



Eastern Plains RC&D

Area Newsletter

*Working together for the future of
Eastern Montana*

October 2007

Eastern Montana Economic Development Organizations to Meet in Glendive on Wednesday, October 17th at 9:30a.m.

The quarterly council meeting of the Eastern Plains Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, October 17th, at Prairie Development Center at 313 W Valentine in Glendive.

The business meeting will begin at 9:30a.m.

Highlights of the RC&D meeting will include current projects such as the Great Northern Development (EPA Brownfield Grants), NRCS Area Reorganization, Future EPRCD Coordinator/Asst. Coordinator Position, Ft. Peck Irrigation Project and Wind Monitoring Project.

Tod Kasten from the Montana Department of Commerce will be giving a presentation on the Updates and New Economic Development Programs.

Lunch will be catered by the Prairie Development Center and they will give an afternoon tour of their facility.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT APPROVED

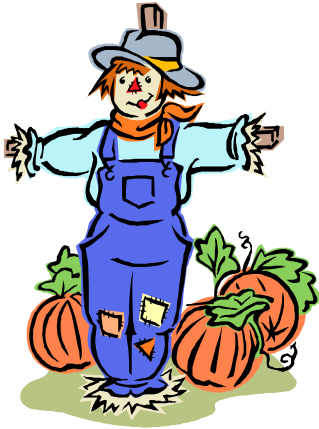
Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) has been informed that their application to be designated as an EDA Economic Development District has been approved according to Carter County Commissioner Bill Loehding, EPEDC Chairman. Sandy K. Baruah, Assistant Secretary of

Commerce for Economic Development with the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. informed Commissioner Loehding of the decision via letter dated August 27, 2007.

Assistant Secretary Baruah the district is comprised of Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, and Wibaux Counties in Montana. The letter stated that President Bush is committed to ensuring that no community or demographic group is excluded from the opportunity to achieve the American dream. To that end, this EDA designation will serve as a foundation for future successes that will benefit both families and businesses in your region.

EDA is committed to providing financial assistance to meet the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States. Baruah also stated in the letter that EDA trusts that this designation will strengthen the economies of the eastern Montana region. Chairman Loehding wishes to thank Eastern Plains RC&D for sponsoring Eastern Plains Economic Development and looks forward to a close working relationship in the future.

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area encompasses the Montana counties of Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, Fallon, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux. RC&D gets people involved to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems in their communities.



Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc.

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 9:30 A.M.

@ Prairie Development Center

313 W Valentine– Glendive, MT

9:30	Council Call to Order Introductions Motion to Approve Agenda	Dixie Berwick, Chairman Council Members and Guests Council Members
9:40 - 9:45	Meeting Minutes Approval	July 25th, Quarterly Meeting in Wibaux
	Treasurer's Report	July 1– September 30
9:45-10:15	Coordinator's Report	Mike Carlson
	Assistant Coordinator's Report	Dick Iversen
	Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC)	Cal Oraw
	Housing Education Assistant	Khrystye Earle
10:15-11:30	Old Business	Mon-Dak Ag-Open GTO-2008
	New Business	NRCS Area Reorganization Future EPRC&D Coordinator /Asst. Coordinator Position Brownfield Grant Ft. Peck Irrigation Project Big Sky E.D. Grants Wind Monitoring Project
11:30	Reports, Happenings, and Issues in RC&D Area	
11:50	Adjournment	Next Annual RC&D Council Meeting Date:January 17th Time: 9:30 a.m. Place: ??
12:00	Lunch: Provided by Farm to Table– Local Food	\$6– Prairie Development Center
1:00 pm	Montana Department of Commerce: Updates and New Economic Development Programs	Tod Kasten
2:00 pm	Tour	Prairie Development Center
3:00	Adjournment	

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. is operated in accordance with Federal law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Reasonable arrangements for persons with a disabilities will be made if request is made to the RC&D office in Sidney, MT, phone (406) 433-2103 Ext. 125, at least one week in advance.

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 Minne-

sota 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 klolley@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 Mako-shika 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!!



Upcoming Events

Oct. 15 ~ NE Montana AG Conference- Glasgow

Oct. 16 ~ New & Important Charitable Giving Laws Seminar- Sidney

Oct. 30 ~ CDBG and TSEP Workshop- Circle

Nov. 13~ Wind Energy Meeting- Ekalaka

Jan. 10, 2008 ~ GTO 2008- Glendive



For more information contact Sarah at (406)433-2103 Ext. 125

Renewable Energy in Montana A Free Introduction to Solar Electricity, Solar Hot Water, and Small Wind Generation

Are you a homeowner or small business interested in lowering your power bills? Are you concerned about environmental issues? As energy security, costs, and climate change becomes more important, clean energy sources are making their way into the mainstream. In Montana, hundreds of homes and businesses have turned to Renewable Energy to offset power bills and contribute to cleaner air, water, and soil. And you can too with these very practical and proven technologies!

This 2-hours informational overview with Christopher Borton, director of Sage Mountain Center, includes a slide show and question and answer session. Also covered:

- Solar and small wind demonstration
- Rebates, tax credits, and financing options

Come away with practical and inspiring ideas that can be applied to your own home, farm, or small business.

Oct. 24, Wednesday

Sheridan County Courthouse
Jubilee Room
100 West Laurel
Plentywood, MT 59254
7 pm -9 pm

Oct. 25, Thursday

Fort Peck Community College
Greet the Dawn Auditorium
605 Indian Avenue
Poplar, MT 59255
6 pm - 8 pm

Oct. 26, Friday

Job Service Workforce Center
74 4th St. N
Glasgow, MT 59230
7 pm - 9pm

No pre-registration required. Admission: Free.

For more information:

Email smc@sagemountain.org or call 406-494-9875

Sponsored by Montana-Dakota Utilities and Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Plains RC&D
Quarterly Council Meeting will start
at 9:30 on October 17th, 2007

Rural Development: 'You Just Can't Get There One County At a Time'

Cities have an innate advantage over rural communities in today's economy, economist Mark Drabenstott says. But, he adds, there is an answer. Rural communities that remain isolated will suffer in today's economy, economist Mark Drabenstott told a meeting of rural Texans on Friday. Rural Americans will prosper when they learn to “get beyond the petty jealousies of Friday night football,” said Drabenstott, who works now with the [Rural Policy Research Institute](#) [1].

Drabenstott told a meeting of the [Texas Rural Innovators Forum](#) [2] that today's economy was increasing regional inequality — and that most rural areas were falling behind income and job growth in many cities. “A whole lot of regions are losing ground,” Drabenstott said. They lack the critical mass of employers, educated workers and amenities found in cities, and many rural areas have become too dependent on the production of commodities. As a result, income and job creation has lagged in rural America. Only four rural counties were among the top ten percent in income creation between 1995 and 2005.

Traditional styles of rural development depended on industrial recruiting, and Drabenstott said that method of building local economies had all but disappeared in a more global economy. New rote manufacturing will locate in the lowest cost nation, Drabenstott said, not in rural American communities. Drabenstott said he had recently heard from the publisher of a newspaper in Iowa, where an appliance manufacturing plant had recently closed. The publisher asked Drabenstott how the town could recruit a Fortune 200 manufacturer. “What an absurd question,” Drabenstott said.

For the past 30 years, economic growth has been increasingly tied to the levels of education. During that time, people with university diplomas have clustered in a particular set of cities —not in rural areas. The percentage of adults with a college degree in rural America is roughly half that of the country's cities.

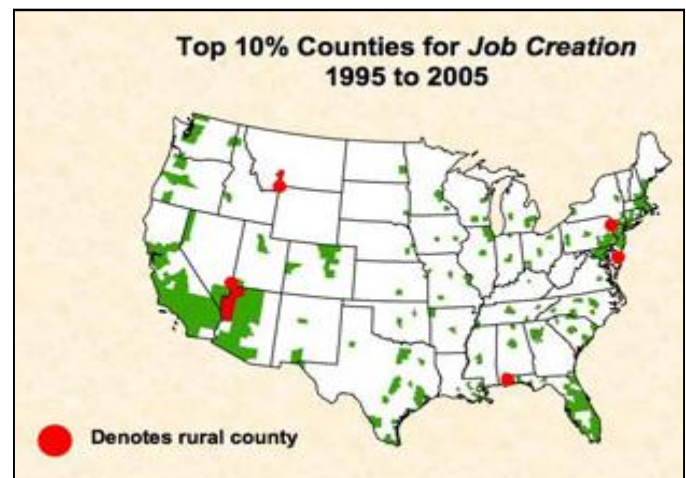
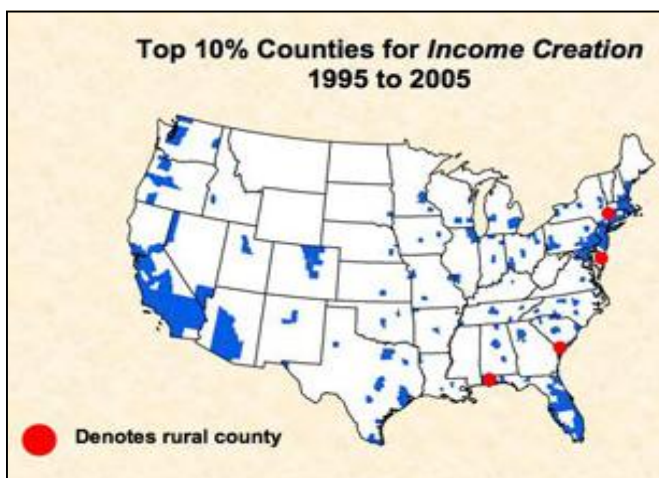
Drabenstott told the Texas audience that young people are attracted to the diversity of cities — draining talent out of rural communities. The economist said that rural communities could no longer count on lower crime rates to attract young people, that rural areas had to provide both opportunity for entrepreneurs and a higher quality of life in order to be economically successful.

Businesses have found it increasingly efficient to locate in urban areas where they can find workers and remain in touch with the latest research and market trends. Instead of dispersing, firms are clustering.

To counteract the accumulation of talent and businesses found in the cities, the former Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank economist said rural counties must cooperate. “You just can't get there one county at a time,” Drabenstott said. It's only by gathering together the talent and resources of a region, the economist said, that rural areas can begin to match the efficiencies of city economies.

Regional cooperation in rural America is rare, however. In most successful regional collaborations, Drabenstott said, there is an organization that brings the community together — a “King Arthur” who creates the regional roundtable. In many cases, the catalyst of regional cooperation is either a non-profit group or a university or community college.

To check out this article and more information check out the website at: <http://www.dailyyonder.com/print/508>.



EASTERN PLAINS RESOURCE CONSERVATION
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Eastern Plains RC&D
Quarterly Council Meeting will
be on October 17th
9:30 am—Glendive, MT

BOO!!



Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc

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Council

One representative from each county, tribal and municipal government, and conservation district; and the chairman of each resource committee.