

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
November Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20th, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
GCED Office, Cut Bank, MT, and via Google Meets

I. Roll Call:

Present: Rod Cline, Tony Sitzmann, Ken Hoyt, John Overcast, Mike Schultz, MaryJo Bremner, Arkaidy Wisniowska

Late Arrival: George Heavy Runner, Skye Gilham

Absent Excused: Tom McKay

Absent Unexcused:

Public Present: Lisa Terry, MSU-Extension

II. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Rod Cline at 2:01 p.m.

III. Reports:

- A. Tony motioned, seconded by John, to approve the November agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval of October minutes. They stand as written.
- C. John motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve the October financials. Motion carried.
- D. Mike motioned, seconded by John, to accept the November expense budget. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Cassie Powell/BABBtized Barista Grant Update:** We sent a check to Montana Shed Centers in Great Falls for \$5,000 to purchase the shed. Shed delivery and any further fees are being handled by Cassie. Grant is fulfilled.
- B. Shop Local Winners:** Last 2 winners include Zane Steiner for The Mane Concern and Kristen Potts for The Rockin' Outlaw. The current BOW is The Chop Shop.
- C. F/U with George on Siyeh and Council Meetings:** George suggested to set dates for these meetings in the New Year. There will be a new board, and it was suggested to hold off a bit. Tabled until January.

V. New Business:

- A. Next 2 Shop Local Businesses:** Cut Bank Auto Body and Subway in Browning.
- B. CBCF Grant Award:** We received a grant of \$800 from the Cut Bank Community Foundation to design and purchase metal signs for Cut Bank Central Park to increase awareness of the park and encourage people to stop and utilize it, especially in the summer tourism months.
- C. New Grant Policy Question Review + Next Steps to Execute Policy:** A list of questions on our current grant application was reviewed by the board. Everyone felt satisfied with what is on the list. No changes made. Board discussed next steps to going live with the new grant program. We need to draft a contract utilizing the new program description. Arkaidy to work on that.
- D. Strategic Plan Priority List:** The current Strategic Plan draft is comprehensive and while the board entertained the idea of shortening it, it was decided to leave it intact. Rod Cline discussed ideas and concepts for a school apprenticeship program that would ideally teach skills that young people can use to invest back into the community. Arkaidy and Rod to create a Scope of Work for this in the New Year.
- E. Executive Director Report:**
 - **MSU Extension Partnership:** Lisa Terry joined via Google Meets. She is Cut Bank and Browning's MSU Extension Agent. Introduced herself to the board and spoke about connecting on a research project in Browning involving several organizations including Montana State University Extension and The Center for Nutrition and Health Impact. Discussion took place on ways to collaborate on efforts.
 - **BOW 1 Year Report:** We have officially been doing the Business of the Week campaign for 1 year and it has been an excellent source of exposure, community impact, and assistance on the ground level for businesses. Hooray!
 - **Paula's All Occasion Gifts:** Presented Paula with a Scope of Work for assistance and completion of projects. Waiting to hear back on re-scheduling a time to meet and work together.

VI. Activity Reports:

Browning: Blackfeet Holiday Bazaar November 15th. Blackfeet MMIP Honoring Native American Month Art Event November 14th. Blackfeet Planning Department Meeting at 6 on November 20th.

East Glacier Park: Blackfeet Planning Department Meeting at 6 on November 19th.

Babb/St. Mary: Blackfeet Planning Department at 6 on November 18th. Bingo and Spaghetti PTO Fundraiser at Babb School November 20th.

Cut Bank: Cut Bank has elected Curtis Harper as Mayor. The Cut Bank Holiday Bazaar on November 1st.

VII. Correspondence: None.

VIII. Public Comment: George added that next year Chewing Blackbone Campground will host celebrations and festivities for the 4th of July. There will be food, games, a Powwow, a stick game tournament, and more.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m. by Rod. The next meeting will be on December 18th, 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.