

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
RICHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

January 7, 2026

The full board meeting of directors of Richland Economic Development Corp was held at Pella Church, Sidney, MT on January 7, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 a.m., MST, by Vice President, Brothen.

Roll Call:

The following members were present:

Craig Averett	Jason Brothen	Dave Garland
Travis Gerten	Shane Gorder	Michele Herres
Jamie Malsam	Walt McNutt	Blaine Rogers
Gary Sheopp	Alan Seigfried	

Absent:

Randy Olson	Mark Rehbein	Morgan Taylor
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Also present were the Executive Director, Leslie Messer, and Project Assistant, Amelia Messer. Special Guest, Fairview Mayor Betty Cherrey.

Meeting Agenda:

The agenda was sent to all directors and presented for approval. Craig moved to accept the agenda, Blaine seconded, unanimously carried.

Action

Sarah Degn and Jamey Fieler were brought forward as 1-year directors on the board. Craig moved to accept them, Gary seconded. Unanimously carried.

Consideration of Minutes:

Minutes from December 10, 2025, full board meeting minutes were included in the packet and sent before the meeting. Brothen asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Travis moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan, unanimously carried.

Consideration of

Financial report:

Messer went over the financial report; Craig moved to approve the financials; Travis seconded the motion, unanimously carried.

Working Communications:

This month Messer engaged in working relationships with Mayor Rick Norby, Mayor Betty Cherrey, and all three Commissioners. It's important to actively engage with these folks to keep lines of communication open.

Review of RC Growth Policy  
& Sidney Downtown

Master Plan:

Kali Godfrey emailed the drafts of both policies and directed Messer to look both over and submit comments, if we had them. Leslie submitted comments on the downtown master plan.

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- County Report: There was an article printed in the Round Up about the meeting that was held at the County Commissioner's office. This is regarding the tax increase to the property taxes. Shane also reported on the Savage Fire Hall progress, the next MACO meeting, and preparations for the 2027 legislative session.
- Old/New Business  
New Business: REDC will be getting updated the computers for the office.
- The airport has recovered from the fire and construction will start again in the spring. The airport has been using their masterplan for the future direction. Medical flights are constant here, and very much needed.
- A discussion was held about the City of Sidney, who has a committee looking into adding a city manager.
- Special Guest: Fairview Mayor, Betty Cherrey introduced herself to the board. She is happy to meet us and is excited to focus more on highlighting Fairview. Her goal is to instill more pride in Fairview and the residents. She asked what REDC can do to assist with this. Leslie replied that if the Mayor would like, Leslie would be willing to attend meetings to facilitate, and aid in goal setting, etc.
- Future Meetings: Next full board meeting: NO MEETING DUE TO ANNUAL MEETING 2/16.  
Next executive board meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- Adjournment: With no further business, Brothen adjourned the meeting at 7:58 AM.



Jason Brothen, President



Dave Garland, Secretary