

Volume

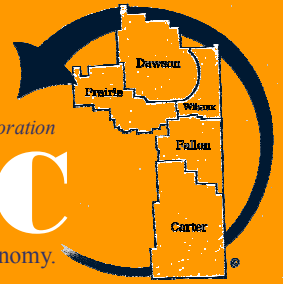
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January 21, 2015

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



New DCEDC Director

The EPEDC would like to thank Amy Deines for her efforts as the former director of Dawson County Economic Development (DCEDC). It was our pleasure to have worked with Amy in that capacity, and we wish her all the best in her new position with Job Service in Glendive. We would also like to welcome Cathy Kirkpatrick to the economic development team as the new DCEDC director. We look forward to a continued productive relationship with Cathy and DCEDC as the organization enters this new phase of leadership.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
April 22, 2015

Baker, MT

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

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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EPEDC

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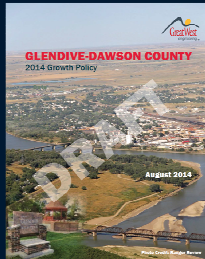
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Local Project Updates

An updated version of the Glendive/Dawson County Growth Policy has been submitted by the project consultant to the City/County Planning Board, the City Council, and the County Commission for review and approval (the cover of the document is pictured above).

The City of Glendive has also been busy constructing a new wastewater treatment plant, while Dawson County officials work on a plan to connect to the facility. The treatment facility is scheduled for completion in April 2016.

EPEDC Advocacy

With the start of the MT legislative session and the new congressional makeup in Washington, D.C., the EPEDC is busy advocating for projects and bills that will boost the region's economy.

Senator Daines entered a letter prepared by the EPEDC in favor of the Keystone XL Pipeline into the Senate Energy Committee record on January 8th. The EPEDC board of directors has consistently supported the construction of the pipeline, which will have significant positive impacts on our region.

On the state level, the EPEDC – in conjunction with area partners – will be advocating for additional infrastructure funding. As many of you remember, impact funding for eastern MT was vetoed by Governor Bullock last session. Several new proposals are anticipated, including one from Bullock himself for \$45M. The EPEDC will weigh in on any and all ideas that offer relief

to eastern MT regarding infrastructure, safety, transportation, and/or any other issues being faced by our communities as a result of energy development. All of the EPEDC region's municipalities and counties signed a letter, delivered to each legislator as well as to the governor, requesting \$90M in funding. Funding needed to assist with energy impacts is crucial to capitalizing on current economic activity.

The funding of basic economic development programs, including Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) funding which provides a portion of the EPEDC's yearly budget, will also be discussed. The governor has proposed a monetary increase to each of the economic programs, which are currently operating at funding levels set in 2000. These programs are due to sunset during the 2019 biennium, so an extension to the sunset may be proposed. If unsuccessful, the sunset would have to be removed during the 2017 session or the programs would be eliminated. These programs and their funding are integral to Montana's continued growth and economic development.

Additionally, the EPEDC is keeping track of issues related to Brownfield review at the DEQ level, in relation to how funds may be leveraged with Petrofund revenues. Staff will also be monitoring the business equipment tax, local option tax, oil tax holiday, and tax increment financing discussions as they progress.

"For an economy built to last, we must invest in what will fuel us for generations to come. This is our history – from the Transcontinental Railroad to the Hoover Dam... our American ancestors prioritized growth and investment in our nation's infrastructure."

-Cory Booker, U.S. Senator (NJ)

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Terry, MT 59349



**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.**