

SPRING 2017

*Richland Economic Development Corp.*

*April 2017*

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## 2017 Legislative Session

Our office continues to be actively involved in the legislative process, in regards to major issues that face Richland County.

One bill that we testified on was one affecting the tax holiday. We also reached out to the City of Sidney, the Richland County Commissioners, and the Town of Fairview in regards to their position on the HB 473 Bridge and Road Safety Accountability Act. Our office wrote letters of support for that bill, and sent them to the various committees.

We appreciate the communications between the governing entities and our office, to forward the information onto our representatives.



# Sidney Young Professionals

Sidney Young Professionals is continuing to grow as the year progresses. The group has hosted three more successful events and is working to plan programs and new direction for next year.

In January, SYP hosted a Social with a Purpose. At this event, SYP members heard from Mayor Norby and Commissioner Young. Both men gave brief reports on the state of the City and the State of the County. The group was then able to ask questions about issues they felt passionately about. One of the main questions for Commissioner Young and Mayor Norby was concerning recruitment and retention of Young Professionals in Richland County. Both presenters said they felt that our community is continuing to grow and welcome new members, and that they are working hard to keep families and young people in the area. They both highlighted SYP as a great resource for young people to become active and connected in our area.

In February, SYP held “First comes networking, then comes relationships”. The purpose of the event was to have a quick and coordinated networking event. The event was designed to simulate speed dating where SYP members would have 3 minutes of focused face to face time with other members. Stepping out of comfort zones and meeting different young professionals.

In March, SYP teamed up with area non-profits to host “Find Your Passion”. The event was attended by over 20 area non-profits as a way to highlight all of the opportunities Young Professionals have to volunteer in the community. The goal was to allow area non-profits to touch base with area Young professionals in a laid back setting. By allowing Young Professionals to interact with the non-profits that peaked their interests as well as at their pace, the hope is that some lasting community connections have been made.

On April 13th, SYP will be hosting an event called “if you build it, they will come” to highlight entrepreneurial successes and opportunities in our area. We will have a panel discussion with Trisha Klempel of Trisha Klempel Designs, Lorilee Norby of True North Business Solutions, Leif Anderson of Beagle Properties and Jennifer Moore of Pizza House. By having open discussions of the ups and downs of starting and growing a business in Richland County, SYP hopes to encourage the spirit of the entrepreneurs in our area to continue strong.

On May 11th, SYP will wrap up for the year with a “Patio Party” event. The event will be slightly different from our others with a much more laid back, social atmosphere. We want to end our first successful year on a high note with a great welcome to summer event.

SYP will kick up again in August or early September of 2017. Please stay up to date with us via Facebook or by contacting the REDC offices at any time.



# LYIP Updates

The on-going process completed another step regarding the Intake Diversion structure. On April 5, 2017, at 1:30 PM, the Honorable Brian Morris held a hearing to determine whether the injunction would stay in place or be removed.

The \$60 million dollar project has met a critical juncture: if the contractor for the job does not get notice to proceed by April 15, he will have no choice but to dissolve his contract. In addition, the earmarked money from the federal government for this job will likely be allocated to another project.

REDC arranged for buses and provided refreshments to transport interested participants to and from Great Falls to listen to the proceedings.

There were 42 people that rode the bus, and approximately another 50 that drove their own vehicles to the hearing. The hearing courtroom was so packed with people, that a second room was utilized via teleconference, to accommodate everyone in attendance.

The judge listened to arguments for and against dissolving the injunction that would make the project more fish friendly, while continuing to reliably provide water for the 58,000 acres of cropland in Montana and North Dakota.

At the time of this publication, the Judge had not given his decision regarding the matter.



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Katie has graduated from the Chamber Leadership Class! It was a wonderful experience and she is excited to continue utilizing all the skills she learned in the future. Congratulations!

