

Economic Development Committee  
April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Barn

The meeting began at 2:30 and there were 7 in attendance.

Karen Pratt reported on very successful meetings in Missoula with BRED and MEDC concerning Grants available with Big Sky Trust and RBEG. Grants will be written by the above mentioned entities on behalf of the Seeley Lake Community for the amount of \$30,000. The purpose intended for the Grant money is a Feasibility Study for this community. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant would designate the community as a "destination spot for outdoor enthusiasts and professional athletes. Letters of support from community businesses are needed to attach to these grants. The RBEG grant is due May 14<sup>th</sup> and the Big Sky Trust grant is due June 31st. Businesses owners and Community groups are asked to have letters ready by April 30<sup>th</sup>. A feasibility study is a important first step as other grants from economic development will stem from this study.

Vicki Voegelin presented information about the study of small towns and their revitalization done by Larry Swanson. A conference call was made to Brent Moore who has participated in small town planning and design with his firm CTAR architects. He cited work that they have done in Red Lodge and are currently engaged in at Phillipsburg. It was determined that more planning and focus is needed before any further conversations are appropriate.

A general discussion followed by those in attendance concerning problems, solutions, ideas and what comes first and how to proceed. The following is a sample of that discussion.

What do we have to offer a potential business or tourist coming to this destination?  
We need a diversity of recreation types – non motorized as well as motorized. The concept of a walk able pathway around the lake – noted that this is in progress.  
A livable wage year around is needed to keep families in Seeley Lake.

Branding

A labor base

Biomass – Computer non commuters – Glass recycling – live in it – don't just visit  
Sell it – sell the lifestyle      ex: Unplug your child      A wilderness experience

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 at the Barn.

Diane Weatherman and  
Addrien Marx.