



Eastern Plains RC&D

Area Newsletter

Working together for the future of
Eastern Montana

July 2008

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

The quarterly council meeting of the Eastern Plains Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, July 16, at USDA-ARS Fort Keogh at 243 Fort Keogh Road in Miles City. **The business meeting will begin at 9:30a.m.**

Highlights of the RC&D meeting will include current projects such as the Fort Kipp Irrigation Project, Current BPIC Projects, Wind Energy Project, RC&D's Energy Saving Project, CRDC Discretionary Funding Use, 2008 Ag Open and the current Housing Projects.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 (noon) and will be \$7.00. An afternoon tour of the Tongue River Vineyard will be at 2:00 pm, with a wine sampling at the end.



Grant Writing Basics: Bringing Your Ideas to Life

Presented by Dennis C. Alexander
Horizons Across Montana / MSU Extension

July 15, 2008 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Miles Community College – Rm. 106
Miles City Montana

It's easy to register for this **FREE** class. Just send an e-mail with your name, employer's name, phone number and job title to: scraddock@miles-city-mt.org



Mon-Dak Ag Open 2007



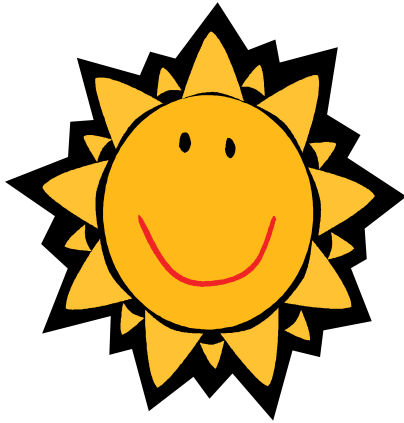
The Mon-Dak Ag Open takes place in Williston, North Dakota every August. This year it will be August 5-7th, 2008.

There will be 4 tours with 2 being in Eastern Montana.

Each year "Business Montana" sponsors a hole at the golf tournament and we serve Montana made products. This year we will be serving Beef Strips and French Fries from Eastern Montana.

Helping with the hole in 2007 were: Julie Goss, Sarah Herman, Paula Anderson, Leslie Messer, Jim Atchison, Tod Kasten, Mike Carlson and Dick Iversen.

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

@ USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Building

243 Fort Keogh Road– Miles City, 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	April 16
	Treasurer's Report	April-June
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
10:15-10:45	Old Business	Eastern Plains Economic Development District (EDD) NCOG
10:45-11:50	New Business	Fort Kipp Irrigation Project Wind Energy Project Josh's Energy Saving Project CRDC Discretionary Funding Use Ag Open
11:50	Adjournment	Next Quarterly RC&D Council Meeting Date:October 15 Time: 9:30 a.m. Place: ??
11:50-12:00	Any Area Meetings To Announce	If you have a meeting to announce please share with group.
12:00	Lunch: Chicken, Salads, Vegetable & Fruit Tray and Drinks	\$7.00
1:00 pm	Reports, Happenings, and Issues in RC&D Area	
2:00 pm	Tour of Tongue River Vineyard	Bob Thaden
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.



News From The "New Sheriff in Town"



Well I am not sure I like being stuck with the Handle of the "New Sheriff in Town". But what do you do when the Office Administrator, AKA -office boss gives you the handle. Well you're stuck with it.

The 2008 Farm Bill treated RC&D's ok. It does state in the farm bill that each RC&D will have one funded USDA coordinator. Randy Phelan has taken over the duties at the State NRCS office that Dave Kascht previously held. Randy was the Assistant State Conservationist, stationed in Glasgow and managed this area for the past five years. Randy is very familiar with our area. Give him a call at 587-6794, or stop and see him in the Federal Building in Bozeman. Dave Kascht had been great to work with, but has chosen to work in the Bozeman Area Office, as Assistant State Conservationist for the region.

Some of the projects the crew has been working on include:

1. Wind Energy- Previous Coordinator Mike Carlson started quite an in depth project monitoring wind long before it was popular. EPRC&D has decided to follow through and continue this effort. Mike has some towers and monitoring equipment he continues to monitor. The EPRC&D is developing a program funded primarily by grants to place more towers in the areas that have not had monitoring. This is primarily the central and northern parts of the RC&D area. Various Conservation Districts, Ft Peck tribes, Mt Departments of DNRC and DEQ, and the USDA ARS have all indicate interests in helping.
2. The Bio-Diesel – The pilot test plant we assisted the Eastern Ag Research Center to purchase has been delivered and installed in Sidney at the research center. Testing of the various oil seed crops that are grown in Montana is being completed and results will be soon out.
3. Ethanol- whewwwwww, well the feasibility study we assisted with and completed in October of 2006, was out of date as far as crop and fuel prices by April of 2007. The EPRC&D has received some Department of Commerce discretionary funds, with the assistance of Regional DOC director Tod Kasten, to update this study. Great Northern Development has also provided assistance and support in this effort. The cost analysis and charts showing break even for various plant size, crop cost, and ethanol fuel prices will be completed by October 2008.
4. Carbon Sequestration/ Credit– The EPRC&D staff has been attending producer meetings hosted by National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) and assisting producers to complete Carbon Credit contracts. NCOC was formed by the RC&D's of Montana in 2001. This effort is coming of age with the price of Carbon Credits increasing from \$1.50 in July of 2007 to over \$6.00 in the past month. We completed one contract and submitted to NCOC for contracting. Nicole Zimmerman, our Bio Products Innovation center director has been leading the Carbon Credit contract work for the RC&D. We will have an in-depth update on the EPRC&D's involvement during the July RC&D meeting in Miles City.

Well that is all for now, next time I will list all the speeding tickets the staff has acquired in the past few months, driving way to fast to get to the job.

Dick Iversen

406-433-2103 ext. 125

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 EDD: 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-

Sarah Herman- 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 become 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 Coryell- 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 at Fort Keogh, 243 Fort Keogh Road.

During lunch MDU Employee Brian Ulberg gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Baker Wind Farm.

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

Afterwards we went out to the Baker Wind Farm and got to go up into one of the towers and see what it looked like.



BPIC Happenings

By: Nicole Zimmerman

The past three months starting as a Bio-Products Innovation Center Director (BPIC) have been enjoyable and rewarding. I enjoy meeting new people in the communities and traveling throughout the six counties that I serve (Wibaux, Richland, Fallon, Carter, Prairie, and Dawson).

When I first started I wanted to learn as much as I could about each county so I visited with County Extension Agents, County Commissioners, City Clerks, area newspapers, and banks. Currently, I do have a handful of projects going on and I enjoy that I can help people and businesses in Southeast Montana.

I'm always looking for new ideas and projects to work on therefore if yourself or if you know someone that would want to start an agriculture project or want to expand on an agriculture project let me know.

My contact information is zimmerman_nicole@hotmail.com or call my cell at (406) 891-0537.

NEED BUSINESS GROWTH??

Attend the Eureka! Winning Ways Business Growth Seminar Eureka! Winning Ways Business Growth Seminar, a FREE and unique opportunity to learn about the scientific method for developing and selecting winning product ideas called Eureka! Winning Ways. Get immediate feedback on your organization's potential to rapidly grow ideas into reality.

For more information & to RSVP ,
go to www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com
or call 406.994.3812

Glasgow —July 29 (1-4 pm)
Cottonwood Inn

Wolf Point—July 30 (9-noon)
Great Northern Development

Sidney —August 13 (1-4 pm)
Northern Plains Ag Research Lab

Miles City —August 14 (9-noon)
Miles Community College, Rm 322

First Time Homebuyer's Class Update

As summer settles in the First-time Homebuyer's Classes are in full swing through out Eastern Montana. Our next scheduled class is July 12th in Glendive at the Library from 8:30am - 4:30 pm the next class will be in August at Glasgow. For more info on the classes or housing counseling available call Khrystye Earle at 480-3162.

With all the foreclosure's happening more people are choosing to take this workshop to help them make wise decisions. Freddie Mac is now also requiring these classes to their first-time homebuyers. Studies have shown that people who attend these classes have reduces their foreclosure chances by 40%.

You may know someone who wants to get a home but has bad credit or isn't able to budget easily. Our one-on-one housing counseling is available for those who wish to create a plan to achieve their goal of homeownership.

For more info on the classes or housing counseling available call Khrystye Earle at 480-3162.



EASTERN PLAINS RESOURCE CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC
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Eastern Plains RC&D
Quarterly Council Meeting will
be on July 16th
9:30 am—Miles City, MT

Happy 4th of



Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc

Staff

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

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

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

Council

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

Officers

Dixie Berwick, Chairman
Box 351, Culbertson, MT 59218
Phone: (406) 787-5271
E-Mail: culbertsonmt@hotmail.com

Mickey McCall, Vice-Chairman
119 N Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254
Phone: (406) 765-1801 ext. 118
E-Mail: mickey.mccall@mt.nacdnet.net

Ginny Archdale, Secretary
PO Box 219, Wibaux, MT 59353
Phone: (406) 796-24712
E-Mail: wibauxmt@midrivers.com

Kevin Dukart, Treasurer
Box 1512, Baker, MT 59313
Phone: (406) 778-2692
E-Mail: cibaker@midrivers.com