

Volume

13

July 25, 2012

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



Updated CEDS

The new EPEDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document is finally complete! A draft of the document was made available May 31st, and a complete version was submitted per Economic Development Administration (EDA) regulations by June 30th.

Until official approval of the document is received from the EDA, physical copies of the CEDS may be reviewed in each of the EPEDC's county commission offices or you may request an electronic version by emailing jrittal@midrivers.com.



Local Project Updates

The EPEDC region is abuzz with activity!

EPEDC RLF funds reinvested in a Glendive business resulted in the construction of 14 new housing and "dorm" style living units in the former Toddle Time Daycare facility.

EPEDC staff also attended the 2012 Montana Housing Partnership Conference in Billings, June 26-28. The theme for the conference was "Housing Strategies in a Challenging Economy." A number of interesting ideas were proposed, and information gathered at the conference will be helpful in moving the region's housing efforts forward.

The MT Department of Commerce—Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) hosted more regional training opportunities. Local planning efforts are progressing as a result.

A total of 137 needs assessment surveys were received in response to the Town of Wibaux's request for input during their growth policy/planning process. The EPEDC tabulated and reported the informative results to the Town's consultant, Kadramas, Lee & Jackson.

The Town of Terry's Growth Policy process is rolling along thanks in part to an additional planning grant received from the Montana Main Street program, bringing the project's grant funding total to \$17,340. The consultant hired to assist in the creation of the policy anticipates a late fall completion date.

EPEDC staff facilitated the completion of the *Terry Heritage Tourism Action Plan* in late May. Strategy and marketing tools developed as a result of the planning process will be used to further the Town's branding efforts as they move forward with local development projects. Moreover, a sign—related to a Caviar grant received in 2011—referencing Terry's colorful history was erected in Murn Park just in time for Terry Yippe Days.

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New Eastern Montana Impact Coalition Formed

The EPEDC recently helped form a new coalition of economic development groups in eastern Montana to assist counties and communities impacted by rapid natural resource development.

The new group, entitled the *Eastern Montana Impact Coalition*, is a collaboration of four groups: SEMDC of Colstrip, Eastern Plains Economic Development (EPEDC) of Terry, Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC) of Wolf Point, and Richland Economic Development (RED) of Sidney. Currently, these four organizations serve 16 eastern Montana counties via numerous economic and community development programs.

The purpose of the coalition is to leverage scarce resources and coordinate services that work positively and proactively for counties and communities, as a means of encouraging proper planning, assisting with financing for the rehabilitation and installation of infrastructure, working with developers to create housing, and coordinating with the energy industry to encourage development and assistance during this strong period of energy development. The coalition has identified community planning and grant writing as two areas of top priority.

"This is a great opportunity to leverage federal and state funding with private sector assistance to help minimize impacts, yet maximize benefits," noted Jim Atchison, SEMDC Executive Director. "This coalition will assist with plans to leverage financing, lower risk, and put additional assistance into the communities being impacted by rapid natural resource development," he added.

The group has been collaborating over the course of the past month on a joint application that would involve federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and MT Department of Commerce funds needed to build capacity in the region for planning and resource coordination, which is a crucial step to providing additional resources within the region.

"Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success."

-Napoleon Hill, American author

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
October 24, 2012
Wibaux, MT

at the Wibaux County Courthouse
9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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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.**