

Our vision is to be the best resource for business assistance, through collaborations and partnerships, for all communities within and surrounding Glacier County.

Glacier County Economic Development
February Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19th, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Glacier Satellite Office, Browning, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Rod Cline, Tony Sitzmann, John Overcast, Ken Hoyt, Mike Schultz, George Heavy Runner, Skye Gilham, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival:

Absent Excused: Mary Jo Bremner

Absent Unexcused:

Public Present: Tash Weismiller, Meagan Hill Sundy, Sara Converse

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 2:02 p.m.

III. Reports:

A. John motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve the February agenda. Motion carried.

B. January minutes stand as written.

C. Tony motioned, seconded by John, to approve the January financials. Motion carried.

D. Tony motioned, seconded by John, to accept the February expense budget. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

A. Shop Local Winners: Last 2 winners include Taylor Salvino for Billman's Home Décor, and Andrew Shortman for Tee to Green.

B. 2026 Scholarships: It's time to launch the 2026 scholarship program. Arkaidy to get the word out to both schools, the paper, and to post on our socials. It was discussed to make sure scholarships are available to trade-school applicants as well as colleges/universities.

V. New Business:

A. Next 2 Shop Local Businesses: Next 2 businesses are Billman's Ace Hardware and Carquest Auto.

B. Executive Director Report:

- **Central Park Signage Update:** Rod and Arkaidy attended a city council meeting where Arkaidy presented the 2 drafts for the Central Park signs. City council seemed to like the project. Questions included which Cut Bank logo is the appropriate one to use, as well as the stability for the railing to mount these signs, but that they can be reinforced. Waiting for council to discuss and make a decision.
- **USDA Grant Updates:** The grant process is excitedly moving forward. Documents should be signed soon and then we can move forward with executing the grant agreement!
- **Reimagining Rural Report:** Great turnouts in Cut Bank and Browning. Browning is hoping to continue meetings in order to accomplish more in the future outside of RR.
- **Updates on Local Businesses:** Arkaidy working with Paula's All Occasion Gifts on a logo and business plan. Working with Pat Compton on business plan.
- **Activate Rural Program:** Cut Bank Marketplace on Main is an excellent candidate for a grant program called Activate Rural. It comes with a \$50,000 award. John motioned, seconded by Ken, to apply for the grant. Motion carried.
- **Hotel Project:** Arkaidy has met with someone from Highland Architects in Billings, and have pinpointed 3 possible locations for a hotel project. One seems most promising and the ball has just started rolling on the concept and feasibility study for this.

VI. Activity Reports:

- VII. Browning:** Reimagining Rural sessions Feb 4th, 11th, and 18th at 6 p.m. at the Tribal Council Offices. Great turnout last week. Blackfeet Tribe and Agricultural Departments, along with BIA, starting a soft-opening of "The Field of Dreams" February 13th.
- VIII. East Glacier Park:** The Peak Restaurant is open again. Two Medicine Grill is also open.
- IX. Babb/St. Mary:** Cattle Barron has purchased a new mini-building to give them a place to re-build a new chapter of the business. Babb has established a non-profit foundation called Build a Better Babb. Non-profit status has been achieved and things are excitingly moving forward.
- X. Cut Bank:** TWO new businesses going into the marketplace! Montana IV and Arkaidy's Fresh Kitchen. Reimagining Rural sessions Feb 4th, 11th, and 18th at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Marketplace on Main hosted an open house with art and music vendors.

XI. Correspondence: None.

XII. Public Comment:

XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on March 19th, at 2 p.m., at the GCED Office in Cut Bank, MT and via Google meets.

The mission of the Glacier County Economic Development is to promote, stimulate, and advance the general welfare, commerce, economic development, and prosperity of its region.