



### Re-imagining Rural Recap

Re-imagining Rural wrapped up with the third Virtual Gathering on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Communities gathered from around Montana to listen to Ben Winchester of Minnesota State University Extension speak September 15<sup>th</sup> and Deb and Becky with Save Our Town on September 29<sup>th</sup>. They all shared knowledge on how we talk about and perceive our community and what changing that dialogue looks like.

Ben spoke about ‘living in the middle of everywhere.’ This sentiment rings true with Eastern MT as we travel many directions to get what services and items we may need. He also highlighted the need for leadership in Montana, pointing out our state has the second highest need for leadership in the country.

Deb and Becky discussed how we need to use what and who we already have to make our towns what we want them to be. On the final night they talked about each coming up with an “easy win” in your community. We had three counties in our region participate in this virtual gathering.

In Carter County, they decided to put up a large notice board with all the events going on in Ekalaka, a poster that has the heads cut out for people to stand behind so that it looks like they are cowboys and cowgirls herding dinosaurs, and to paint large dinosaur and horse tracks going from the welcome sign and notice board to downtown Ekalaka.

In Fallon County, the group decided on the creation of Community Branding to develop a strategic brand that capitalizes on community assets and regional identity.

In Dawson County, the easy win was to obtain signage for Short Pines Recreation Area. This OHV area is under promoted and there is only one sign leading to the location. They also brought up having DCC and/or DCHS paint murals for second story buildings downtown.

**“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”**

**–John C. Maxwell**

#### Contact Information

Please submit comments or questions to:

#### Beth Epley

EPEDC Executive Director

PO Box 321

Baker, MT 59313

Phone: (406) 853-6471

www.epedc.com

epley@epedc.com

#### Dara Deines

Community Development Specialist

808 N Merrill

Glendive, MT 59330

Phone: (406) 939-3864

www.epedc.com

cds@epedc.com

#### Next Board Meeting:

**January 20, 2021**

**9:30 AM**

### this issue

Quote of the Quarter  
Re-imagining Rural Recap  
MT Growth Through Ag Grant

#### Growth Through Agriculture Grant & Loan Program

Montanans interested in creating or expanding their agricultural businesses are invited to apply for funds through the Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) state grant program. Over the years the GTA program has helped businesses and producers all over Montana add value, scale up and access new markets. The program was established through the legislature to help in strengthening and diversifying Montana’s ag industry. The grants and loans are awarded by the Agriculture Development Council, a seven-member committee, appointed by the Governor. Examples of eligible project activities include equipment purchases, construction costs, advertising and promotion, and consultant services for engineering. GTA requires a one to one match in requested funds for both the loan and grant.

Follow this link for more information on applying for the GTA Grant and Loan Program: <https://agr.mt.gov/GTA>

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.



**Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation**  
**PO Box 321**  
**Baker MT 59313**