

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.
QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 2007

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. quarterly council meeting was held on July 25, 2007, at the Courthouse in Wibaux. Those present were Dixie Berwick (Town of Culbertson), Ginny Archdale (Town of Wibaux), Dick Iversen (Assistant RC&D Coordinator), Sarah Herman (RC&D Administrative Assistant), Mike Carlson (RC&D Coordinator), Cal Oraw (Certified Regional Development Specialist), Ray Trumpower (Fairview), Stark Ickes (Treasure County), Jerry Jimison (City of Glendive), Mickey McCall (Plentywood CD, Commissioners), Randy Phelan (NRCS), Amy Kaiser (NRCS), Renee Nelson (NRCS), Linda Peterson-Lohse (NRCS), Katrina Johnson (NRCS), David Pratt (NRCS), Kevin Dukart (City of Baker), Willie Bernard (Daniels County CD), Giz Quade (Wibaux Commissioners), Karin Teeters (Wibaux Visitor Center), Leif Bakken (Wibaux Commissioners), Bruce Smith (Dawson County Commissioners), David Bertelsen (Wibaux Co Ext. Agent), Glen Hutchinson (Wibaux Co. Commissioners).

Chairman Dixie Berwick called the meeting to order and meeting participants introduced themselves. The agenda was reviewed and The Great Northern Development (EPA Brownfield Grant) was added to New Business. **The agenda was reviewed and approved by a motion from Jerry Jimison seconded by Ray Trumpower and carried.**

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and approved by a motion from Ginny Archdale, seconded by Stark Ickes carried.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Mike Carlson presented his quarterly written report. Mike has been working a lot on wind energy development in Dawson, Wibaux and Fallon County. Mike has many requests for wind monitoring equipment and on the potential for new wind projects in Eastern Montana.

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Dick Iversen presented his quarterly written report. Dick gave us an update on the Lower Missouri CRM. They currently have 140-150 pump sites working. The CRM office is currently looking for a coordinator. Dick also reported that he is working, along with Sarah Herman, on getting a website together for dairy recruitment and possibly some incentive money for dairy owners to come to Eastern Montana to check out possible sites for new dairies.

CRDC REPORT: Cal Oraw gave a PowerPoint presentation on tourism in the five counties of Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie and Wibaux. Karen Teeters also spoke about the Wibaux Visitor Center in Wibaux, they had 1,514 visitors in May and in June they had 3,395 visitors. The Wibaux Visitor Center is open from the 1st of May to the end of October. They are able to talk to a lot of people about the many opportunities in Eastern Montana. Karen said that most visitors are from Minnesota and they want to move out of the cities because of the crowdedness. Karen also stated that anyone that has any brochures of interest can send them to the Visitor Center to display and give out.

HOME BUYER EDUCATION PROGRAM: Mike briefly updated us on Khrystye's 1st Time Homebuyers Classes. She has had 13 classes and 84 students so far in FY2007. She has had a grand total of 572 students since this program started. Khrystye gave a class in Lame Deer on July 14th with 9 students completing the class. Her next class will be in Glendive on August 18th. For more information you can call Khrystye at (406)480-3162.

OLD BUSINESS: Fairview Pool Project- They have raised over \$650,000 so far, with \$200,000 of that being local donations. They have currently received some bids for the bath house that are 2 times what they expected them to be. Construction has started on the pool and it should be done by next year. **Wind Energy CREBS-** 4 Meetings were held around Eastern Montana for anyone interested in tax exempt bonds for small wind energy projects. CREBS Training Session was held by Mike Constanti of Matney-Franz Engineering of Bozeman. The CREB workshops covered what CREBs are, why they were created, how they work, and how local governments can apply for the 2007 CREB cycle.

NEW BUSINESS: Ag-Open- This years Ag Open will be held August 7-9th. Ag Open will showcase Eastern Montana and North Dakota. There will be 6 tours, 3 of these will be in Eastern Montana. For more information and to register for this event you can go to www.ag-open.com.

Carbon Sequestration- There were 6 meeting with 100 people total in attendance. Meetings were held at Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, Wolf Point (2), and in Glasgow. Sign-up deadline is August 15th. You can sign up your Cropland, CRP, and Rangeland. For more information you can either call Mike Carlson at (406)433-2103 x.121 or go to www.ncoc.us.

GTO 2008- Gateway to Opportunity is scheduled for January 10th, 2008 in Glendive, MT at the Dawson Community College. This years topic will be bio-fuels and alternative energy.

VISTA CIA Throughout Eastern Montana- Ray Trumpower gave a PowerPoint presentation on the VISTA program. There are currently 13 VISTA's in Richland County. They have currently done a Quality of Life Profile and there are books available to see what the findings were. You can contact Kate Lolley at kolley@richland.org or by calling the Richland Health Network at (406)433-6946 and talk to Melissa Boyer, Beth Cook or Kate Lolley.

Great Northern Development (EPA Brownfield Grants) - This is a grant that the Great Northern Development is trying to receive to help if there is ever a need to use this grant for a clean up. They have previously tried to get this grant but were told they did not have a big enough area to receive it. They would like the Eastern Plains CRDC and Southeastern Montana CRDC to also apply with them for the grant and then it would be a bigger area covered. After a lot of discussion it was decided to get more information about it and then to do an online vote. **The online vote was approved by a motion from Ginny Archdale seconded by Bruce Smith and carried.**

REPORTS, HAPPENINGS & ISSUES IN RC&D AREA-

Wibaux County: Finished Leadership Plenty, the CDBG Planning Grant for the Growth policy has been withdrawn, County commissioners were able to purchase a new clinic site, and there will be a wind monitoring site maybe by the 1st of August.

Treasure County: Lots of new development, Yucca theater open, local investor interested in building an ethanol plant.

Glendive: New tennis courts (10) built, new stage at Makoshika State Park which is the largest State Park in Montana, Farm to Table moving ahead, trying to get a culinary arts class at Dawson Community College.

Fairview: 3 bus loads of railroad enthusiasts came to look at the Fairview Bridge.

City of Baker: A potential sub-division being looked at, there is an assisted living building added onto the medical complex.

McCone County: Westby elevator going well, looking for funding for the fitness center.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2007 at **9:30am** in Glendive at Prairie Development Center at 313 W Valentine, behind the radio station.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch by a motion from Ray Trumpower, seconded by Jerry Jimison and carried.

Lunch was on your own at the Shamrock, after lunch there was a tour of the museum. Just want to thank Ginny Archdale for getting everything all lined up. Thank you!!