

Volume

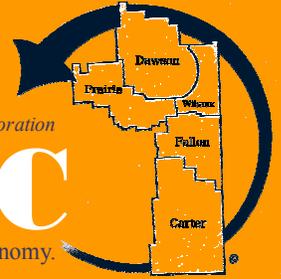
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April 23, 2014

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



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Makoshika Estates

The EPEDC recently helped compile a CDBG Multi-family Housing Rehabilitation application on behalf of Makoshika Estates, LP; the application was submitted with the City of Glendive's approval. The 18-unit, low-income, senior housing complex (pictured above) is in serious need of repairs due to structural damage from shifting soils that have caused the building's foundation to excessively heave and settle. Although the preferred solution to the problem may cost upwards of \$2M, community members and the City Council were supportive of any solution that would continue to provide the facility's residents with decent, safe, affordable housing. Information and comments compiled for the report shed further light on the general need for affordable housing in the region.



Local Project Updates

EPEDC staff members are busy writing several infrastructure grant applications for various regional projects. Following the recent completion of their respective PERs, the Town of Terry and the Fallon County Water and Sewer District will soon be submitting grant requests to TSEP and RRGL. Both projects involve wastewater collection and treatment. In addition, the first part of Plevna's 2-phase water improvement project has gone to bid; construction is slated to begin Spring/Summer 2014.

The EPEDC also helped the Prairie County Museum acquire funding from Southeast Montana Tourism that will allow them to replace dilapidated interstate signage advertising the museum and Evelyn Cameron Gallery.

A successful \$30,000 CDBG planning grant is helping Dawson County compile a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) related to the expansion of its county jail and justice center.

Also, EPEDC staff members attended an informational Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) meeting in early March regarding the creation of a web portal that would link state departments and agencies with regional, local, and community development organizations. The project is designed to increase communication between organizations and improve access to resources and information.

Governor's Announcement

Governor Bullock made stops in Culbertson, Sidney, Glendive, and Billings on Thursday, April 17th to announce his Eastern Montana Infrastructure and Impact Program. The \$45,000,000 program is aimed at facilitating water and wastewater improvements. It offers three basic methods of assistance, including an immediate reduction in State Revolving Loan Fund interest rates for those entities borrowing dollars from that source for water and wastewater projects. This will impact several of the region's projects, most notably the City of Glendive's wastewater treatment project which is slated to carry a significant amount of SRF debt. It will also have a positive impact on the Dawson County/West Glendive Project and the Town of Terry Sewer Project.

The second part of the program would include the creation of a new grant pool administered by the MT Dept. of Commerce. This portion of the program will require legislative approval, since the Governor is proposing this funding will come from bonding by the State of Montana.

The third part of the program involves the mobilization of state technical assistance assets, either in the form of state employees or contracted entities, who will provide planning and other technical assistance expertise within the region.

"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure."

-Peter Marshall, pastor

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
July 23, 2014
Wibaux, MT

at the Wibaux County Courthouse
9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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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.**