

## **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### **3:00 - 3:30pm      Welcome to the MCOOC Annual Meeting**

Release of the MCOOC new website – A review of the Members' Forum

### **3:30 – 5:00pm      Looking Forward: Coops and the Local Economy Workshop**

*Presented by Deb Brown*

Thanks to the sponsorship from Beartooth RC&D, we are proud to bring Deb Brown with Save Your Town to our Montana Cooperative Community.

What will the future look like in small towns and rural areas? Join us as Deb Brown shares how to create a future that works for your coop and small town. Deb will cover growing local entrepreneurs, new ways of doing business, and being remote worker ready. Now is the time to rebuild for a stronger future. Hear the success stories of other towns, suggestions for what you can do and small steps everyone can participate in. This is an interactive workshop, you will leave with an Idea Friendly project to implement in your region.

Save Your Town has a simple recipe for success: Involve locals, break the rules, talk about ideas, and no matter what, do not form another committee! Deb and her business partner are working with rural communities across the US to revitalize communities based on what is already there. We invite the Cooperative Community, community and business leaders, and economic developers to join us.

### **About Deb Brown**

Deb grew up on a farm outside of Geneva, Iowa, population 141. Her first entrepreneurial venture was raising a hog. You'd find her either with her nose in a history book or out exploring abandoned houses and buildings. Funny, things haven't changed much. She's still working on filling empty buildings in small towns. A wealth of experience includes leading a small town chamber of commerce, foreign casualty insurance underwriting, bartending, retail management, selling knives, and working with small towns. Deb has lived in tiny towns, small towns, small cities, and a major metro city. Yet, she's come home to a small town, Webster City, Iowa, and travels to many others to help. Deb is a relentless optimist and knows how to build a possibility in your small town. Better yet, she inspires you to take small steps towards a brighter future for your community.

## **Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### **7:00 - 8:00 am      Impact Breakfast – Review of the Montana Cooperative Economic Impact Report 2020 with Patrick Barkley of the Montana Bureau of Business and Research**

Join Montana's legislators for virtual coffee and discussion of the 2020 Impact Report. Understanding our Montana Cooperative Community and the economic impact to the State is

imperative as cooperatives continue to navigate every changing dynamics. As the State of Montana is spinning into recovery, our Cooperatives have been a shining beacon of resiliency. This session will review cooperative's impact on Montana's economy and lay the groundwork for the Legislators to work with our Cooperative Community during this Legislative Session and beyond.

**10:00 - 10:15 am Welcome and Videos from the Montana Congressional Delegation**

Featuring: Senator John Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Congressman Matt Rosendale (invited)

**10:15-11:30am Cooperatives in the Nation: A national perspective for 2021**

Cooperatives across the US take on many different roles and are in all different kinds of industries. The most diverse business model seems to be cooperatives. MCOC has invited professionals representing some of our cooperatives sectors to share and discuss key issues facing Cooperatives as a whole in the US. This panel will discuss what sectors are facing and how cooperatives can support one another outside of their industry.

Facilitated by: Tracy McIntyre, MCOC Administrator

- Kate Latour or Doug O'Brien – National Cooperative Business Alliance
- Chuck Conner- National Council of Farmers Cooperatives
- Louis Finkel – National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association
- Tammie Logan, - NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association
- Ryan Donovan- Credit Unions National Association

**1:00- 3:00pm The State of Montana- Discussion with Cooperative Leaders –**

Montana's Cooperative Community is vast and has many different components to it. Join MCOC as we explore the different sectors of Cooperatives in Montana. This discussion will include an overview of projects/activities of the different sectors and legislative concerns while building relationships between Montana's different sectors of cooperatives.

Facilitated by: Tracy McIntyre, MCOC Administrator

- Tracie Kenyon – Montana's Credit Unions
- Gary Wiens – Montana Electrical Cooperatives Association
- Geoff Feiss – Montana Telecommunication Association
- Walter Schweitzer- Montana Farmers Union (invited)

**Postponed-** MCOC Annual Membership Meeting of the Members will be rescheduled in February of 2021.

**Postponed-** 2021 Cooperatives' Legislative Leadership Dinner will be rescheduled for February of 2021

## **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- 9:00 am**      **Introducing the Holistic Grazing Cooperative- A model for Montana Ranchers – Chris Mehus, Western Sustainability Exchange**
- 9:30 am**      **Welcome our Butte Food Co-op- the newest Cooperative in Montana**
- 10:00 -11:00 am**      **Cooperatives and Workforce Development: Dept. of Labor and Industry Deputy Director Kathleen O'Leary**
- Join MCDC Program Director Davey Madison as she visits Montana Dept. of Labor and Industry Deputy Director Kathleen O'Leary. The DLI has several initiatives and partnerships forming all across the State to address continual workforce issues, including the apprenticeship program that could be highly valuable for our Cooperative community. It is an opportunity to learn more about what all the Dept. of Labor and Industry can do for our Montana Cooperatives.
- 11:00 am**      **Closing and Thank you**
- Postponed-**      **MCOC 2021- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Board Meeting- will be scheduled in February 2021**

## **Thank you to our Sponsors (as of 1/6/2021)**

**Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative  
Montana's Credit Unions  
Flathead Electric Cooperative  
CHS, Inc.  
Farmers Union Lumber Company  
High Peaks Federal Credit Union  
Montana Electric Cooperative's Association  
NorVal Electric cooperative  
Vigilante Electric Cooperative  
Sheridan Electric Cooperative  
Northwest Farm Credit Services**