



**EPEDC Officers**

Newly elected officers for 2017 include: Chairman Dennis Zander, Dawson County Commissioner, ph. (406) 345-4102; Vice Chair Todd Devlin, Prairie County Commissioner, ph. (406) 635-5575; and Secretary/Treasurer Darin Miske, Wibaux County Commissioner, ph. (406)796-6481.

**Contact Information**

Please submit comments or questions to:

Beth Epley

EPEDC Executive Director  
POB 497  
Terry MT 59326

Phone: (406) 853-6471  
(TDD) 866-735-2968  
www.epedc.com  
e.epley@outlook.com

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**July 19, 2017**  
**Ekalaka, Montana**  
**Carter County Courthouse**  
**9:30 am**



Montana’s state legislature meets in odd numbered years. It is working on proposals that will impact economic activities in the EPEDC region.

**DAWSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

House Bill 2 proposed \$800,000 reduction in allocation for DCC; it passed to the Senate on March 17<sup>th</sup>. EPEDC staff and many other citizens wrote letters of support and Director Epley advocated before lawmakers in Helena, as did a bus-load of equally passionate supporters. DCC President Mickelson sent articles to EPEDC area publications to highlight DCC’s 44% graduation rate (highest in MT), its 76-year history of successes, and other notable data.

**TOURISM VENUE LAUDED**

Carter County, as an active partner in EPEDC, is known for spotlighting its tourism treasures. The [Dino Shindig](#), put on every summer since 2013 by the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka, was named “Event of the Year” by the [Governor’s Conference on Tourism and Recreation](#) in Helena in this quarter. The two-day event celebrates paleontology and brings in speakers and attendees from all over the world to Ekalaka. MT Department of Commerce, released the awards details, stating also that they “celebrate the outstanding work of communities, businesses, organiza-

**this issue**

- Regional College Supporters Rally
- Local Tourism Event Honored
- Local Projects Reported
- Keystone Executive Order
- Quote of the quarter

tions and people who [aid] Montana’s tourism industry and ... maximiz[e] its economic impact for MT residents.”

**LOCAL PROJECTS REPORT**

Director Beth Epley reported that the Prairie Community Hospital renovation project is expected to finish soon, with an open house event to follow in May. The director provided administrative oversight for the project, which to date, has garnered \$1,734,157 in public investment and \$91,187 in private investment. She is coordinating efforts with Eastern Montana Brownfields Coalition, to get a Phase I assessment done the library and senior center buildings in Richey. The EPA has approved the application.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON PIPELINES**

In his first month in office, President Trump signed executive memos to help [TransCanada](#) to construct the Keystone XL pipeline and for [Energy Transfer Partners](#) to build the final uncompleted portion of the Dakota Access pipeline. Access through Nebraska’s Sandhills will still need further negotiations.

“If you want to be successful, it's just this simple: Know what you're doing. Love what you're doing. And believe in what you're doing.” Will Rogers, 1933

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 Elkalaka, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna,  
the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry, and the Town of Wibaux.



**Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation**  
**POB 497**  
**Terry MT 59349**