

42nd Annual Montana Municipal Institute

Elected Officials Workshop

May 3-5, 2022

Tuesday, May 3rd

10:00 AM -
5:00 PM

Registration

1:00 -
2:50 PM

Effective Public Communication

Mark Willmarth, Vision West

Hyalite & Clark

This joint session with clerks and treasurers will review techniques and best practices for effectively communicating with the public and building sustainable public trust.

2:50 -
3:05 PM

Afternoon Break

Build Your Own Parfait

3:05 -
5:00 PM

Future's Game

Dan Clark and Ashley Kent, MSU Local Government Center

Hyalite & Clark

An interactive game that explores how regional and local decisions can shape long-term economic, environmental, and community well being.

5:30 -
6:00 PM

Elected Officials Reception:

Last Best Place Brewing Company

605 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT (1/2 mile from Grantree Best Western)

Enjoy a no-host bar while hearing from experts in mixed-use and infill development. Brewery owner Collin Rue-Kirk will talk about the rewards and challenges of creating a mixed-use (residential/commercial) infill development and Brit Fontenot will speak about the benefits and challenges of creating the Midtown Urban Renewal District and a Tax Increment Finance District.

After the reception, participants are encouraged to enjoy dinner at one of the many great restaurants on or near Main Street in Bozeman.

Wednesday, May 4th

7:00 -
8:00 AM

Breakfast- Old Faithful

Atrium

8:00 -
9:50 AM

Excellence and Vitality in Rural Communities

Megan Laudenschlager, Executive Director, Strengthen North Dakota

Tamarack

This keynote presentation will explore the values, assets, and unique qualities that make rural communities such great places to live and work. Megan will share strategies to promote rural community vitality and a discussion about the role of municipal government.

9:50 -
10:05 AM

Morning Break
Coffee and Hot Tea

10:05 -
11:50 AM

Senate Bill 302 (L2019), Audit Findings and Corrective Action Plans
Darla Erickson, Local Government Services Bureau

Tamarack

Recent legislation has changed the way the State of Montana Department of Administration and Local Governments address repeat audit findings and late financial reporting. This session will highlight the new legislation and the changes it has implemented in how LGSB addresses significant findings and corrective action plans.

12:00 -
1:00 PM

Lunch- Baked Potato Bar

Atrium

1:00 -
2:50 PM

Real Colors

MSU Local Government Center

Tamarack

An exciting, practical and enjoyable tool that brings temperament theory and personality into real life applications to enhance effective working relationships.

2:50 -
3:05 PM

Afternoon Break

Sweet & Salty

3:05 -
5:00 PM

Ethics and Ex-Parte Communication

Dan Clark, Director, MSU Local Government Center

Tamarack

A review of the Montana Code of Ethics and application of ethical principles to real world situations, along with a discussion about ex-parte communication: what it is and when public officials must ensure it does not happen.

MT League of Cities & Towns Update
Kelly A. Lynch, JD, AICP Executive Director, MLCT

Aspen

A review and discussion of recent and upcoming state and federal regulation changes and how they impact Montana municipal government.

Cyber Security

Britani Laughery, Operations Manager, MMIA

Aspen

An overview of principles and recommended best practices to safeguard municipal digital assets and data against cyber threats.

5:30 PM

Mayors Forum

Hyalite & Lewis & Clark

MMIA, MLCT, & MSU LGC invite all mayors to join them for an evening reception and networking event.



Thursday, May 5th

7:00 -
8:00 AM

Breakfast- Spanish Peaks
Atrium

8:00 -
8:55 AM

Coverage Changes Affecting Libraries and Library Boards
Alan Hulse, CEO, MMIA
Hyalite & Lewis & Clark
Learn about the various types of public library formations and how that formation impacts coverage in liability, workers' compensation, and employee benefits programs.

9:00 -
9:50 AM

Municipal Finance Solutions
Alan Hulse, CEO, MMIA & Kelly A. Lynch, JD, AICP Executive Director, MLCT
Hyalite & Lewis & Clark
A discussion about efforts underway to support communities in maintaining continuity among financial tracking and reporting requirements.

9:50 -
10:05 AM

Morning Break
Coffee and Hot Tea

10:05 AM -
12:00 PM

Who Are The Newcomers?
Tara Mastel, MSU Extension Community Development
Tamarack & Aspen
People moving into Montana communities is nothing new, but the recent jump has drawn our attention to this decades long trend. A recent study by MSU researchers shows who is moving to Montana communities, where they are coming from and why they are moving here.

12:00 -
1:00 PM

Lunch- A Taste of Italy
Yellowstone
Awards Banquet