



Eastern Plains RC&D

Area Newsletter

Working together for the future
of Eastern Montana

April 2008

Eastern Montana Economic Development Organizations to Meet in Baker on Wednesday, April 16th at 9:30a.m.

The quarterly council meeting of the Eastern Plains Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at **Thee Garage**, 19 West Montana Ave, Baker. **The business meeting will begin at 9:30a.m.**

Highlights of the RC&D meeting will include current projects such as the Bio-Product Innovation Center, new employees Nicole Zimmerman and Jason Rittal, Fort Kipp Irrigation Project, New CRM Employee.

Lunch will be served at Thee Garage with the new speaker Brian Ulverg from MDU to talk about the Wind Farm in Baker, after lunch we will have a tour of the wind farm.

The National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) To Hold Workshops in Montana

The National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC), a Montana-based organization, allows Ag producers and landowners to earn income by storing carbon in their soil through no-till crop production, long-term grass seeding practices, grazing management practices, grassland, forestry, and methane capture projects Philips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, McCone, Garfield, Richland, and Dawson counties are qualified for enrollment in the NCOC Program for conservation tillage, rangeland, ag methane, forestry, and grassland plantings. Ted Dodge with the National Carbon Offset Coalition will present information about the newest carbon credit opportunities which landowners can apply their acreages of carbon through April 2008.

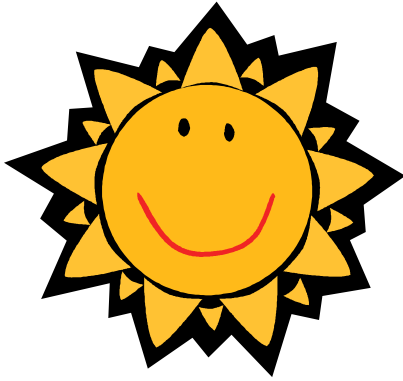
NCOC will be conducting workshops throughout northeastern Montana. The workshops are scheduled to begin on April 8th through April 11th. All landowners and the public are invited to attend.

The following are the locations, times, and places for the upcoming workshops.

April 8 th Tuesday -	Philips County Library, (Basement) in Malta	10:00 am to 12:30
April 9 th Wed. -	Nemont Telephone, 720 2 nd Ave. in Scobey	10:00 am to 12:30
April 9 th Wed. -	Sheridan County Courthouse (Bicentennial Rm) in Plentywood	1:30 pm to 3:30
April 10 th Thur. -	Elks Lodge (Lodge Rm) in Sidney	10:00 am to 12:30
April 10 th Thur. -	Hungry Joe Hall, 323 E. Berry in Glendive	1:30 pm to 3:30
April 11 th Friday -	Smidtz Banquet in Circle	10:00 am to 12:30
April 11 th Friday -	VFW Hall in Jordan	1:30 pm to 3:30

For more information about the workshops, contact Emily Tafoya at (406) 491-4472.
Visit the NCOC website at <http://www.ncoc.us> for specific rates based on land use.

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, April 16, 2008 9:30 A.M.

@ Thee Garage

19 West Montana Ave– Baker, Montana

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	Jan 30, Annual Meeting in Sidney
	Treasurer's Report	Jan 1—March 31
9:45-10:15	Coordinator's Report	Dick Iversen
	Certified Regional Development Corp (CRDC)/Economic Development Corp (EDD)	Jason Rittal
	Housing Education Assistant	Khrystye Earle
	Bio-Product Innovation Center	Nicole Zimmerman
10:15-11:30	Old Business	Eastern Plains Economic Development District (EDD)
	New Business	Bio-Products Innovation Center New Employees
11:30	Reports, Happenings, and Issues in RC&D Area	
11:50	Adjournment	Next Quarterly RC&D Council Meeting Date: July 16 Time: 9:30 a.m. Place: ??
12:00	Lunch: \$7– Club Croissant– Ham/Turkey/Cheese, Soups, Dessert & Beverage	Thee Garage– 19 West Montana Ave, Baker MT
		Noon Speaker: MDU Employee Brian Ulverg
1:00 pm	Tour: Wind Farm	Given by Brian Ulverg
2:00 pm		
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.

New Bio-Product Innovation Center Coordinator Hired



Nicole Zimmerman was hired on March 24th as the Director of the Bio- Products Innovation Center started in Sidney. Nicole is really excited to jump right in and help out with anything that is needed to be done.

Nicole graduated with a Bachelor in Business Administration and a minor in Banking and Finance at Dickinson State University. Nicole is a native of New Leipzig, North Dakota and grew up on a arm/ranch.

When asked what she is looking forward to Nicole said, "I am very excited on my new position and to meet people and to help ag producers and businesses with value added ag projects."

If anyone has any questions or would like to meet Nicole, you can contact her at 406-891-0537.

New Economic Development Corporation Director Hired

The Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce that Jason Rittal has accepted the position of Executive Director for the five county area. Jason is a 1990 graduate of Terry High School and a 1994 graduate of Montana State University-Bozeman with a degree in Business Management.

Jason has 12 years of experience in community development, business planning, grant writing, and grant administration. As a native of eastern Montana and with family still in the area Jason is very excited to be in a position to help the area.

Jason may be reached at 406-234-3255 or jrittal@middrivers.com and will be visiting each community on a regular basis. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please feel free to call and set a time for him to visit with you.



Upcoming Events

Made in Montana

3 hour workshop about the Made in Montana program

Presenter: Lonie Stimac

\$10.00 includes material, coffee & snacks

April 22: Culbertson – 1st Community Bank - 9 am - noon
Plentywood – Courthouse, Jubilee Room - 2 pm- 5pm

April 23: Scobey - Nemont Friendship Room - 9 am - noon
Wolf Point - GNDC Conference Room - 6 pm - 9 pm

April 24: Circle - Senior Center - 9 am - 12 noon
Jordan - VFW Hall - 2 pm - 5 pm

April 25: Glasgow –Courthouse, Community Room -9am-noon

Cash Flow Management

Topics: What are warning signs of financial trouble?
How do financials allow management to evaluate, manage & plan your business?

FREE Workshop

Instructor: Robert Much

SBA Business Development Specialist

Wednesday, April 23

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Great Northern Development Conference Room

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

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
January 30, 2008

The Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. annual council meeting was held on January 30, 2008, at The MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney, MT. 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), Randy Phelan (NRCS), Gene Buxcel (DCEDC), Mickey McCall (Plentywood CD, Commissioners), David Pratt (NRCS), Steve Olson (Work Force Services Division), Daniel Watson (Rosebud County), Chet Hill (NDSU/MSU Extension), Tony Barone (Richland County Conservation District), Khrystye Earle (EPRCD), Jim Shanks (Roosevelt County), Gary Macdonald (Roosevelt County).

Chairman Dixie Berwick called the meeting to order and meeting participants introduced themselves. **The agenda was reviewed and NCOC Report was added and approved by a motion from Ginny Archdale seconded by Stark Ickes and carried.**

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes were reviewed and approved by a motion from Mickey McCall, seconded by Stark Ickes and carried. The Treasurer's report was reviewed. **A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Daniel Watson and seconded by Tony Barone and carried.**

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Mike Carlson presented his quarterly report. He thanked everyone for coming in the cold weather. Mike showed everyone a copy of the annual report and says it has gotten better, in 1999 there were 10 projects and in 2007 there were 35-40 projects. Mike went through the annual report and pointed out some of the things he had worked on:

- Gateway to Opportunity was in Glendive, MT again this year. He stated about 200 people attended, and he has heard a lot of good things about the speakers and classes.
- Corral Creek Wind Farm is up and running and the \$38 million was spent on 13 turbines.

Mike also showed a copy of the Hi-Lites that were sent out to all sponsorship members, he feels that sending out the Hi-Lites has helped bring more sponsorships. Mike also finished up his wind feasibility study and went over what he would like to spend the \$9,000 on. He would like to buy new wind equipment so that his wind committee can put new towers up for local land owners. Tony Barone asked Mike who benefits from the wind towers? Mike told us that only the landowner benefits currently from the towers.

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Dick Iversen presented his quarterly report. Dick thanked Mike Carlson

and his wife Susan, for letting him come and work. Dick also thanked the board and Khrystye Earle for all of their work. He also thanked Sarah Herman for doing everything so fast and getting it done in time, he then thanked Cal Oraw for helping getting the EDD finalized. Dick then went over the annual report projects that he worked on:

- MonDak Ag Open- worked on the tours and then sponsor a hole with Montana made products
- GTO- Dick went to some classes during the GTO and helped with the Wine Down
- CRM- A new Coordinator was hired to take over Lyn Guenther's position
- Dry Redwater Rural Water Project- Has started surveying and have gotten more signatures, they currently are at 3,047 people
- Ethanol Project- Just for the Congressional staff educational tour to go and ask questions and to take a tour of the plants
- Ethanol Fuel Workshop- 100 people attended, Dick helped organize
- Ft. Peck Buffalo Herd- All tests came back Brucellosis free
- Ft. Kipp Irrigation Project- 1,900 acre center pivot irrigation system

Randy Phelan who is acting for Dave Kascht told us that the supervision for Coordinator's will be at State level. He also stated that the NRCS will be supplying \$10,000 for administrative assistance.

CRDC REPORT: Cal Oraw told up the EDD is up and running with a start date of January 1, 2008. It was originally sent for October 1, 2007, but they had it moved until they were ready. Cal told the council that the EDD board is meeting in Wibaux on Friday, February 1st to look at the applications for the executive director. The annual CRDC report has been finished and has been sent it. The discretionary funds were used on an ethanol tour that was sponsored by EPAC and The Eastern Plains. The tour was on January 28-29 2008. Chet Hill was one of the people that went on the tour and he talked about the tour. He said it was pretty cold but there were 23 people attending, including the Dept of Commerce, Dept of Environment Quality, Dept of Labor (WIRED) and a few others. Mick Miller gave a bus tour of Red Trail Energy. Chet also brought some samples of distiller's grain and ethanol that were passed around. Gene Buxcel also attended; he said there are 9 new homes in Richardton because of the ethanol plant. The feed lots are also keeping families in the town; they feedlots are using the co-products to help fatten the cows. Chet Hill passes around a bag of cow manure for everyone to smell, the manure had been through a methane digester, the manure had no smell.

HOME BUYER EDUCATION PROGRAM: Khrystye gave a brief summary of what she had done this past year; she had 13 classes and taught 110 students. This year she will continue charging a \$20 fee per certificate given out; this fee will go into a special account and will be used when there maybe reduced funding from the Montana Homeownership Program. Khrystye has also started giving one-on-one counseling, and

this is very helpful to the clients who need more individual help. The one-on-one will be paid per session this year instead of per hour. Khrystye will be asking banks for sponsorships this year. She will be going to training on February 10-11th.

OLD BUSINESS: Annual Plan of Operations- The plan was handed out and reviewed and approved by a motion from Bruce Smith seconded by Mickey McCall and carried.

Gateway to Opportunity- Held on January 10, 2008 with about 200 people attending with 5 classes per hour. The noon speaker was Cole Gustafson. There was a wine down after all of the classes that had all locally made food, wine and beer. It was well attended and many good comments were heard. The next meeting will be on February 15th in Beach, ND. The next GTO will be in Dickinson, ND for 2 years before coming back to Montana. **Eastern Plains Economic Development Corp.** The MOU was briefly talked about and approved to sign by a motion from Bruce Smith seconded by Daniel Watson and carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Election of Officers- Dixie told the group we need 2 new officers for 2008 as Dixie Berwick, chairman and Kevin Dukart, treasurer, were both up for election. **Ginny Archdale nominated that Dixie Berwick stay Vice Chairman, Bruce Smith seconded and motion carried, and Dixie agreed. Stark Ickes nominated Kevin Dukart stay as Treasurer seconded by Ginny Archdale and carried.**

Annual Report- The annual report was went over earlier in the meeting, no one had any questions. Ginny Archdale stated that the staff did a nice job on it. Sarah Herman told everyone that the website was up and running, thanks to Mickey McCall. It has all of the current projects, minutes and meeting dates. Its address is- www.eprcd.org. **BPIC-** Bio-Product Innovation Center has been accepted to be in the Eastern Plains Office, it will be a part-time position. Dick Iversen commented that we will be putting the job description in the paper as soon as we hire the new EDD director. There is too much confusion when there is more than one opening in the office. **Gary Macdonald made a motion to accept the new position, Bruce Smith seconded and motion carried. NCOC Report-** Ray Trumpower gave a quick update on the NCOC. They have 2 tribes in their Tribal Portfolio. The United States Congress has been involved but has tried to stay anonymous, but the Washington Post has found out and has printed the whole story.

REPORTS, HAPPENINGS & ISSUES IN RC&D AREA-

Gene Buxcel- showed samples of bio-fuels samples that have went through his 80 gallon batch plant (soy, canola, peanut, camolina, safflower, and a few other types)

Jim Shanks- there will be a new generation plant- Basin Electric. Dry Prairie has a new building. Building a new water treatment building in Wolf Point- the bid was started at \$23,000 it is now around \$50,000. They are also updating 2 hospitals in Wolf Point and Poplar it will cost \$13 million.

Randy Phelan- NRCS planning and contracting 225 EQUIP Contracts worth \$6 million.

Chet Hill- there is a Midway Shippers Association Meeting on February 14th in Williston.

Steve Olson- Department of Labor (WIRED) told everyone there is a lot of money for training in the workforce area- North Central Montana and Eastern Montana. There goal is to train 500 people by 2009.

Daniel Watson- PPL is going through a lot of employee changes in the next 5 years they will have around 300 people leaving or retire. Colstrip just got 7 housing units and Forsyth got 5 units. The V Store Trading Post is going out of business.

Stark Ickes- Lots of retired people buying up all available housing. Elder care got a grant to buy land and start plans. The conservation districts loan program has all of the available money loaned out for the second time in ten years. There is currently a study going on about getting a spur track to haul coal from the mine.

Ginny Archdale- Application started for grant/loans for sewer project (1.7 million). Wibaux purchased medical facility from Grenora. Horizon group spent \$7000 on a 501 (c) 3 organization and a housing study. District Drug and Alcohol and the school received a grant to figure something for students to do other than drink. Ginny is also working on census addresses so that no one get forgotten and to keep the numbers right.

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

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

There is a NEW Sheriff in Town!!!

Dick Iversen has been hired to replace Mike Carlson as the RC&D Coordinator.

Dick is excited to be working with the board and to see what new projects are available.

Currently Dick is working on the Fort Kipp Irrigation Projects, and hiring and training the EDD, BPIC and CRM positions.

Dick is also working on seeking funding to update the ethanol feasibility study that was done in 2006.

If you have any questions or need to get a hold of Dick please call him at (406)433-2103 ext. 126 or email him at- richard.iversen@mt.usda.gov.



EASTERN PLAINS RESOURCE CONSERVATION

AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC

2745 W. HOLLY ST.

SIDNEY, MT 59270

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Eastern Plains RC&D

Quarterly Council Meeting will

be on April 16th

9:30 am—Baker, MT

W e l c o m e S p r i n g

Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc

Staff

Officers

Phone: 406-433-2103, Ext. 125 Fax: 406-433-7351

Dick Iversen, Coordinator
Sarah Herman, Administrative Assistant
Khrystye Earle, Housing Education Specialist
Jason Rittal, Executive Director— CRDC/EDD
(Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, Wibaux)
Nicole Zimmerman, BPIC Coordinator

Office location: 2745 W. Holly St. in Sidney
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Email: sarah.gullickson@rcdnet.net

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Ginny Archdale, Secretary
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Phone: (406) 796-24712
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Council

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

Kevin Dukart, Treasurer
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