



this issue

local project updates
Give Local initiative
infrastructure town hall meeting
quote of the quarter

Give Local Initiative

The Montana Community Foundation (MCF) is planning to create a website featuring nonprofits from around the state in honor of Give Local Day, May 3, 2016. The fundraising initiative is designed to help nonprofits tap into the benefits of online giving. Glendive was one of five communities to participate last year, and the state is hoping to spur more participation in several other cities and towns. An organization must be a 501c3 to participate in this event. Starting in November, contact Jen Gursky, MCF Program Officer for more information at (406) 443-8313.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
January 27, 2016

Glendive, MT
at the Yellowstone River Inn
9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

We are enjoying a beautiful fall and celebrating the progress we've made on several projects! TransCanada awarded the Glendive Police Department \$6,530 in funding for two speed monitoring signs this summer (*pictured above*). The signs were put into service in June.

The Montana Wilderness Association, with funding contributions from BLM, Southeast Montana Tourism, the Cinnabar Foundation, the National Park Service/Lewis and Clark Stewardship Endowment, 1st Interstate Bank, the Miles City Chamber of Commerce, and the Glendive TBID, succeeded in producing "Buttes, Breaks, and Badlands," a comprehensive geotourism map featuring southeast Montana. Maps will be made widely available for local distribution in the spring.

Prairie Community Hospital was recently awarded \$639,050 in CDBG funds to complete its facility renovation project. Prairie County also received a TSEP planning grant that will be helping the county create a PER for its Milwaukee Bridge project. In addition, the Plevna Water project is now complete; punchlist items were done on October 14th.

Both EPEDC staff members were able to attend the Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) conference held in Billings, September 30 – October 2, thanks in part to a scholarship granted to Assistant Smith by the L.P. & Teresa Anderson Foundation of Miles City. The conference had the highest attendance of any MNA conference to date and was very informative.

Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) hosted a town hall meeting to discuss statewide infrastructure issues and potential solutions. Approximately 150 attendees were reminded of the need for various types of infrastructure via presentations describing the Montana Infrastructure Report Card, which gives Montana a C- rating overall. Examples of projects not funded during the previous legislative session, a success story, and an explanation that illustrated how important infrastructure projects are for economic development were followed by first hand accounts of impacts and needs from the Mayor of Conrad, the City Administrator from Laurel, a commissioner from Beaverhead County, and the Office of Higher Education.

After the audience was reminded of the importance of infrastructure, breakout discussions were held. These were followed by a general reporting of ideas, thoughts, and opportunities. A few of the broad but clear messages included: (1) educating the general public about the importance of infrastructure and the cost of ignoring it; (2) developing additional sustainable funding; (3) defining infrastructure; (4) collaborating and cooperating to find solutions; (5) encouraging planning at the local level and/or pushing for a state driven planning effort to quantify and prioritize the need; and (6) improving the responsiveness of the programs.

Eastern Plains will continue to monitor, encourage, weigh in on, and generally contribute to the push for additional infrastructure investment(s) from the state in our local infrastructure.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead, anthropologist

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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.**