

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.
QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING
April 16, 2008

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. quarterly council meeting was held on April 16, 2008, at The Thee Garage in Baker, MT. Those present were Dixie Berwick (Town of Culbertson), Dick Iversen (RC&D Coordinator), Sarah Herman (RC&D Administrative Assistant), Kevin Dukart (City of Baker), Roger Grammond (SMART), Jason Rittal (Eastern Plains EDD), Carol Markuson (Town of Circle), Jim Atchison (SEMDC), Mike Coryell (MCAEDC), Kathy Green (City of Glendive), Jerry Jimison (City of Glendive), Bill Loehding (Carter County), Regan Kirchner (NRCS), Linda Peterson-Lohse (NRCS), Linda Stark Ickes (Treasure County), Gene Buxcel (DCEDC), Mickey McCall (Plentywood CD, Commissioners), Jim Shanks (Roosevelt County), Gary Macdonald (Roosevelt County), Mike Carlson (Glendive Resident)

Chairman Dixie Berwick called the meeting to order and meeting participants introduced themselves. **The agenda was reviewed and approved by a motion from Gary McDonald seconded by Bill Loehding and carried.**

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes were reviewed and approved by a motion from Stark Ickes, seconded by Kevin Dukart and carried. The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Stark Ickes and seconded by Kevin Dukart and carried.

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT: Jason Rittal introduced himself and talked about what he had been doing for the 6 weeks he has been working. He has been trying to get to all of the area meetings; he has made it to all of the commissioners meetings. Jason is going to start getting to chamber, town and city meetings. Jason meet with Midrivers grant writer Nicole Jones and went over current needs in 5 counties. Jason invited everyone to the next EDD Board Meeting on April 23rd in Wibaux at the Court House. Right now Jason is working with the Town of Terry on a Coal Grant and the Town of Wibaux on a Sewer Grant; all of the counties are having big housing issues.

BIO-PRODUCTS INNOVATION CENTER: Nicole Zimmerman introduced herself and gave a brief description on what she has been doing in the 4 weeks that she has been working. Nicole has met with the extension agents Nico Cantalupo, Dave Bertelsen and Bruce Smith. She has also met with Jerry Bergman and is helping with some grants. She has been going to the newspapers and getting press about BPIC around the counties. Right now she is working on going to a lot of meetings trying to get her name and services out there.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Dick Iversen presented his quarterly report. Dick mentioned that he has been working with Bill Loehding with the EDD. They are currently trying to get all of the policies in order. Dick briefly talked about the 3 new positions that we have hired for. Dick is also working with Paul Finnicum with the Fort Peck Tribes Irrigation Project. They are really moving ahead on this project and will hopefully have pipe down in August. Dick also mentioned at we are working on the Gateway to Opportunity for 2009, which is scheduled for January 29th, 2009 in Dickinson, North Dakota.

NEW BUSINESS: **BPIC**- This position is currently held by Nicole Zimmerman as a part time employee but should be full time by January 2009. **New Employees**- Jason Rittal and Nicole Zimmerman. **CRDC**- Has received funding for 2008 for \$32,000. **NCOC**- Nicole Zimmerman will help NCOC sign farmers up, and could possibly receive 1% of sales. This year with all of the sign-ups the RC&D's could possibly see \$20,000- \$30,000 from the sales of the credits. We have been going through files and have realized that we have no signed Bylaws or Articles of Incorporations in our files. We have sent a letter to NCOC requesting that we get a copy of these.

REPORTS, HAPPENINGS & ISSUES IN RC&D AREA-

RC&D- Evan Barrett will be at RC&D office on May 6th from 8:30-10:00am. Anyone is invited to come.

Carol Markuson- Working on sewer, TSEP, and CDBG Grants.

Jim Shenk- Redoing hospital for \$13 million, Multi purpose building ground breaking on April 17th, Building new airport in Poplar.

Gary McDonald- Trying to get refinery in NE Montana, Signing of oil tax with State of Montana so no double tax for the reservation.

Bill Loehding- CDBG grant for tearing down houses, working on redoing fair building for \$212,000, paving 10.5 miles on Hwy 323.

Stark Ickes- Redid Yuka theatre, got a grant for Home for Elderly, lots of sprinklers going in- not waiting for NRCD.

Kevin Dukart- 33 acre open land subdivision, industrial park out of city limits that is a potential building, working with Julie Jones with housing issues.

Tod Kasten-Big projects have shifted 4.3 billion crude in Bakken, pipelines coming through from Canada to South Dakota, South Dakota getting a refinery.

Roger Grammond- Acting director for SMART, been working for 2 weeks, going through files and cleaning office, looking for new director.

Gene Buxcel- HOME funds are \$300,000.00 and the tax credits will come in at \$1,609,000.00 for the Senior Housing Project, Sugar Beets contract changing, going towards potato, Biodiesel moving ahead with permitting, air permit.

Kathy Green- Prison expanding, Department of Corrections and Hospital both expanding.

Jerry Jimison- Tennis projects has became a 501(c)3 and they have 10 new courts and are able to host tournaments, City council just voted to allow a skateboard park in JC West Park, they will raise \$200,000.

Mickey McCall- Westby Elevator working on construction, replacing bridges with TSEP, all class reunion with festival and with band.

Mike Carlson- Working on wind development in Eastern Montana and starting to attract wind companies, Divide Wind Project leased 75,000 acres to Invenergy.

Mike Corielle- Started in November, overwhelm with calls for business opportunities in area, awarded data backup center for state of Montana- Building 10,000 sq ft., new water tower behind 4B's.

Jim Atchison- Feasibility study for an elderly living complex, Bio-Mass Task Force- submitting 2 grants to help fund bio-mass in 5 counties.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2008 at 9:30 am in Miles City. Place to be announced.

During lunch MDU Employee Brian Ulberg gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Baker Wind Farm, afterwards we went out to the wind farm and go up into one of the towers and see what it looked like.

The meeting was adjourned for by a motion from Mickey McCall, seconded by Kathy Green and carried.