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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

July 29, 2011



Don't Miss the Great Program in Great Falls!

For the MCA Summer Outing in Great Falls, the Thursday morning member breakfast, from 7:00 am-8:30 will feature three speakers who will provide insight into the construction outlook for Malmstrom Air Force Base. The speakers are Mr. Bill McLaughlin with the Civil Engineers, Mr. Chuck Weibel with the Contracting Squadron and Mr. Alan Korslein with the Corps of Engineers. You don't have to attend the Summer Outing to participate in this breakfast!

Come for the meeting and stay for the golf, shooting, fellowship and camaraderie. There is only one week left to [register!](#)

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



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[MCA Newsletter](#)

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PAC Raffle Tickets Available

The MCA's PAC was instrumental in helping to elect pro-business legislators who did pass many laws that positively affected the construction industry.

Now you have the chance to support the PAC again by purchasing raffle tickets. The drawing will be held at the Summer Outing - now is the time to buy those tickets!

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. More details will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Interim Legislative Committee to Review "One-Call" Law

The MCA has been asked to (again) participate in an effort to review and recommend changes to Montana's "One-Call" or "Dig Law." This time, it is at the official request of an interim legislative committee that has decided to study the matter and accept public input. [Click here](#) to see the correspondence, and [here](#) to see a copy of the bill introduced in the last legislative session that will serve as a starting point for discussions. MCA members are encouraged to provide input to Cary Hegreberg, who will be involved in the process.

Senator Tester Argues for Montana Businesses

(U.S. SENATE) - During a Senate hearing examining how regulatory loopholes favor large businesses, Tester said that 98 percent of businesses in Montana are considered small businesses.

"Right now, many of these businesses are struggling and looking for answers," Tester said. "They're not looking for a bailout or a handout - just a level playing field so that they can compete."

"It seems to me large national firms have an advantage over large local firms on federal projects," Tester told Mindy Connolly, the Chief Acquisition Officer of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). "Do you see it that way?"

Connolly responded by admitting that "best value contracts" may be overused. Best value contract guidelines allow the federal government to award a contract to one contractor even if its bid price is significantly more than its competitor's bid price.

Contact any MCA Associate member, or [Maryann](#) at the MCA for your tickets - today!

Wyoming Wind Farm Gets the Nod

A proposed \$4-6 billion dollar wind farm in that will be spread across a 500 square mile area in Wyoming has received a draft EIS from the BLM.

Power Co. of Wyoming hopes to begin construction in 2012-13. [Click here](#) for more.

Airport Construction Projects Halted

Dozens of airport construction projects across the country are on hold, and thousands of employees not working because Congress failed to pass legislation to keep the FAA operating, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Monday.

The [Daily Interlake](#) reports that locally, a \$6.8 million paving project at the Glacier International Airport in Kalispell has been scrapped as part of the failed legislation.

The FAA's operating authority expired at midnight Friday, forcing a partial agency shutdown. Dozens of stop-work orders were issued over the weekend for projects to build and modernize airport control towers, as well as other improvement projects.

For more on the article from Bloomberg BusinessWeek, [click here](#).

FASB Issues New Rules for Pension Liability Disclosure

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)

The 'best value' designation was the GSA's justification for awarding the contract to build Billings' new federal courthouse to a Minnesota construction company over a Montana contractor. Tester has repeatedly pushed the GSA to award a majority of the courthouse subcontracts to local firms.

Baucus Responds to MCA on 3% Withholding Law

Senator Max Baucus responded to the MCA's request that he initiate a repeal of the 3% withholding law on contract payments. Unfortunately, it appears to be a computer-generated response that doesn't really say anything.

"I recognize your concerns over tax withholding requirements for payments made to government contractors. As you may know, Section 3402(t) of the Internal Revenue Code is not scheduled to go into effect until January 1, 2013 for new contracts and January 1, 2014 for existing contracts.

Your opinion is important to me. I'm listening to what you're saying, and you can rest assured I will keep your thoughts firmly in mind."

Thanks, Max

The MCA encourages members to contact Senator Baucus and let him know this withholding tax is onerous and anti-business.

Senator Max Baucus 202-224-2651

Our Mission

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



today approved a revised accounting standard intended to provide more information about an employer's financial obligations to multiemployer pension plans.

Multiemployer pension plans commonly are used by an employer to provide benefits to union employees who may work for many employers during their working life, thereby enabling them to accrue benefits in a single pension plan for their retirement.

[Click here](#) to read the new disclosure requirements.

Calendar

Aug 10-12
MCA Summer Outing!!
Great Falls

Aug 11
Bid-Letting
MDT-Helena
9:00 am

Aug 17
Highway Technical Meeting
9:00 am MCA
10:00 am MDT

Quote of the Week

"Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out."
- Robert Collier

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.

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