

Richland Economic Development Corp



Winter 2017

2016 REDC Annual Meeting Recap

The event was held on Tuesday, November 1st, 2016, at the Sidney Country Club, and was well attended with over 100 people.

Executive Director, Leslie Messer, presented an overview of REDC's activities and accomplishments. Highlights included: how the oil downturn has affected all businesses and our membership base, the LYIP efforts, recruitment efforts, and business expansion efforts.

We were pleased to have Darryl James, Executive Director of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, give us an update on the new coalition. We appreciate the support of our membership, and strive to make our annual meetings a worthwhile event. We also value your participation and input to improve our economy.

2017 REDC Board of Directors



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Back L-R: Mark Rehbein, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Don Steinbeisser, Blaine Rogers, Bryce Baker, Bill Henderson, Shane Gorder, Craig Averett, and Jason Brothen. Front L-R: Leif Anderson, Pam Burman, Chip Gifford, Katie Dasinger, Leslie Messer, Vanessa Pooch, Cami Skinner, and Randy Olson. Not pictured: Tami Christensen, Walt McNutt, and Jackie Washechek.

2017 Membership Drive:

Our membership drive is underway! Richland Economic Development Corp appreciates the continued investment by our membership to assist in improving our economy.

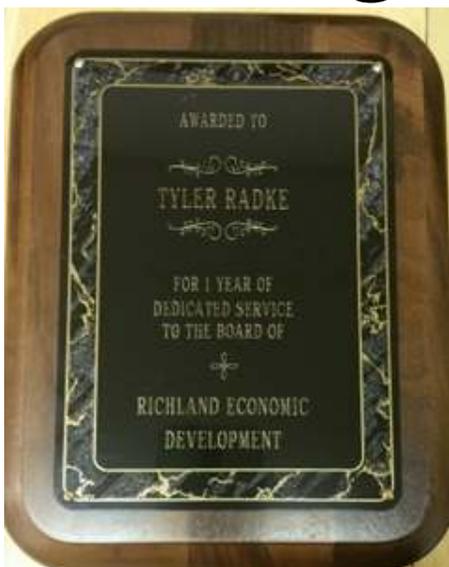
We conducted outreach activities to Fairview, Lambert, Savage and Sidney. Our office is pleased to offer our assistance to all communities of Richland County when asked.

Small business consultations were high again this year. We sat down with over 15 people who were willing to learn the process of opening a new business. These folks are looking at all of the communities as potential sites.

We truly and deeply value our memberships' financial commitments as well as their suggestions and comments. Thank you for continuing to support Richland Economic Development Corp.



Outgoing Board Director



We honored one out-going board director, Tyler Radke. Tyler, Richland County IT Dept, served on the REDC board for one year. We'd like to thank Tyler for volunteering his time and expertise to the mission of our organization.

Revolving Loan Fund Award

15

Richland Economic Development Corp is pleased to announce that the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) committee has awarded its fifteenth loan for the expansion of a business in Sidney. Anissa and David “Oscar” Gillespie were approved for a loan to remodel and improve Sunny’s Family Restaurant.

Anissa completed an application in partnership with her lead lender, Richard Braithwaite, of Stockman Bank of Sidney, and presented this project to the RLF committee for review. The funding request was to consolidate loans, remodel and update equipment.

Anissa began operating Sunny’s in 2007, and then purchased the restaurant in 2009. Sunny’s is a known and well-established business in Sidney. They have been profitable throughout the ebb and tide of a depressed economy. Anissa states, “We thought that the sprucing up of Sunny’s is timely. I’m so thankful to be in business and supported by the Sidney area. My genuine thanks to the RLF program, and to our community, that supports it, and my business.”

The RLF committee is pleased to assist Anissa & Oscar Gillespie in this business venture. The intent of the RLF is to offer an additional tool to support new business and business expansion projects. Richard Braithwaite states, “Without the RLF, this would have been a difficult project to accomplish. This program is a great resource for borrowers requiring gap funding. We are pleased to partner with Richland Economic Development Corp to assist the Gillespies’ on this project.”

Richland Economic Development Corp encourages existing businesses and new business startup projects to consider the RLF as a resource. The RLF loan pool of \$1,000,000 is not free money, but an investment made by the Richland County Commissioners, to assist in the development of business in our economy. The application and review process is achievable, and done in conjunction with the area financial institutions in Richland County.

If you or someone you know is thinking of expanding or launching a new business in Richland County, contact any of the local financial institutions or Richland Economic Development Corp today for an application!



L-R: Richard Braithwaite, Leslie Messer, Anissa & Oscar Gillespie





2017 REDC Officers

During the January board meeting, the 2017 Officers were installed. Serving as our President is Chip Gifford. Randy Olson will serve as our Vice President, while Pam Burman has opted to serve as Secretary, and Jackie Washechek has agreed to serve as our Treasurer.

We deeply thank these individuals for their continued service on our board.



L-R: Pam Burman, Secretary, Jackie Washechek, Treasurer, Randy Olson, Vice President, and Chip Gifford, President



2016 Financial Review

Our financial operations were assessed by Travis Gerten of Brenner & Averett. REDC has been given a positive review and we are on solid footing. In addition, we have passed a conservative budget for 2017.



Infrastructure Meeting

On October 31, 2016, at the Richland County / MSU Conference Center, a meeting was held with the Town of Fairview, the City of Sidney, the Richland County Commissioners, and area representatives.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss each governing bodies' top three priorities. Each pertained mostly to infrastructure.

In attendance were: Mayor Rick Norby, Councilwoman Janet Sergent, City Attorney Joel Krautter, City Clerk Jessica Redfield, Greg Anderson and Public Works Jeff Hintz. Richland County Members present were: Commissioners Shane Gorder, Duane Mitchell, and Loren Young, Clerk & Recorder Stephanie Verhasselt. Town of Fairview Council members present were: Mayor Bryan Cummins, Councilman Jason Elletson. Other guests present were: Rep. Austin Knudsen, Rep. Scott Staffanson, Rep. Steve Hinebauch, Bill Vander Weele, Meagan Dotson and Nate Williams.

Also providing his expertise was Darryl James, Executive Director of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition.

To no one's surprise, the top three priorities for each governing entity didn't change much. So once each of them was identified, the floor was opened to discuss the upcoming legislation, and how our community can best prepare.

The group still felt that it is most important to have a team of area leaders at the ready, to go to Helena to testify if needed. The team will consist of Mayor Cummins, Mayor Norby and one of the commissioners.

REDC is honored to facilitate these meetings to keep communications open, and to remain informed of our County's top priorities.





Sidney Young Professionals

Sidney Young Professionals is officially underway! Sidney Young Professionals, or SYP, was thought up by Project Assistant Katie Dasinger and City Attorney Joel Krautter. The pair realized that the turn over rate for professionals in Richland County was high, and that even those who stayed found it difficult to network and meet people. The two brought the idea to the REDC board in September and asked them to oversee the project, which they agreed to do. The goal of the organization is to connect young professionals in Richland County through events that enhance professional skills, community involvement and networking.

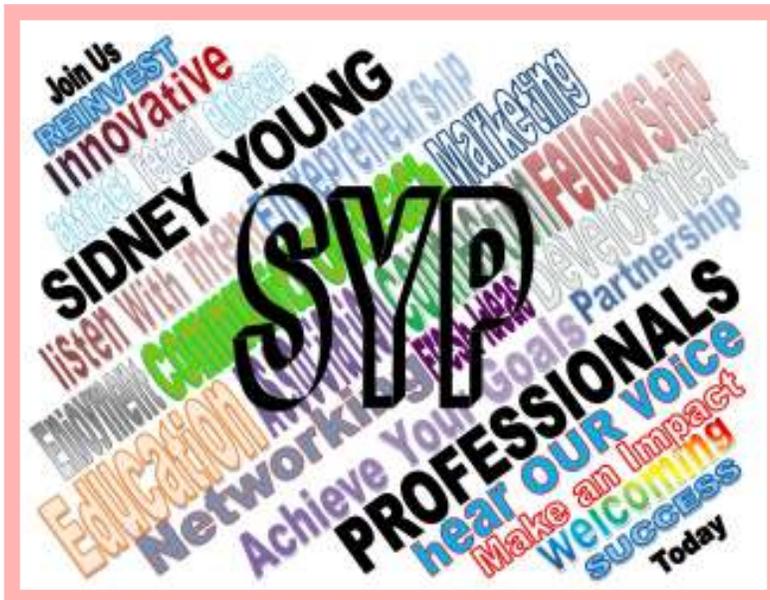
The group hosted their official Kick-Off event on November 8th, 2016. It was an Election themed social hosted by the Tap House. The goal of the event was to gage interest from the community. The interim board was anticipating around 25 people. Over 65 people attended! The event was a smashing success!

The group then hosted their second event on December 8th at the Meadowlark Public House. The second event was geared specifically to community involvement. The event was a “cold weather gear” drive. All of the donations went directly to area schools. For this event, the number of attendees was down to 40 people. However, it was also the Holiday season and –42 degrees out that night! Even with the slight drop in numbers, the first night SYP filled an entire truck bed with coats, mittens, scarves etc! The box remained at the Meadowlark for another week and was filled once again. The box then went to Sidney HealthWorks for the remainder of the 2016 calendar year, and was once again full! SYP could not have hoped for better support from our community to our community!

The next event will be January 12th at the Rod Iron and will include special guest speakers Mayor Norby and Commissioner Young! On February 9th we will be hosting a special Networking event in honor of Valentines day. Please watch Sidney Young Professionals on Facebook for more details as the event dates get closer.

There is no age limit, as we feel young is a state of mind, not a number. There is also no requirement for your job title. If you are interested, we would love to have you!

Please contact the REDC office at 482-4679 or email sypsidney@gmail.com with any and all questions!





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