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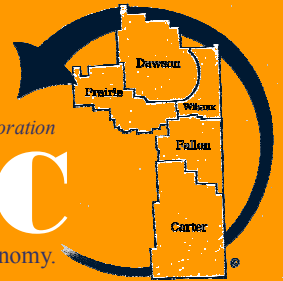
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August 30, 2011

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



Broadband Project

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce with \$7.2 billion to expand access to broadband services in the United States. The NTIA awarded Montana \$2.086 million in federal funds for broadband mapping and planning.

Under the planning portion of this program, the broadband program manager and the regional CRDC will perform outreach and facilitation to identify and prioritize broadband access needs and solutions in local communities across the state.

Two meetings within the EPEDC region will be held in Glendive, September 20th, and Baker, September 21st. For more information on the project visit <http://www.recovery.mt.gov/commerce/broadband/default.mcp> or contact EPEDC Executive Director Jason Rittal.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
November 9, 2011
Wibaux, MT

at the Wibaux County Courthouse
9:30 AM

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

As a part of their affiliate membership in the Montana Department of Commerce's Main Street program, the Town of Terry was able to host a "branding" workshop August 22nd led by Cindy Henderson of Cynroc, Inc., a marketing firm located in Billings. Following their June visit to evaluate Terry's planning needs, National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) representatives recommended that the Town use funds received from the Preserve America grant awarded this spring to hire a consultant that will develop a "heritage tourism action plan." Consequently, Cynroc addressed market positioning and brand customization pertaining to the development of a strategy for communicating a specific message to a targeted tourist audience. Anyone interested in promoting Terry, including business owners, town officials, and community members, was invited to attend. Turnout for the day-long event was very good. A report on information gathered during the workshop will be provided to the Town. Rich in valuable community input, the report will aid in the process of hiring a qualified consultant to complete a comprehensive heritage tourism plan.

The N. Baker Water and Sewer Project construction is complete. However, the EPEDC's involvement isn't over. The final pay estimates with reconciled quantities are still pending. From there, all remaining grant dollars will be requested, and the required closeout reports will be completed. Draws have been submitted to the funding agencies for the bulk of available funds, but each retains a portion until all the paperwork is complete. With any luck, the project will be closed out by each funding source near the end of September.

The Town of Ekalaka recently acquired adjoining buildings that will be remodeled to house the community's Town Hall and Library (new sites for the Town Hall and Library, pictured above, left to right). \$70,000 from MT DEQ was awarded to help remodel the structures. The EPEDC submitted an application to USDA for an additional \$50,000 that is pending approval.

Also, the EPEDC recently submitted a grant application to Homeland Security on behalf of the City of Glendive regarding disaster and emergency services. The \$67,000 that was received will be utilized to install emergency generators.

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CEDS

Every five years the regional economic development district (EDD) must submit an updated planning document, referred to as a "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" or CEDS. The EPEDC receives its planning funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) based on demographic information compiled within our CEDS. The priorities identified and outlined in the document by communities within our region shape the EPEDC's ability to assist with projects in the area.

The CEDS document that the EPEDC has been utilizing was originally completed in 2006. A new CEDS document is due June 30, 2012. Therefore, the EPEDC staff will be working very hard over the course of the next 10 months to create a document that reflects the current needs of Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, and Wibaux Counties.

County meetings involving members of the core CEDS committee will be held the beginning of October. Updated demographic information will be collected during the winter, while larger community meetings will be scheduled for early spring 2012.

The active participation of local elected officials, area business people, local economic development representatives, and private citizens, is essential in developing an accurate CEDS document. If you are interested in participating in the planning effort, please contact EPEDC Executive Director Jason Rittal.

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood... Make big plans, aim high in hope and work."

-Daniel H. Burnham
U.S. architect and city planner

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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.**