

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
June Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Water to Wine Steakhouse, Cut Bank, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Rod Cline, Tony Sitzmann, Skye Gilham, Mike Schultz, George Heavy Runner, Mary Jo Bremner, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival:

Absent Excused: John Overcast, Ken Hoyt, Tom McKay

Absent Unexcused:

Public Present: June Wisniowska, Carole Schutt, Elaine Mitchell, Donni Schultz, Lisa Cline, Sara Converse.

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 5:23 p.m.

III. Reports:

A. George motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve the June agenda. Motion carried.

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

C. Mike motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve the May 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 Brenden Wells for The Peak Restaurant and Shirley Weatherwax for Teeples Fresh Market. Current Business is BABBTized Barista in Babb.

B. Scholarship Awards Selection: The winners of the 2026 Scholarships are Rylea Connelly for Browning and Jocelyn Taylor for Cut Bank! Congratulations to our winners!

Discussion: Board would like to revisit the scholarship process at the next meeting.

V. New Business:

- A. Next 2 Shop Local Drawings:** The next 2 businesses drawn are Sunflower Sweets and Eats in Browning and Northern Ford in Cut Bank.
- B. Grant Back Cycle 2 Handouts:** We have received 2 applications so far for Cycle 2 of the program which were handed out to the board for review. Still about a week left for submissions.
- C. Summer Swim Sponsorships:** It was discussed if we want to sponsor swim days in both Cut Bank and Browning again this year. The cost is \$600 (\$300 each). Tony motioned, seconded by Mary Jo, to sponsor pool days at both pools this year. Motion carried.
- D. Discover Cut Bank Billboard:** With Stockman bank choosing not to renew their sponsorship of the billboard, we have applied for fiscal sponsorship from First Interstate Bank. Discussion also took place on billboard design, placement, and longevity.
- E. GCED Annual Report:** Arkaidy handed out the 2026 GCED Annual report. We have excitedly given \$15,841 in direct grants, and brought in \$84,800 in grants that immediately supported local businesses and organizations.
- F. FY 2027 Tentative Budget:** A tentative budget was set but until we receive mill numbers in July or August, we won't be able to finalize.
- G. Board Engagement:** Brief discussion on engaging board members more throughout the year. A questionnaire was given out for feedback. Please return to Arkaidy when completed.

VI. Executive Director Report:

- A. 2026 Strategic Plan:** Arkaidy shared a brief update on the Strategic Plan that was put in place at the beginning of the fiscal year. It was exciting to see the number of items that we have checked off the list and the progress the organization has made. We will revisit updating of the plan when there is time to do so.
- B. Grant Back Program Cycle 1 Updates:** Our first program participant is on track with all aspects of the terms and she has successfully made her first on-time payment. Our second participant is not yet under contract.
- C. DoPT/Activate Rural Updates:** Arkaidy updated on the trip to Minnesota she took with Shannon Johnson for the first in-person session for the Activate Rural Grant. She shared progress being made with the organization and the grant funding process.
- D. Cut Bank Central Park Updates:** Arkaidy updated that our sign for Central Park has been put officially put up. Other organizations have made sure that weeds have been pulled, lights installed, and planters and gravel revitalized. Lots more in store for the park.

VII. Activity Reports:

- A. Browning:** BFCC Language Colloquium June 15th-17th. Earl Old Person Fun Run coming up July 10th at Arrowhead Stadium. Miss Blackfeet 2026 July 10th-11th.
- B. East Glacier Park:** New Opening by The Civilian music, games, and vendors June 20th. Fire in the mountains July 23-26th. GNP Exploration workshop July 8th-13th at Swift Current Motor Inn.
- C. Babb/St. Mary:** Knapweed Spray Program June 17th. Youth Summer Games July 4th at Chewing Blackbones Campground. Babb/Duck Lake 4th of July Parade at 1 p.m.
- D. Cut Bank:** The Circus came to town June 17th. Montana Main Street Site Visit June 16th at City Hall. Cut Bank Health and Safety Fair June 19th at City Park. Farmer's market starts July 1st. Fireworks show on June 26th at dusk. Third Annual Food, Art, and Music (FAM) Fest August 15th 11-4. Kari Lewis retirement BBQ at City Park June 28th at 6:30 p.m.

VIII. Correspondence: None.

- IX. Public Comment:** Sarah Converse of Sweetgrass Development shared about new changes on the horizon, including an in-house grant writer. Discussion was had on possible collaboration events such as trainings and workshops for Quickbooks and customer service.
- X. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on July 16th at 1:30 p.m. at the Glacier Satellite Office in Browning, MT and via Google meets.

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