

Volume

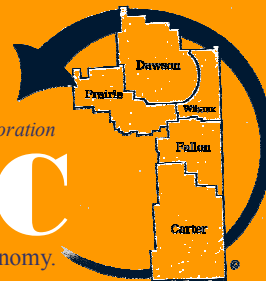
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January 23, 2013

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



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Rotunda Day

The theme for this year's MEDA Rotunda Day, held January 15th in Helena, was "IMPACT – Partnerships that Work." It showcased Montana's economic development programs and the agencies that use these programs. The day consisted of displays, a success story slideshow, and a luncheon for legislators as well as participants. EPEDC Director and MEDA Vice President Jason Rittal attended the event, armed with display materials highlighting various success stories from our region, including various planning efforts, business ventures, and infrastructure improvements. To view the full Rotunda Day slideshow, please visit:

<http://www.medamembers.org/SlideShowIMPACTPartnershipthatWorkSuccessStories.pdf>



Local Project Updates

A new year has begun! While some projects neared completion at the end of 2012, many others have appeared on the horizon.

Wibaux County successfully adopted their new growth policy. Cottonwood Inn and Suites, LLC celebrated its groundbreaking December 4th in Baker; the hotel will feature 26 new rooms. A complete Town of Terry Growth Policy was drafted in time for a public hearing held January 8th. A draft of the town-specific amendment to the Carter County Growth Policy is ready for board approval and adoption. In addition, Ekalaka started renovating its new library location (construction site pictured above) with \$44,000 in grant funds and a \$36,000 loan received from USDA/RD.

Also, the EPEDC 2012-2017 CEDS document was approved by EDA October 1st. However, an additional disaster section was required by December 31st. The "Disaster and Economic Recovery and Resiliency Strategy" was completed on time and submitted; it will serve as CEDS Appendix E. Physical copies of the section will be mailed out when it is officially approved, but an updated CEDS document has been posted to epedc.com.

In 2013, the EPEDC will be assisting Prairie Community Hospital submit applications, including one to USDA/RD, requesting funds for infrastructure improvements and an expansion project. EPEDC staff will continue to participate in "Essential Housing" meetings hosted by Dawson County EDC, in an effort to find solutions to local housing issues and develop regional models for growth. Moreover, Dawson County/Glendive is seeking planning grant funds for their growth policy update. The EPEDC will also be assisting Dawson County administer funding for their wastewater system improvements.

Eastern Montana Impact Coalition Energy Impact Study

The newly formed EMIC recently contracted the services of a diverse, multidisciplinary team comprised of experts from Montana and beyond to help identify and quantify impending regional impacts. The consultant team is being led by Jones, Lang, LaSalle, one of the world's largest real estate services firms; Ecolibrium, a next stage business consulting company based in Bozeman; SmithGroup JJR, one of the nation's leading architecture, engineering, and planning firms, and Allied Engineering, a civil engineering firm based in Bozeman that has worked extensively with energy impacted communities in North Dakota and eastern Montana.

With the support of this expert team, along with many other incredibly talented professionals recruited throughout the state, our coalition is launching an Energy Impact Study. This study will provide a "roadmap" for sustainable impact mitigation. It will outline the demands brought on by energy development, quantifying where and when they will occur, and provide information about what it will cost to satisfy them.

A challenging task given the time sensitivity of our legislative session, we want to take advantage of every opportunity the State has to invest in eastern Montana. In the coming weeks, the coalition will present regional data to legislators in an attempt to help drive the legislative agenda. A preliminary assessment of impacts and costs will be brought directly to our area's legislators in Helena on the evening of February 5th. The consultant team is working to get information assembled quickly. After the initial assessment is complete, the team will continue to drill down, do some original research as needed and, perhaps most importantly, engage all of our eastern MT communities in a regional visioning process.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
April 24, 2013
Glendive, MT

at the Mental Health Center
(2016 N Merrill)

9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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"If everyone is moving forward together,
then success takes care of itself."

-Henry Ford

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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.**