

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
March Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
GCED Office, Cut Bank, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Rod Cline, Tony Sitzmann, Ken Hoyt, Tom McKay, Mike Schultz, Mary Jo Bremner, George Heavy Runner, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival: Sky Gilham

Absent Excused:

Absent Unexcused: John Overcast

Public Present: Jonnalea St. Goddard, Fonda RedFox, Dawn Gray, Sarah Converse, Megan Hill Sundy.

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 1:02 p.m.

III. Reports:

- A. Mary Jo motioned, seconded by Mike, to approve the March agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval of February minutes. They stand as written.
- C. George motioned, seconded by Mike, to approve the February financials. Motion carried.
- D. Mike motioned, seconded by Mary Jo, to accept the March expense budget. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

A. Shop Local Winners: The last set of winners are Sloane Stuart for Pioneer Bar and Water to Wine Steakhouse, and Danelle Burns for Carquest.

V. New Business:

A. Next 2 Shop Local Businesses: The next 2 businesses are Sparkles Salon in Cut Bank and The Bunkhouse in Babb.

B. Chamber Banquet Table: Vote on purchasing a table for the annual Chamber Banquet as we do every year. \$320 for the table and \$40 for each additional ticket. Tony motioned, seconded by George, to purchase a table as well as additional tickets if needed. Motion carried.

C. Executive Director Report:

- **USDA Grant Update:** We are finally moving on this grant. We have 3 contractors we are working with. The first, the surveyor, has finished their portion. We are now on the second contractor who will take 1-2 months to complete their portion.
- **Scholarship Updates:** Scholarship announcements have been made. Both high school counselors have been given all scholarship information, the Pioneer Press said they would print about it, and it continues to be shared through social media. Deadline April 30th.
- **Hotel Project:** Connected with Highland Architects on possible hotel sites. They narrowed down the Bunkhouse building owned by Aaron and Chrissy Grimm. Chrissy is presenting to City Council on April 23rd, Arkaidy will be there in support. We have been asked to write a letter of support. Mike motioned, seconded by Skye, to write a letter of support for the project. Motion carried.
- **Activate Rural Grant:** Grant application has been submitted. Finalists will be announced early April.
- **Hiring an Assistant Grant Writer:** Arkaidy spoke to the board about hiring an assistant to help write grants. This would be a part-time position and the allotted 30 hours per week the Executive Director has will be shared with the assistant grant writer, so this should not raise our wages or costs. We do have a candidate and Arkaidy shared his resume. The board agreed to interview for a part-time grant writer. The job will be posted publicly and open for all to apply.

VI. Grant-Back Loan Applicant Presentations:

We received 5 completed applications for the first cycle of our new Grant-Back Loan program. Applicants were George Stillsmoking, Paula Augare, Jonnalea St. Goddard, Dawn Gray, and Fonda RedFox. Those who attended to present: Dawn Gray, Fonda Red Fox, and Jonnalea St. Goddard. Paula Augare could not make it but sent in a statement to go along with her application which was read by Arkaidy. Unable to connect with George Stillsmoking at all.

VII. Activity Reports:

Browning: De La Salle Bingo Night and Spaghetti Dinner March 18th at 6:30 p.m. BFCC Instructor Diana Arnoux-Weatherwax awarded grant to study long COVID.

East Glacier Park: It's cold. Anyone have any happenings to report?

Babb/St. Mary: Milk River project continues to make progress. Hall's Coulee Siphon path was slightly changed, but the canal is safely reshaping. Babb Community Meeting will be on March 26th.

Cut Bank: Marketplace on Main hosted their 3-year anniversary celebration on March 14th, including the grand opening of Arkaidy's Fresh Kitchen. Mercadie Davis Photography will be

doing Easter bunny photos on March 22. Yarned and Dangerous free class was held on March 12th. Chamber banquet coming up on April 11th.

VIII. Correspondence:

IX. Public Comment: None.

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on April

XI. 16th, at 2 p.m., at the Glacier Satellite Office in Browning, 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.