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
October Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 15th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
GCED Office, Cut Bank, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Tony Sitzmann, John Overcast, Tom McKay, Ken Hoyt, Skye Gilham, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival:

Absent Excused: Rod Cline, Mary Jo Bremner

Absent Unexcused: George Heavy Runner

Public Present: John and Shelly Lighthizer, Sarah Converse, Meagan Hill-Sundy

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Tony Sitzmann at 2:05 p.m.

Tony Sitzmann acting as Chairman in Rod Cline's absence.

III. Reports:

A. Ken motioned, seconded by John, to accept the October agenda. Motion carried.
B. Approval of September minutes. Minutes stand as written.
D. John motioned, seconded by Tom, to approve the September financials. Motion carried.
E. John motioned, seconded by Tom, to accept the September expense budgets. Motion carried.

IV. Grant-Back Cycle 3 Applicants

A. **John and Shelly Lighthizer - Sunset RV Park:** John and Shelly are requesting $5,000 to help offset the additional, unexpected cost of critical planning for their sewer expansion project.

Discussion: The board felt that in the interest of time, it was pertinent to vote today. Ken motioned, seconded by Tom, to grant the full $5,000 to the RV Park to help complete these critical planning documents. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

A. Shop Local Winners: The last 2 winners were Hal Koening for Trailhead Saloon in East Glacier Park, and Domenique Hall for Quaran-Bean Coffee in Browning. The current business is Wild Side Outdoors in Browning.

B. Finalize 2027 Budget: We finally have all of the missing information for budget numbers. The FY 2027 budget of $80,920.50 has been allocated into all categories and the board is happy with the distribution. John motioned, seconded by Ken, to approve the FY 2027 Budget. Motion carried.

C. Revisit BOW Discussion: Tabled until next month.

B. New Business:

A. Next 2 Shop Local Drawings: No new businesses drawn as we have several waiting to be featured.

B. Use of Grant Funds: The board reviewed the list of ineligible uses of funds. The one in question is "agricultural production". It is difficult to ascertain a general guideline for what is considered eligible in this category, especially since we live in such an agriculturally rich region. The board decided to label agricultural funding as a case-by-case situation. We will not exclude anyone from applying, and eligibility will be determined with each individual application and request.

C. Executive Director Report:

A. Grant Application Push: Arkaidy is wrapping up several projects and for the next little while she will be doing a deep dive into more grant funding for our organization so that we may distribute more funds to our local businesses.

B. DoPT/Cultivate Cut Bank Updates: The site visit from DoPT went very well, it was exciting to have Courtney and Sarina visit from Minnesota and see what we are doing. Arkaidy has agreed to step in as Interim Program Director in order to get everything up and running while we look for a permanent candidate.

C. Board Challenge: Arkaidy prompted the board to take some time in looking into any grants they hear about and forward them to her.

D. Laptop Purchase: Our laptop is now 10 years old and hanging on by the last thread. It was evident even during our meeting that our laptop is unable to do what we need it to anymore. Arkaidy prompted the board to vote on purchasing a new, basic, and inexpensive laptop to replace the current one. John motioned, seconded by Tom, to purchase a $300 laptop. Motion carried.

D. **Activity Reports:**

A. Browning: BFTBH 5th Annual Sobriety Ball November 14th. Women's Cursillo Soup and Bread Fundraiser on October 14th 5-7 pm at the church. Free Pet Clinic in Seville October 7-9th.

B. East Glacier Park: All closed up for the winter. Some great local businesses staying open year-round such as Trailhead Saloon, The Trading Post, and Circle R Motel. Two Medicine Grill is open on a modified schedule.

C. Babb/St. Mary: Community Meeting in Babb October 8th at the new community center site! Cattle Barron open and serving!

D. Cut Bank: Cut Bank First Friday classes kicked off on October 2nd for the season. Holiday Bazaar coming up November 14th from 9-3 at the High School.

E. **Correspondence**: None.

F. **Public Comment:** None.

G. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m. by Tony. The next meeting will be on November 19th at 2:00 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.