

### Jerry Meerkatz | President and CEO

Jerry assumed the role of Montana West's President and CEO in August of 2016, bringing an extensive range of expertise. During his 35 year career in business management, his experience ranged from leadership roles in tech industry giants including Hewlett Packard and Compaq, to ushering a start-up company to success. His experience in that enterprise company fueled Jerry's passion to help new and expanding local businesses thrive. With his roots in the Flathead Valley, Jerry is a natural fit to lead Montana West Economic Development.

### Stephanie Juneau | Loan Officer

Stephanie brings over twenty-five years of lending experience to MWED, having worked and originated commercial loans for various financial institutions during her career, and is a certified Cooperative Development Specialist for the northwest region of Montana. Stephanie most recently provided business consulting services through the Small Business Development Center, covering the Northwest region. She is responsible for Montana West's capital program and manages all aspects of the organization's lending services.

### Christy Cummings Dawson | Government Contracting Advisor

Christy has an MBA and a BA in Political Science. She brings several years of experience in both the public and private sector, and has worked on a number of projects that bridged the two. Her experience includes wildland firefighting, local economic development, and Planning/Community Development. She enjoys assisting local business owners in gaining government contracts throughout the U.S.

### Lara Russell | Accounting Manager

Accounting Manager Lara Russell maintains the highest standard of accuracy and accountability in overseeing MWED and FCEDA funds. With degrees in Economics and Business Administration, a background in the brokerage industry as a fully licensed Financial Professional, and accreditation as a Certified Public Financial Officer through the Government Finance Officers Association, Lara brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role at MWED.

### Heather Myers | Office Administrator and Loan Program Assistant

Heather joined MWED in February 2020.