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## Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

August 26, 2011



## Calling All Highway Division Members!

The MCA is hosting a meeting Aug. 30-Sept. 1 at Big Sky involving highway contractor leaders from Utah and Wyoming AGC chapters. Topics will focus on federal and state funding prospects, stormwater permits and erosion control bidding, alternative delivery systems for highway projects and other roundtable discussion items. This is the first time MCA has hosted the program and we are anxious to put on a good show for our colleagues to the south.

Contact [Edie](#) at the MCA to register.



## MCA Welcomes New MDT Director Tim Reardon

Governor Schweitzer appointed Tim Reardon, long-time MDT general counsel, as the Director of MDT after the resignation of Jim Lynch. Reardon is the standing

### Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

### Calendar

[Aug 26](#)  
Bid-Letting  
MDT-Helena  
9:00 am

[Sep 8](#)  
Bid-letting  
Helena, MDT  
9:00 am

[Sep 15](#)  
Sustainable Building Workshop  
Missoula  
[Information](#)

[Sep 21](#)  
Highway Technical Committee  
9:00 MCA Office  
10:00 MDT

[Sep 22](#)  
Bid-letting

Director, and is not considered an "acting" or interim director. He has demonstrated a straightforward, open approach to dealing with the MCA and our members in the past, and he has already agreed to attend the Tri State AGC meeting next week in Big Sky. We welcome him to this important position which is pivotal to the interests of MCA highway division members.



## MDT Q&A Deadline Changes

After discussions with the MCA Highway Technical Committee, MDT has decided to close its Q&A submittals on Mondays at 10 a.m. prior to a bid letting. They were apparently being inundated with last-minute questions that were overwhelming their ability to respond in time, precipitating the change.



## MDT Seeking Input on Bid-Letting Frequency

MDT is revisiting its current structure of offering bid lettings twice each month and is again seeking input from MCA. Please take a moment to respond to the following [survey](#), which we will provide to MDT.

You can also send your comments to Cary via [e-mail](#) or phone 406-442-4162.



## MCA Hosts Press Conference Supporting Keystone Pipeline

The MCA hosted a press conference last week sponsored by the Partnership to Fuel America, an offshoot of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The event kicked off an advocacy campaign to support construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline that is proposed to cross through eastern Montana as it delivers crude oil from the Canadian oil sands to U.S. refineries. The MCA Board of Directors voted at its August meeting to support the coalition, which involves various businesses and trade organizations throughout Montana. Several representatives of organized labor,

Helena, MDT  
9:00 am

[Sep 27-28](#)  
SWPPP Administrator Certification  
Billings  
Registration

### Quote of the Week

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, then next best thing you can do is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

- Theodore Roosevelt

### Header Info

The MCA Concrete Division sponsored a pour of Pervious concrete at Fort Harrison on July 26. Architects, engineers, contractors, government official and the media was invited to attend.

MCA members Helena Sand & Gravel and ArCo Builders were responsible for the concrete mix and finishing. We'll highlight this project in the next several e-briefs.

including IBEW and the AFL-CIO were also at the press conference. Follow the links to see coverage from the [Billings Gazette](#), [The Missoulian](#), and [Beartooth NBC](#) of the event.



## Board Votes to Oppose Eminent Domain Ballot Initiative

The MCA board voted last month to join Montanans for Common Sense Property Rights Laws, a group formed to oppose a ballot initiative that would repeal a law passed by the 2011 Legislature clarifying the right of private utilities to acquire private land for construction of power lines. It is unclear at this time if proponents of the initiative will secure enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot, but a major effort is forming to fight the initiative in the event it is approved for the November, 2012 election. Watch for more details as they evolve.



## DBE Newsletter

MDT offers support and help to minority, disabled veteran owned, and other Disadvantaged Business enterprises. Even if you are not a DBE company, there is great information contained in their [newsletter](#).



## A Disappointing But Not Unexpected Finding

A recent poll showed that 45% of Americans think the government should reduce spending on highways and infrastructure until the budget is balanced. The MCA agrees that a balanced budget is important - but employment of individuals working government projects offers more for the deficit in the long term.

[Click here](#) to read the article and see the poll questions/results.



## Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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