Volume

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"Wild West" Tourism

Wild West Initiative meetings were held in Buffalo, WY, September 20th and 21st, involving representatives from the four state area covered by the project's scope. The purpose of the meetings was to review the study's findings and recommendations and make a decision as to whether the project should be moved into its next phase.

Representatives decided that the next phase of the project, to begin documenting the unique stories of the "Wild West" region and developing products to enhance those stories, would assist with business development related to tourism.

A copy of the final multi-state tourism study and plan can be found on the EPEDC's "Tourism" webpage at epedc.com.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
January 23, 2013
Wibaux, MT
at the Wibaux County Courthouse
9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

Jason Rittal
EPEDC
PO Box 497
Terry, MT 59349

Phone: (406) 698-3255 Fax: (406)234-3548 epedc.com jrittal@midrivers.com



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local project updates coalition receives funding "Wild West" tourism quote of the quarter

Local Project Updates

Congratulations to Carter County/Ekalaka on the opening of their new Senior Center location September 17th! Also, Ekalaka's new library was finally awarded funds from USDA that will allow construction on that project to move forward, and the EPEDC is assisting the Town of Ekalaka draft an amendment to the Carter County Growth Policy.

The MT Department of Commerce—Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) hosted another training opportunity September 11th in Sidney, regarding annexation policies and DEQ regulations for man camps. The next training will take place December 13th in Glasgow and will cover questions regarding growth policies and procedures, as well as some of the legal ramifications of planning.

EPEDC staff attended the Eastern Montana Development Forum in Miles City, September 13th. Miles Community College hosted representatives from state and local government, several state colleges, and regional businesses. Topics of interest ran the gamut from housing to workforce training.

The MT DOC held a separate meeting in Miles City October 17th to gather input regarding the 5-year update of their official tourism and recreation plan.

In addition, EPEDC staff completed all the requirements for the MT Department of Commerce's Finance Program recertification, in order to update their knowledge of business expansion and community planning funds available through the state's BSTF, WTG, and CBDG programs.

The EPEDC is pleased to announce that Evelyn Cameron Heritage, Inc. of Terry was awarded another TIIP grant for \$62,475 (total project cost \$93,716). The funds will provide for the installation of a permanent HVAC system, acoustic ceilings on the main floor, and a new foyer entrance for the Evelyn Cameron Heritage Center facility.

Eastern Montana Impact Coalition Receives Funding

The newly formed Eastern Montana Impact Coalition was just awarded \$228,000 in federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds, to be combined with \$40,000 from the MT Department of Commerce, \$92,000 from the Big Sky Trust Fund (BSTF), and \$20,000 in local match. This unprecedented regional success, via the collaborative efforts of 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, will provide for two years of planning funds totaling \$380,000. The money will be applied toward a 16-county, eastern Montana impact study and will allow the economic development organizations to hire and share two new employeesa regional planner and a resource coordinator.

Again, 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 natural resource development.

Job descriptions to use when applying for either the regional planner or the resource coordinator position can be found on the "About Us" page at epedc.com, or by visiting gndc.org, semdc.org, or richlandeconomicdevelopment.com.

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all."

-Sam Ewing, baseball player

Pastern Plains Economic Development Corporation Po Box 497
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.