

Volume

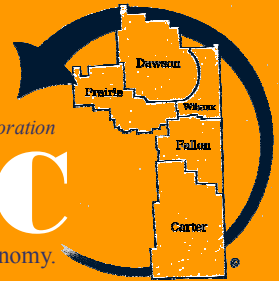
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May 26, 2010

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



Housing

As highlighted in Volume 2 of the EPEDC newsletter, an eastern Montana regional housing conference is scheduled for sometime late this summer and has now reached a critical stage in its development, as the EPEDC and its partners hope to successfully address the growing need for various types of housing in our area. EPEDC assistant Elizabeth Smith will be traveling to the Montana Housing Partnership Conference in Helena June 15-17th in research topics that may offer beneficial solutions to issues facing our region. Any input, questions, concerns, or trends regarding housing that you would like to share with her by calling (406) 853-3840 or emailing esmith@midrivers.com would be greatly appreciated.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2010
Baker, MT
at the Fallon County Courthouse
9:30 AM

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

Collaboration between the Eastern Plains EDC, Southeastern MT EDC, and Great Northern Development has resulted in the approval of \$1,500,000 in Brownfield Revolving Loan Funds available to the 15 counties represented by the three Economic Development Districts.

Details regarding how the funds will be administered, training on program requirements, and agreements between the entities will be developed in an ongoing manner throughout the summer. It is anticipated that the loan funds will be fully available sometime this fall. In addition, specific parameters and eligibility requirements, as well as processes for requesting the loan funds, will be accessible this fall also.

The funds may be applied for by businesses and entities located in any of the three Districts. If you think you may have a Brownfield site in need of clean-up funds and are interested in the loan program, please give us a call and we will add your projects to the growing list of potential sites and contact you at the appropriate time.

In other news, the Prairie Community Hospital received approval for a loan from the Montana Board of Investments to replace their hospital and clinic roofs. Both facilities have been battling leaks threatening equipment and essential areas of operation. The loan will cover the approximately \$180,000 project.

The EPEDC had assisted with preparing an application for both grant and loan funds through USDA, concurrent with the PCH application to the MBOI. Timing, overall loan costs, and other factors made the MBOI loan the more attractive financing option for the facility, and thus the USDA application previously submitted has been withdrawn.

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Moving Forward

After years of effort at the local level, the North Baker Water and Sewer District is finally soliciting bids for the water and wastewater project. The advertisement for bids is in its publication cycle, and the opening bid will be held on June 7th. Construction will begin after all funding sources have approved the recommended bid award and appropriate contracts are signed—hopefully before the 4th of July weekend (*pictured above left is an image of the area just outside Baker where part of the construction will occur*).

The project engineer is Brosz Engineering of Bowman, ND, while Eastern Plains EDC is acting as the project manager regarding those items that pertain to funding sources. Assistance the District is receiving has now shifted from securing all funding, to bid solicitation and, subsequent to that, will progress into the construction management phase of operations.

Funding for the project is being provided via two State of Montanan programs: 1) the Treasure State Endowment Program \$120,000, and 2) the Department of Natural Resources Renewable Resources Grant Program, \$100,000. Federal funding is being provided through the Economic Development Administration, \$800,000, and the Army Corps of Engineers, Section 595 Program, \$300,000. Local funding from Fallon County has been pledged at \$1,886,510, bringing the total project funding to \$3,206,510.

Construction is slated to run through the end of the summer and fall, with a potential winter shutdown allowed in the specifications. The project timeline allows for a completion date in the summer of 2011.

The EPEDC is looking forward to moving into the construction phase of the project, coordinating the funding sources, working with the engineer through construction, and helping the District move toward the finalization of a much needed and thus far successful project.

"Believing in people before they have proven themselves is the key to motivating people to reach their potential."

-John C. Maxwell

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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.**