

***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
May Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21st, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
GCED Office, Cut Bank, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Rod Cline, Skye Gilham, Mike Schultz, Mary Jo Bremner, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival:

Absent Excused: John Overcast, Tony Sitzmann, George HeavyRunner

Absent Unexcused: Tom McKay, Ken Hoyt

Public Present:

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 2:04 p.m.

III. Reports:

A. Mike motioned, seconded by MaryJo, to approve the May agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval of April minutes. They stand as written.

C. Mike motioned, seconded by MaryJo, to approve the April financials. Motion carried.

D. Mike motioned, seconded by Skye, to accept the May expense budget. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

A. Shop Local Winners: The last set of winners are Sharon Bertholote for Quilts Happen and Shirley Weatherwax for Teeples Fresh Market. Current Business is The Peak Restaurant in East Glacier Park.

B. Grant-Back Awardee Updates: Trailhead Saloon contract signed and all conditions have been executed. Payment made to CAT Graphics for signage. Paula's is still in the works as we need to find a better price for her signage, and confirm a grant for paint.

C. Grant Writer Update: Two potential candidates. One never responded for an interview, the second candidate updated that their schedule has changed, they could potentially be available to write grants on a contract basis, so we will consider that as we seek out a qualified applicant.

V. New Business:

A. Hand Out Anonymous Scholarship Applications: We have received only 1 application for Browning High School, and 3 applications for Cut Bank High School. Anonymous copies were handed out for the board to review. Please return votes by June 1st.

B. Next 2 Shop Local Drawings: Next two businesses are Subway in Cut Bank and Char Char Asian Store.

C. Set Location, Date, and Time for Annual Board meeting: Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at The Pioneer Bar in Cut Bank.

D. Executive Director Report:

- **Sunset RV/City Water Update:** Met with the city to discuss how this project will affect or be affected by the current city water improvement needs, specifically the southwest lift station that is in poor condition. Received confirmation that we won't be in conflict with the above stated. Our project is free to move ahead as intended, and CASNE Associates will present their plans to the city at a later date.
- **Activate Rural Grant Update:** Arkaidy was very happy to share with the board that our grant application was selected as one of 10 participants (out of 128 applicants) in the 2026 Activate Rural Learning Cohort Lab. This participation includes a \$50,000 grant and 2 years of support! The grantees have established a board under the name Cultivate Cut Bank, and this organization will be what the grant program will be run under. GCED remains the fiscal agent.
- **Cut Bank Central Park Revitalization:** The Central Park area is undergoing a lot of revitalization thanks to all the efforts of Cultivate Cut Bank, Cut Bank Marketplace on Main, MSU Extension, GCED, and other volunteers. Weeds have been pulled, trashcans and planters spray painted, Wayne Dusterhoff will be painting removable murals to go into the recessed and lit empty spaces, gravel will be going in, along with more plants. The space is looking very nice and will continue to transform as a creative third space in Cut Bank.
- **Community Business Updates:** Seeing some notable activity in Glacier County. Arkaidy connected with Tony, owner of Rising Wolf Outfitters in East Glacier Park. They are getting ready to open for the season. They operate a coffee shop, gear rental center, overnight cabins, and are currently working to open a tap house and restaurant. Very exciting things for EGP. In Cut Bank, a new set of Airbnb tiny houses are going up near the pool park. Arkaidy connected with owner Scott who shared information about the project. More lodging in Cut Bank is always great.

VI. Activity Reports:

Browning: IINNII Days coming up May 20-22 in Browning at Buffalo Spirit Hills Ranch. Health Day and activities May 12th at BFCC campus, and an open house will be the same day for prospective students. Tribal elections are taking place currently. Class of 2026 graduation took place May 16th, congratulations graduates!

East Glacier Park: Rising Wolf Outfitters opening this week, and renovations are currently underway for a taproom/restaurant inside. Seasonal businesses still closed, but cleanup is happening now.

Babb/St. Mary: Rising Sun Pizza opening 5/22. Cattle Barron hoping to open soon for the summer, a date has not yet been announced.

Cut Bank: Graduation happening May 24th, congratulations to the class of 2026!

VII. Correspondence:

VIII. Public Comment: Sweetgrass Development Annual meeting June 11th at 6 p.m. in Choteau at the American Legion.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on June 23rd at the Pioneer Bar 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.