



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Richland Economic Development Corp

2015 Membership Drive

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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.



2014 REDC Annual Meeting Recap:

The event was held on Thursday, November 6th, 2014, at the Sidney Elks Lodge, and was well attended. We paid tribute to our beginnings some 27 years ago, when the Sidney Industrial Development Corporation was created. The purpose of this organization was to improve the overall economy of Sidney. We also found this photo of some of the founding fathers that ultimately passed the baton onto what today is Richland Economic Development Corp. We'd like to express our deepest gratitude to these folks that lead us down the pathway to success. We appreciate their vision, determination, and commitment. As our event continued, we launched our first "Program of Work" booklet. This publication briefly recounts some of our accomplishments for 2014. The audience enjoyed the information, and especially the quiz (See Quiz on pages 4-5 and answers on page 7). Many thanks to our gracious booklet sponsors: Action Auto, Big Sky Siding & Windows, Kaleb Dasinger Oil Properties, and Tri County Implement.

This is one of the original bonds issued for the SIDC.



Back L-R: Gene Koch, Jack Eggen-sperger, Bob Goss, Kelly Knaff, George Swenson, Ken Avison. Front L-R: John McNeil, John Franklin, Phil Waber, Don Rush, and Hu Williamson



2015 REDC Board of Directors



Back L-R: Randy Olson, Gary Schoepp, Don Steinbeisser, Bill Henderson, Craig Averett, Mark Rehbein, Leif Anderson, Chip Gifford, and Shane Gorder. Front L-R: Cami Skinner, Jackie Washechek, Tami Christensen, Katie Dasinger, Leslie Messer, Linette Miller, Pam Burman, and Russ Fullmer.

We honored one out-going board director, Tara Hill. Tara, CHMS, PC, served on the REDC for six years.

Committees / projects that Tara volunteered on were: financial, Lambert representative, our fair booth, and she also assisted us with our income tax reporting.

We'd like to thank Tara for volunteering her time and expertise to the mission of our organization.



President Russ Fullmer presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing board member Tara Hill

How Well Do YOU Know REDC Quiz!

How long has REDC been an active member of the Richland County Community?

How many RLF Loans have been awarded in Richland County?

- A. 9
- B. 12
- C. 5
- D. 15

How many jobs have been created as a direct result of an RLF Loan?

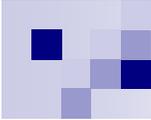
- A. 18
- B. 43
- C. 71
- D. 94

What steps did REDC take in helping LYIP during this past year?

- A. Informal informational meeting
- B. Multiple emails to membership urging participation in public meetings
- C. Participation in public meetings in Glendive and Sidney
- D. Urging membership to write letters to the Army Corps of Engineers, and aiding in doing so
- E. Working with the Governor's office to obtain their official support of keeping the Ag economy strong in Eastern Montana
- F. All of the above

How many grants has REDC aided in obtaining this year?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 3
- D. 6



What Percentage of REDC funds are given by the County, the City of Sidney and Private Donors?

- A. 50%, 45%, 5%
- B. 42%, 28%, 30%
- C. 33%, 5%, 62%
- D. 12%, 8% , 80%

How many events did REDC bring to the community this year?

- A. 7
- B. 12
- C. 3
- D. 10000000000

How many members does REDC currently have?

- A. 75
- B. 98
- C. 143
- D. 176

How many of those members are new to REDC this year?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. 15
- D. 11

How many different community organizations are our board members parts of?

- A. 12
- B. 18
- C. 23
- D. 30+

Three more reasons for writing a business plan:

The majority of successful companies can trace back to a clearly defined business outline or plan.

It takes discipline and due diligence to develop a business idea; and even more to document one. That's where REDC's business plan outline is extremely helpful.

Here are three more considerations when embarking on this journey:

- 1) Write the plan to capture the imagination as well as “move the heart”. The facts, figures and specifics are critical, but include your story to captivate and grab attention. Why does it mean so much to you?
- 2) Focus your description of your business idea on the near-term and the future, not precise details of only one or the other. A crisp starting point, envisioning how the profits are earned, is key. Identifying your customers, as well as your competition is a must. Concluding with three to five year goals will paint the most well-rounded “masterpiece”.
- 3) Write your business plan for the many stakeholders that will benefit from your idea. A great description will highlight why it makes sense for all, and not just one customer group.

Stop by our office today if you, or someone you know, is thinking of starting their own business. Our business plan template is available upon request.



PPL Community Fund Award:



ROI receives \$10,000 for the purchase of a chair lift for their residents.

Tami Christensen was appointed onto the PPL Community Fund Advisory Board, in 2013. The board met in the spring and fall to distribute \$200,000 annually in grant funds to eligible applicants focusing on the areas of education, the environment, or economic development.

Since the fund was established in 2005, \$2.3 million in grants has been awarded to nearly 250 organizations across the state that are touching the lives of thousands of people and, as a result, improving the quality of life for all Montanans.

Since Northwestern Energy attained the hydro production of PPL, the Community Fund awarded its very last grant.

On November 4, 2014, PPL Affairs Manager, Lisa Perry asked Tami and Leslie Messer, former PPL Advisory Board director, to present an award in Richland County.

Dan Peters, ROI Executive Director, explains that the funds will be utilized to purchase a chair lift for the residents of Svaar House. This chair lift will assist the clients, while improving safety for the employees and clients alike.

Our office is pleased to promote funding opportunities and successes to the residents of Richland County.



Eastern Montana letter to the 2015 Legislature:

The Eastern MT Impact Coalition met on Oct 1st in Miles City with legislators, economic developers, chamber directors, etc, to determine the best way to prepare our communities for a possible impact bill.

Attendees at the meeting from Richland County were: Jessica Davies, Sidney Chamber, Mayor Norby, Greg Anderson, Jeff Hintz, Deb Gilbert all from the City of Sidney, Rep. Scott Staffanson, and Duane Mitchell, County Commissioner.

After a three hour discussion, the 40 plus participants nominated the EMIC members to draft a letter to Governor Bullock and all legislators.

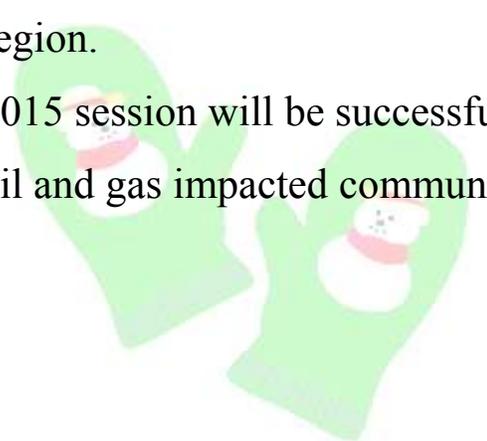
The objective of the letter is to offer the suggestion of \$45 M from cash reserves to be partnered with Governor Bullock's \$45 M bonding proposal for infrastructure projects. The intent is to encourage cooperation, collaboration and compromise from all.

Each member of the EMIC coalition presented this letter to the towns, cities, and counties in our 16 county region to gauge support for this massive effort.

REDC went before the Fairview Town Council, the Sidney Council, and the Richland County commission and presented the letter. Each council agreed with the efforts and signed the letter.

All totaled, there are over 40 towns, cities and counties in support of working together to attain infrastructure support for our region.

We are hopeful that by working together, the 2015 session will be successful in addressing the infrastructure pressures in the oil and gas impacted communities.



Answers to Program of Work Quiz

- 1) B. 12 RLF loans have been awarded in Richland County
- 2) C. 71 Jobs are a direct result of the RLF Loans
- 3) F. REDC held an informational meeting for LYIP, sent many emails, helped to encourage participation in public meetings, and worked with the Governor's office to get their support as well
- 4) D. REDC has aided in obtaining 6 grants this year.
- 5) C. 62% of REDC funds are given from private donors, 33% is funded by the County and 5% is funded by the City of Sidney.
- 6) B. REDC brought 12 events to the community this year including Trade Missions and Housing conferences.
- 7) C. REDC currently has 143 members! **THANK YOU ALL!!**
- 8) D. REDC welcomed 11 new members this year
- 9) D. Our board members are active in over 30 organizations in our community including Boys and Girls Club, Lions, Catholic Daughters, and Kiwanis.



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