

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
April Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16th, 2026, 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, Tom McKay, Mike Schultz, Mary Jo Bremner, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival: George Heavy Runner

Absent Excused: John Overcast

Absent Unexcused: Skye Gilham

Public Present: Meagan Hill Sundy

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 2:00 p.m.

III. Reports:

A. Tom motioned, seconded by Ken, to approve the April agenda. Motion carried.

B. March minutes stand as written.

C. Tom motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve the March financials. Motion carried.

D. George motioned, seconded by Ken, to accept the April expense budget. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

A. Shop Local Winners: Last 2 winners include Pat Whitford for Sparkles Salon and Charley Reutzel for Billman's Ace Hardware. Current business is Quilts Happen in Cut Bank.

B. Grant-Back Program Cycle 1 Awardee Selection: The board discussed applicants and reviewed criteria. The decision was made unanimously to award Jonnalea St. Goddard of Trailhead Saloon in East Glacier Park, and Paula Augare of Paula's All Occasion Gifts in Browning. Congratulations to those selected.

V. New Business:

A. Next 2 Shop Local Businesses: Next 2 businesses are Teeples Fresh Market in Browning, and The Peak Restaurant in East Glacier Park.

- B. Shop Local Discussion on Tourism Winners:** What do we do if a tourist wins and won't be here to claim their prize? It was decided we will go on a case-by-case basis, offer the prize to the winner, and pivot based on what the winner would like to do i.e. – pass the winnings on to someone else, keep the winnings if they will be returning.
- C. Grant-Back Contract Review:** Arkaidy spoke with the board on a few points of clarification on our new contract.
- D. Select Date and Panel for Job Opening Interviews:** Date set for 4/29 and panel was chosen as Rod Cline, Arkaidy Wisniowska, and George Heavy Runner.
- E. Executive Director Report:**
 - **Reimagining Rural Application:** Application was submitted for \$2,000 to plant trees and shrubs in Browning.
 - **DoPT/Activate Rural Application:** Cut Bank was selected as a finalist! 16 finalists will be cut down to 10 awardees. Announcements coming May 15th.
 - **May Absence:** Arkaidy will be absent for the May meeting. She will join virtually if possible.

VI. Activity Reports:

Browning: IINNI Days coming up May 20-22 in Browning at Buffalo Spirit Hills Ranch. Tribal Elections coming up, candidates must file between April 27th and May 11th. Field of Dreams Event April 23rd at 11 a.m., one mile North of Heart Butte. Sweetgrass Development holding a Brownsfield project meeting for Browning library April 14th at noon.

East Glacier Park: East Glacier Fireman's Ball was held on April 10th.

Babb/St. Mary: Blackfeet Housing and the Blackfeet Tribal Council has engaged in the Babb Community Center project. Plans have been completed and now the project is moving to environmental and other testing requirements.

Cut Bank: Chamber Banquet took place April 11th. Congratulations to all the winners, including Jessica Henigman Seifert as Citizen of the Year, and Billman's Ace Hardware as Business of the Year.

VII. Correspondence: None.

VIII. Public Comment:

- IX. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on May 21st 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.