



Badlands BEAR

The local BEAR team is preparing to accept applications from self-employed and larger business owners interested in utilizing the state's Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program to help alleviate some of the costs associated with training employees. Funding, up to \$1000 for a part-time employee and \$2000 for a full-time employee, is available to clients of either BEAR, MMEC, or SBDC following a comprehensive business evaluation. Those hoping to qualify are encouraged to apply well in advance of any anticipated training.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

May 26, 2010

Wibaux, MT

at the Wibaux County Courthouse

9:30 AM

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

Following yet another power outage late this winter and a little pressure from local officials, funding requested by application to the USDA for the Town of Ekalaka's emergency generator was granted for a sum of \$13,140 (pictured above is an image of the generator after installation).

Also, all funding sources for the Fallon County North Baker Water and Sewer District project have finally been approved. "This project can now move forward to provide critical infrastructure to an area of Fallon County that is very important to our economy and future growth," Commissioner Randash said. Board member Ken Griffith responded by saying, "The North Baker Water and Sewer District Board would like to thank the Fallon County Commissioners for their support of the project. Without the support of the City, County, and the state and federal funding sources, this project would not be moving forward."

Brosz Engineering is working diligently to prepare a finalized set of plans and specifications. Once complete, the appropriate funding agencies will have to review them, and then the project will be ready to move forward. It is the hope of all involved with the project that bids will be advertised in April and construction will commence this spring.

Meanwhile, Prairie County Community Hospital is seeking funding to replace the deteriorating roofs on both their hospital and clinic buildings. The urgency of the issue became apparent after this year's increased snowfall and consistently low temperatures. Board members are hoping to secure funding soon and complete construction by the end of this summer/early fall.

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Floodplain Progress

Recent activity regarding the Glendive/Dawson County floodplain had representatives of the city and county attend a meeting with Senator John Tester in Great Falls and was followed by a visit to the Glendive City Council from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The meeting with Senator Tester focused on levee issues and allowed community representatives to express their concerns directly to the Senator. Commissioner Gartner and Mayor Jimison both spoke at the meeting, briefly outlining the history of the situation in Glendive/Dawson County. Although time was limited, representatives were well-prepared and brought a packet of information, including a comprehensive summary, to leave with the Senator as a reference to assist him in further defining levee and floodplain issues once back in Washington, D.C. This meeting was a much-needed step forward in bringing the issue of floodplain impacts to the forefront of our representative's attention in Congress and solidifying the idea that this is a statewide issue in need of immediate attention.

During their visit to Glendive, the Army Corps of Engineers presented the results of a hydrological model done for the Glendive/Dawson County area as it pertains to the existing levee. While the model shows that there is a potential for water to top the West Glendive dike in a 100-year flood event, the crest was actually predicted at almost a foot lower than a 1980's study. What that means for Glendive, as Mayor Jimison stated, is that, "For all of you out there who had feared the whole town of Glendive was going to be in the floodplain like Miles City, rest your fears. The good news is, folks, we're not going to get hit like other communities" (*Glendive Ranger Review*, 18 March 2010). What it doesn't mean is that the problem has gone away, but simply that it is not going to get worse.

The next step in the process appears to be requesting Congressional funding for a feasibility study. The study would provide alternatives to bringing the area currently within the 100-year flood zone out of harm's way and cost estimates for those alternatives. Unfortunately, the project is expected to require \$800,000 in addition to matching funds. The EPEDC will assist in any manner possible as officials move toward finding a solution, but at least no more bad news appears to be on the horizon.

"Economic depression cannot be cured by legislative action or executive pronouncement. Economic wounds must be healed by the action of the cells of the economic body - the producers and consumers themselves."
-Herbert Hoover

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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.**