of WorkSafeMT Board I will tell you it is going to be an up-hill battle to fund our new non-profit WorkSafeMT program having to pick up the slack that would have been the "public" part of our partnership that was vetoed. The WSMT Board this week "circled its wagons" and made a decision to keep going with a commitment from board members. We have seen the success "social marketing" with the "Montana Meth" campaign and would hate to see the work of hundreds of people over the past four years to just end.

There will be a more visible presence in the near future by board members as we get out front and inform the people of our great state that we can make a difference. I would like to encourage all

that read this to make a tax deductible contribution to WorkSafe MT so we can continue to make the great commercials you have seen over the past two years along with our FREE SafetyFest. This has been a major success that has been made available to all interested people in various cities with our latest edition in Billings which was held May 16-20. It had a special focus on the hospitality industry along with standard safety information.

All the work in trying to lower work comp rates does not mean anything unless we teach our people how to be safe and never enter the work comp system. I would like to see our distinguished Governor Brian Schweitzer make a large personal donation encouraging all to help us continue with this program. This is not a political issue but a people issue and it's the right thing to do.

Proposed order blurs line between politics and procurement

A draft executive order that would force government contractors to disclose all political contributions would make it too easy for political appointees to punish contractors for their political views or to coerce contributions from firms, officials with the Associated General Contractors of America warned in testimony submitted to Congress.

"The process outlined in the draft executive order would make it much easier for government officials to use the political activities of government contractors as a factor when awarding contracts," Stephen E. Sandherr, the

association's chief executive officer noted in testimony submitted today to a hearing held jointly between the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Small Business. "This order actually introduces, instead of excludes, politics from government contracting."

Sandherr, who raised similar concerns in a letter he sent directly to President Obama, said that the proposed executive order, titled "Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors," is unnecessary. He noted that there is no evidence to

indicate that political contributions are influencing the award of federal contracts. And he added that the contractors are already required to disclose the vast majority of political spending.

While the ostensible purpose of the executive order is to ensure contracting decisions are based on merit and best value, Sandherr cautioned that it would actually "create the mechanism for enforcing a political litmus test on government contractors rather than prohibiting the consideration of political contributions."

DEQ permitting workshop out of this world

by Keith Ouzts, MCA

Let's set the scene. You're a contractor working for the evil Emperor on the new Death Star. You have all kinds of problems – working in outer space, rebel spies stealing equipment, getting parts and supplies to the job site (in outer space), and ensuring you have the right environmental permits on hand for inspections.

That's right – permits.

Empires don't just run themselves, you know. Up-to-date permits and compliance will make the difference between and audit by Darth Vader – or one by Luke Skywalker. As you have heard Darth Vader say time and time again, "Don't fail me this time, contractor!"

Well, if you had attended the DEQ Permitting Workshop in Missoula, Helena or Billings, the odds are you wouldn't disappoint the Emperor or his evil apprentice, and also that you would avoid being choked out by the dark side of the Force. Here's what you missed:

Bob Gallagher, DEQ Air Quality Specialist based in Helena, discussed the different areas where a Montana Air Quality Permit would be required. Most instances of portable facilities include gravel crushers, asphalt and concrete batch plants. A primary concern for air quality stems from the use of diesel generators at those plants, in addition to dust. Approximately 350 portable facilities have permits, and they can, as their name suggests, be moved around the state.

Gallagher noted that most inspections for air quality are unannounced, but one of the primary reasons for an inspection is to review the permit and ensure that it is being adhered to by the contractor.

Common permit violations for air quality include: Current permit not on site, Intent to transfer information is not current,

Record keeping is not current, Fugitive emissions – near or above permitted levels, Non-permitted equipment (i.e. generators are larger than permit allows), PM10 nonattainment areas – Kalispell, C-Falls, Whitefish, T-Falls, Butte, Libby and Missoula, need a permit addendum to work in PM10 areas, and there are also additional reporting requirements.



Jerry Bowser, the Environmental Manager at Oldcastle Materials attended the Helena class. "I thought it was a good workshop," He said. "We are responsible for many different types of permits, and it was good to match up the DEQ people who are reviewing our permits. It was a little disappointing to not have more representation from contractors and construction industry folks. I highly recommend attending this next year."

On the water quality side, Chris Romankiewicz discussed upcoming changes to the Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activity permit, which will take effect on January 1, 2012. Changes contractors should be aware of are: a requirement for a SWPPP Administrator – who must be on the construction sites - who has authority to modify or change BMPs as necessary to keep water on site without having to go up the chain to make the changes. Rules governing installation and maintenance of BMPs are going to be stricter, and storm water inspectors are now focused on going to construction projects during rain or precipitation events. There won't be any argument about whether or not your BMPs are valid or not, it will be easy to watch the soil track and see if it stays on your site or not.

John Podolinsky, the DEQ Small Business Ombudsman noted that he is there to help. The Ombudsman position



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is actually in a separate location from the rest of the DEQ auditors, to help reinforce the notion that he is there to assist small business, not force them to comply. His position is funded by the EPA, and he will gladly provide assistance to contractors who don't know what they are required to do, or who want to double-check that they have done it correctly. Call John at 800-433-8773 or via e-mail jpodolinsky@mt.gov.

Montana Wildlife Federation, cont. from page 1

about their affiliation with the national group suing the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) over the movement of oversized loads headed to the oil sands of Alberta.

"The National Wildlife Federation claimed to represent the Montana Wildlife Federation and its local affiliates when it



Greg Hebner on the left, and Doug Jackson, both with Jackson Contractor Group, Inc. of Missoula, attended the breakfast to hear University of Montana lobbyist Bill Johnston give an assessment of the unsuccessful effort to pass a bonding bill for construction in the recent legislative session.

submitted official comments to MDT on the Kearl Module Transport EA last year," according to Cary Hegreberg, executive director of the Contractors group. "Now its state affiliate, the Montana Wildlife Federation, denies any involvement or accountability for the lawsuit, and members of local sportsmen's groups seem completely unaware they're being used as political pawns by this powerful national environmental group," Hegreberg said.

Barry "Spook" Stang, executive vice president of the Motor Carriers of Montana, noted the MWF recently issued a news release to statewide media attempting to absolve themselves of any complicity with the actions of their national affiliate, "when the evidence clearly shows these organizations have a close working relationship."

Stang and Hegreberg challenged the MWF to come clean with its affiliated local sportsmen's groups and with the Montana public. "Is the Montana Wildlife Federation among the National Wildlife Federation's dedicated network of affiliates, or isn't it?" Hegreberg asked. "Either they support the actions of their national partner or they don't. We think the construction workers, truck drivers, refinery employees and other working Montanans who belong to one of their affiliated gun clubs have a right to know who they are affiliating with."



Andrew Knapp, government affairs rep for Exxon Mobil, spoke at the May 5 "Breakfast with the Board" meeting in Missoula to provide a status update on the oversized loads waiting for permits to head for the Kearl oil sands project in Alberta.



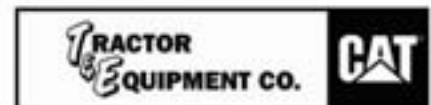
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Thoughts for the spring season

It is mid-May as I write this column, the sun is shining and it appears that winter is a memory. While much of the state has dried out allowing construction activities to resume, severe flooding has hit the



Bill Lloyd
Associates Division President

Hi Line area along the Milk River. Our thoughts are with those in northeast Montana who are now dealing with extensive flooding

following a record snowfall this past winter.

Montana's spring weather has impacted numerous construction projects across the state and I offer a quick reminder to ensure that storm water control measures are properly installed and maintained on the jobsites.

After much political posturing the Governor signed the primary budget bill, House Bill 2, into law on May 12. Other bills of note signed by the Governor include Senate Bill 233, revising certain aspects of the Montana Environmental Policy Act, and House Bill 198 which clarifies eminent domain authority for public utility projects. The Governor has issued a record number of vetoes this

session including several bills important to the construction industry including House Bill 366 which restricted interim zoning. House Bill 351, authorizing Treasure State Endowment Funding for infrastructure projects, was signed by the Governor as amended by line item veto powers. I think we can all agree that 2011 was a tenuous legislative session whose successes and failures will fuel many a debate.

Registration forms for the 2011 Memorial Summer Outing are included with this newsletter and are available online at the MCA website. The Summer Outing will be held at Meadowlark Country Club in Great Falls on August 10 – 12. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn, Staybridge Inn & Suites, and the La Quinta for attendees.

The 2011 Contractors PAC raffle has kicked off so keep an eye out for Associates Division members. Prizes consist of Visa check cards for \$3,000, \$1,500, and \$500. Winners will be drawn following the calcutta auction on Thursday of Summer Outing.

MSU Northern receives YouthBuild Grant

MSU-Northern is one of 74 schools to receive an education and job training grant to boost the YouthBuild program. This program provides job training and educational opportunities for out-of-school youth while they work on construction projects in rural and Native American Communities.

"This funding is great news for Montana," said MFBF Senator Max Baucus. "The YouthBuild program teaches teens valuable job skills and makes a real difference for students in need. Smart investments like this lay the groundwork for Montana's economic future by putting young people to work in the construction industry.."

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Meet new member Big Sky Reclamation

Blue Sky Reclamation
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Blue Sky Reclamation (BSR) is a registered Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) specializing in delivering high quality, creative, and environmentally sound land reclamation at a competitive price. For over a decade the staff at BSR has worked cooperatively with private land owners and consultants, as well as state and federal agencies, to

reclaim land throughout the Western United States. Our track record shows consistent ability to understand and successfully complete difficult projects. It is our experience, persistence, and unmatched attention to detail that assures outstanding results in reclamation work to meet and exceed industry standards.

Their services include: consulting and project planning, site preparation, revegetation, wetland construction, stream bank stabilization, sediment and erosion control, general landscaping and follow up maintenance and monitoring.

Jennifer Stark, president of BSR,

has over a decade of professional experience in the landscape industry, as well as a MS in Land Rehabilitation from Montana State University and a BS in Horticulture from Cornell University.

"Equipment is one of the aspects of our business that makes us unique and efficient. In particular we have one of the few Express Blower trucks in the state," Stark says. "This exceptional blowing system allows us to spread large quantities of organic material in a small amount of time, such as mulch, playground chips, and compost or soil mixes for landscaping, lawn restoration, erosion control and much more."

Their most recent project was a 12.5 acre steep road cut in Big Sky. They applied compost and topsoil up to 225 feet from access points, covered the slope with erosion control blankets, installed native tree and shrub seedlings, and reclaimed native grass species via hydroseed.

Stark says weather is always challenging, and planting at optimum times for both adequate temperature and soil moisture. Temporary supplemental irrigation can sometimes help with this, depending on the site. "Industry competition is also a huge challenge in the field right now," she says.

Stark feels lucky to call Montana home. "The expansive natural beauty has never ceases to amaze me," she says. "There is a lot of open space and land to reclaim, and the importance of blending disturbed areas back into natural surroundings is obvious. The professionals in the reclamation industry in Montana are hard working, honest, and supportive.

Stark said BSR joined the MCA because it is a great resource for networking and education.

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and sellers get what they need. Sellers achieve faster and more profitable sales through frequent auctions, fair market value for equipment, low selling costs, and global audience of buyers. IronPlanet has a flexible business model offering a number of auction solutions to help sellers better manage their inventory and liquidate equipment for cash. Buyers find a broad range of equipment from around the world to bid on, which they can trust has been thoroughly inspected by IronPlanet.

Their auction approach is a unique blend of high-tech and high-touch. IronPlanet is the only auction company to offer the reach, visibility, and immediacy of an online marketplace, combined with

hands-on customer service that enables buyers and sellers to get the most out of every auction. From the moment a piece of equipment is listed to when payment is received, IronPlanet handles all the legwork.

"Contractors are facing some new challenges today that didn't exist yesterday, due in part to the economy," Dastic explains. "Since we are an online auction company, we have the resources to help with equipment needs that extend beyond what local traditional auctions can do. Since new equipment production has slowed and budgets are tighter, finding the needed equipment locally can be challenging. With our global network of sellers, we can help our customers find the equipment they need even if it's in another state or another country without having to travel to find it. Because we inspect the equipment and post the findings, our customers know exactly what they are buying when the equipment arrives on their lot."

Dastic explains that Montana is a state of great opportunity for both buyers and sellers. "Our local representative works closely with buyers and sellers in Montana to better understand their equipment needs. With sales representatives and customer call centers located around the world, IronPlanet helps buyers and sellers through the entire auction process," he explains.

Dastic notes that, "MCA is a great organization and gives us the opportunity to support Montana contractors and help them with their equipment needs. By being associated with MCA, we are looking forward to creating lasting business relationships and sharing the services that IronPlanet can offer."

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Bid letting chart

Below is the latest bid letting chart for the Montana Department of Transportation.



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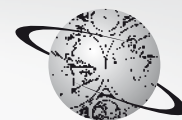


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VOLVO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



How to Become a Smart Health Care Consumer

by MCA Trusts staff

This article is the second of a two-part series on how to be a smarter consumer of health care services. The mantra of this series is “be active, responsible, accountable, and vocal when it comes to your family’s health care.”

Last month’s article contained tips on how to be more engaged in your health care decision-making process, simple things to focus on that can lower your costs, and fundamental elements of your health care plan that you should understand.

This month, we focus on how to be more vocal when dealing with medical providers. We also revisit basic tips to help you stay healthy. Finally, we cover the wellness components of the MCA Health Care Plan that are designed to encourage our participants to seek the regular, routine medical services that in some circumstances may prevent big-ticket medical problems down the road. Whether you participate in the MCA Health Care Plan or another health care plan, there are several things you can do to become a smarter health care consumer. If you implement the basic principles of these articles you will find that becoming a smart health care

consumer is easier than you think.

If your provider recommends treatment or surgery, ask the following questions:

- What is the name of the procedure and what will be done?
- What is the reason for this procedure?
- Why is it necessary?
- What benefit can I expect?
- What are the possible complications or side effects?
- Are there other choices?
- Where should I have the procedure done?
- Is the doctor’s recommended location a Center of Excellence for the procedure?
- How much will it cost? Will my health plan cover the cost?

Take care of yourself. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

- Schedule regular office visits for check-ups.
- Don’t ignore symptoms that do not resolve on their own (e.g., persistent headaches or other pain, frequent digestive trouble or diarrhea, dizzy spells, shortness of breath, unusual skin changes).
- Follow your doctor’s advice.
- Prevent illness with lifestyle choices that promote good health:
- Don’t smoke.

- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Exercise.
- Understand nutrition, maintain a balanced diet.
- Manage your stress.
- Wear sunscreen when outdoors.

Use your MCAHCT wellness benefits! Smart health care consumers take care of themselves. Men don’t like to hear this stuff, but it is true. Protecting your health improves your odds of sticking around and can protect your wallet in the long run.

Use your wellness benefit; have a physical, get your blood and prostate checked.

Use your no-deductible dental preventative care benefit (studies suggest that poor dental hygiene increases the risk of plaque in your arteries as well as your mouth). Even if you don’t wear glasses, use the \$150 first-dollar vision benefit for a vision exam (exams generally include screening for several potentially serious eye conditions).

These maintenance procedures get you in front of a health care professional on a regular basis, provide access to sound medical advice on any health conditions you may have, and if problems arise, they increase the likelihood of early diagnosis, which generally improves patient outcomes (e.g. prostate cancer).

Need help getting this message across to your employees? When it comes to controlling health care costs, employers have as much to gain as their employees (lower premiums and a healthier workforce). Call us at (406) 461-7625 to discuss how the MCA Trusts can help you.

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MCA and AGC Calendars for June and beyond

MCA Calendar

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- ACI Concrete Strength Testing Tech. Use LSG promo code LSG26 for 10% discount!
- Introduction to Construction Estimating, ENGR 034
- Essential Construction Math, X-35

June 2011

June 9
DEQ Opencut Permit Training Session, 8:00-12:00 pm: Helena

June 9
Bid Letting

June 15
Member Breakfast with the Officers, Hilands Golf Club, Billings, 7 a.m.

Highway Technical Meeting, MCA 9 a.m.; MDT 10 a.m.

June 16
Fundamentals of Construction Contracts: Billings (CEUs Available)

Jun 21-22
Advanced Storm Water/Erosion Control Class: Kalispell

June 23
Bid Letting

AGC

For more information/registration on events and webinars visit www.agc.org/events.

JUNE 2011

June 8-9

Sixth Annual Airport Project Delivery Systems Summit, San Jose, CA

June 16-17

2011 Summer AGC Tax and Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting, Charleston, SC

June 21

Webinar: Lean Principles: They're not just for contractors anymore.

Breakfast with the MCA Officers

The May 5 Breakfast with the MCA Board was such a success, we're doing it again, this time at 7 a.m., June 15 at the Hilands Golf Club in Billings.



The 7 a.m. breakfast will not only give you energy to get through the day, but will provide your mind with food for thought. Dan Carter, MSU Billings, will discuss the recent bonding bill that failed to pass the Legislature.

MCA members and potential members are welcome to attend. This is a great way to introduce other construction professionals to MCA. Questions? Call Maryann Seilstad, 406-442-4162. See you there.



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Time for the Summer Outing 2011 Aug. 10-12, 2011 · Great Falls

Start practicing your golf and shotgun swing for the MCA Summer Outing 2011 Aug. 10-12 at the Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls. The event begins Wednesday morning with a Board of Directors Meeting and a Concrete Division meeting followed by an opening reception and BBQ.

Following Thursday morning's committee meetings, golfers will head to their carts and shooters will head to the "Lock and Load" competition at the Great Falls Shooting and Sports Complex. Thursday evening the dinner and calcutta.

Friday morning the competition resumes for both golfers and shooters, with BBQ and Awards at 1:30 p.m. concluding the event.

Register online at www.mtagc.org and click on the golf ball. Lodging choices include the Staybridge Suites, Hilton Garden Inn and LaQuinta Inn and Suites. Visit www.mtagc.org for a complete agenda and hotel information. Questions? Contact Maryann Seilstad, MCA, 406-442-4162 or maryann@mtagc.org. See you there!

