

"To connect the people and institutions of Wheatland County to lay the base for sustained and balanced economic and community development."

Wheatland County Growth Council
January 23, 2008
7:30 am at Snowy Mountain Coffee Meeting Room

Those Present:

Ian Reed	Mandie Reed
Ty Franks	Aubrey Miller
Scot Mitchell	Lea

Those Absent:

Richard Moe
Bill Jones

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ian Reed
Minutes were approved as posted written and posted to the web site.

Old Business:

Horizons:

- **Blog Site: harlowton.communityblog.us**
Mandie reported that the site was being used a little, but we had met the expectations of the NW Area Foundation
- **Action Items**
Mandie asked approval from the board to begin working to put together committees revolving around these action items. She is going to go back to the original list of action items from the action forum and pull people together.
- **Rural Community Conference**
Ian Reed, Mandie Reed and Bill Jones attended the conference. They split up to network with as many people as possible.
 - Entrepreneurship skills are not being taught in schools
 - That it is most effective to grown your own enterprises and start businesses within a community rather than try to bring businesses in.
 - Youth are not as independent and there is a greater fear factor
 - Youth want to return to smaller towns if we can make the community attractive to them
 - Aubrey mentioned that many of his classmates would like to return home
 - Scot reminded us of the list serve idea
 - Mandie is going to look into having something built into our web site
 - WesternEdge.Com has done a lot of work on developing and growing businesses
 - Have done studies that attracting businesses have a very small success rate and do not usually provide the revenue a community is needing
 - The Growth Council is working as the community coalition and we may want to do a little work to present ourselves that way to the community
 - Brain storming about the Jewelry Coop Marketing Group
 - Make it a topic at the Pancakes and partners breakfast
 - Mandie will talk to Bruce about where to start
 - Ty's sister is an instructor and may be willing to come and teach some classes

- Bootstrap Montana one year, micro loans, no interest loans for businesses to expand
 - Fairly competitive
 - Must be LLC or corporation to apply
- Bruce Smith is working on Western Trails Food
 - Focusing on Farm to Table restaurant
 - Working with the local college to develop seasonal menus that use Montana products for schools
 - Forming a coop of growers and producers
- **Pancakes and Partners Breakfast**

We voted to host another breakfast on February 20. One of the tables will be the jewelry coop if there is interest
- **Vista**

Lea is here and we are having our first meeting today at 4:00 to find our fist goals and plans.

New Business:

- Finance Report
 - Bill was not able to attend, so we postponed until the next meeting
- Scot inquired about some basic computer training for employees
 - Ian thought Rebecca from the SBDC may have something and was going to e-mail Scot the contact info.

The next meeting will be February 20 at 7:30 am at the breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandie Reed