



## BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT

After receiving training in Missoula, the EPEDC recently finished submitting a joint application with Southeastern Montana EDC and Great Northern EDC to the Environmental Protection Agency for \$750,000 in Brownfield assessment funds. These funds would provide grant dollars to entities in need of obtaining professional assessments, which would potentially qualify them for the use of Brownfield loan funds.

If you would like more information about obtaining assistance to develop a possible Brownfield site, please contact EPEDC Executive Director Jason Rittal.

## Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

January 26, 2011

Wibaux, MT

at the Wibaux County Courthouse

9:30 AM

## Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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## Local Project Updates

A successful application to USDA Rural Development provided the Town of Ekalaka with funding for a new road maintenance pickup (pictured above).

Winter nears and snow slowed construction in Baker for a few days, but the crews are back to full speed trying to complete as much of the project as possible before the winter season arrives for good. The water main project is in full swing, and the sewer main is nearly complete. The hope is that the weather holds out long enough to have the system operational this fall. At this point, a winter shutdown for the contractor seems inevitable. Next spring will involve finishing up any of the water and sewer main that isn't completed, connecting those businesses that didn't get service before the shutdown, as well as some renovation and seeding. With the wet spring and summer and early snow, the construction site has been torn up considerably by the equipment. Efforts are being made to ensure that the areas affected are restored as well as possible before winter.

As of October 24<sup>th</sup>, the contractor was \$1,463,707 into the \$2,330,299 contract. Although it doesn't look like we are going to make it to completion this fall, a considerable amount of the work will be completed making next spring a little less hectic.

The Evelyn Cameron Heritage, Inc. board of directors received word on October 14th that they were granted the maximum award from PPL Montana for \$10,000, which will go toward constructing a permanent concrete and lumber stair/access tower to the rear of the Evelyn Cameron Cultural Center. The tower will provide a required 2<sup>nd</sup> entry/exit point to the basement and main floors of the building.

Both the Evelyn Cameron Heritage, Inc. board and the Prairie County Museum board are still waiting to hear if their applications for State of MT Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) funds were favorably received.

Also, the EPEDC submitted an application to the State of Montana, in answer to their RFP, requesting CRDC designation. The designation is currently routed via agreement though the regional RC&D out of Sidney. CRDC funds provide the matching dollars the EPEDC uses to operate along with Federal Economic Development Administration funds that have already

been awarded for the current fiscal year.

Finally, the EPEDC is pleased to announce that their \$50,000 in USDA RLF funds were utilized during the month of October to provide a loan for a business in Prairie County.

## Eastern Plains Housing Conference

A group of 50 people turned out for the day-long "Eastern Plains Housing Conference" held at the Hungry Joe Hall in Glendive, Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, despite wintery weather conditions. Economic developers from eastern Montana and western North Dakota, together with representatives from Montana state programs such as the Montana Board of Housing and NeighborWorks, were in attendance. The event was hosted by the EPEDC and sponsored by both Mid-Rivers Communications and TransCanada; lunch was prepared by Glendive's Farm-to-Table Cooperative.

The goal of the conference was to address the specific challenges eastern Montana communities face with regard to housing. Members of several area housing authorities, as well as real estate brokers and private developers, were also present. A comprehensive look was taken at various successfully completed housing projects, ranging from the Cornerstone Apartments in Miles City to housing market expansion undertaken in Dickinson, ND. Attendees actively participated in an open forum session identifying types of housing that are urgently needed now as the general population continues to age, the condition of housing stock deteriorates, and vacant properties become harder to find in the wake of workforce increases.

Ultimately, those in attendance had nothing but positive comments to make about the volume of useful information they received from listening to those who presented, in addition to new ideas they developed while speaking with other community leaders. Everyone seemed impressed by the amount of work done to meet housing needs thus far, and all are eager to begin a concentrated effort to meet current and future housing demands. It is the EPEDC's desire to use the momentum gained from the conference to pursue solutions to regional housing issues via cooperation with several area partners.

"Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly."

-Francis Bacon

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local project updates  
housing conference summary  
development spotlight  
quote of the quarter

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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.**