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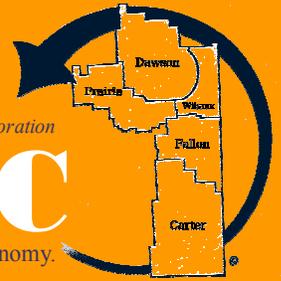
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March 28, 2012

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



CEDS meeting

The EPEDC is quickly nearing its deadline for a new and updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. As part of that process, the EPEDC will be hosting additional meetings in the coming spring months to help evaluate the organization's compiled research and gain input from community members regarding local needs. One of these meetings will be held April 25th in Glendive at the new Mid-Rivers Glendive Service Center in the Community Room from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Open community forums to discuss topics of interest and gather additional information have also been scheduled (see "Upcoming Events"). Please plan to attend.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

To be determined after
April 25th CEDS meeting
Glendive, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

The EPEDC recently helped the Town of Wibaux mail out a community survey to the town's residents regarding its current and future community planning efforts. Survey responses were requested by March 30th.

The Town of Terry's Growth Policy process is also progressing as EPEDC staff finished outlining a map that classifies all of the properties within the town's boundary. The EPEDC applied for and received \$3,000 in planning funds from the Montana Main Street Program that will be used to complete a portion of the growth policy.

In response to the immediate need for region-wide planning, the Department of Commerce—Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) hosted "Subdivision Training" in Glendive March 20th at Dawson Community College. Over 15 town and city officials, in addition to EPEDC staff, attended the informative day-long meeting (pictured above). This training was part of the first wave of assistance that the DOC will be providing to help the region cope with increased growth.

A listening and brainstorming session was held in Sidney March 8th with various representatives from Montana colleges and universities, who invited business, industry, and civic leaders to open up a dialogue regarding their needs and concerns in light of the rapid oil and gas development in eastern Montana.

The EPEDC helped Evelyn Cameron Heritage, Inc. submit a Brownfield grant, which was approved, to remove asbestos containing materials and an old boiler from the Evelyn Cameron Cultural Center basement.

Finally, after several years of hard work and valuable cooperation, the North Baker Water and Sewer District project is complete! A few loose ends remain to be tied, but all reports have been filed with the appropriate agencies, and the EPEDC would like to take the time to sincerely thank all those who assisted in making the project a success.

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Upcoming Events

Department of Commerce Programs

Glendive, Wibaux, and Baker, April 17

EPEDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting

Glendive, April 25

EPEDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) community forum meetings

Carter County (10 a.m.), April 23

Fallon County (1 p.m.), April 23

Dawson County (9:30 a.m.), April 25

Wibaux County (10 a.m.), April 30

Prairie County, (1:30 p.m.), April 30

2012 Eastern Montana Housing Conference

Baker, April 27 – 28

*registration is required and free

<http://montanaorganizingproject.org/2012/03/2012housingconference>

2012 Rural Community Conference

"The Future of Rural"

Bozeman, May 15 – 16

*registration is required

<http://www.ruralcommunityconference.org>

2012 Montana Housing Partnership Conference

"Housing Strategies in a Challenging Economy"

Billings, June 26 – 28

*registration required

<http://housing.mt.gov/2012housingconference.mcp>

For more information, please contact EPEDC Director Jason Rittal at 406-698-3255 or via email: jrittal@midrivers.com, or visit the event websites listed.

"Ingenuity, plus courage, plus work,
equals miracles."

-Bob Richards

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**The EPEDC serves the following participating counties and municipalities:
Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County, and Wibaux County,
as well as the City of Baker, the Town of Ekalaka, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna,
the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry, and the Town of Wibaux.**