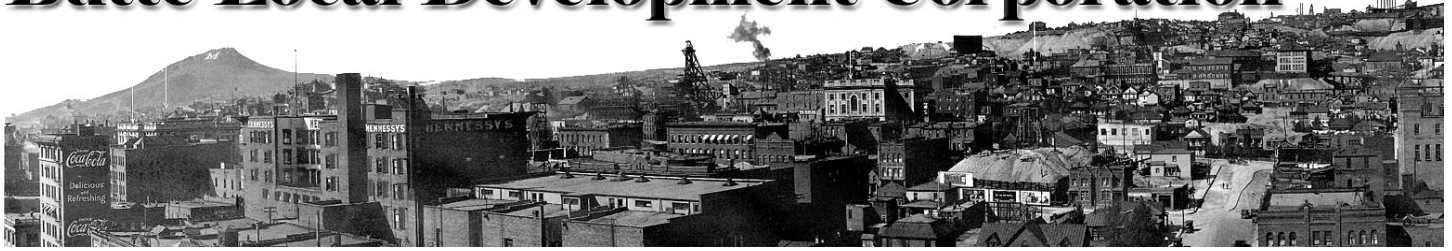


Butte Local Development Corporation



WINTER 2005

JANUARY 25, 2005

Barrett Takes Top Economic Development Position

After 18 years of serving as the Butte Local Development Corporation's (BLDC) Executive Director, Evan Barrett has been named by Governor Brian Schweitzer as Montana's Chief Business Development Officer, operating from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. Barrett began work in Helena January 3rd.

During his years at the BLDC, Barrett oversaw the growth of the BLDC from an organization with 1¼ people to a staff of five, from an annual budget of \$50,000 (with just \$30,000 coming in) to a \$450,000

budget, and from a net worth of about \$200,000 to a net value of \$5-6 million. The BLDC now boasts one of the most active revolving loan programs that has done almost \$12 million in business lending over the last 10 years.

Barrett has also participated in numerous successful major recruiting efforts, which includes the return of mining and bringing Advanced Silicon Materials Inc. (ASiMI) to Butte. ASiMI currently employs about 300 well-paid employees at its \$550 million plant and is one of the county's top 10 private employers.

"Over the years, we've helped save or create thousands of jobs, accomplishing a lot of good for the city," Barrett said, "It's extraordinarily fulfilling to keep paychecks coming... it's not just about the economy, it's about making sure people have a job and a way to sustain their family.

Bill Kebe, who has been a longtime BLDC board member, said, "I think Evan has done an outstanding job in economic development for Butte at the BLDC. He's done a lot of innovative things like the creation of TIFIDs that help drive economic development here. Evan will be sorely missed in Butte. I

think Brian Schweitzer, by putting him into this important position, has obviously recognized Evan's capability and expertise."

However, Barrett thinks the change at the BLDC is a valuable opportunity for the organization and the community. Barrett said, "Every organization needs to be renewed periodically. My leaving presents an opportunity for renewal in this organization that I have nurtured over the many years"

Barrett said his new position "is a great challenge and a great opportunity to work with the new governor on an area of importance – economic development." Barrett added that Schweitzer brings a unique set of skills to the economic development table. "He has vision and is intelligent, creative, energetic, and a good listener," said Barrett.

In his new job, Barrett, along with the new administration, will begin work immediately with the 2005 legislative session. He said that there will be an emphasis on making economic development deals happen at the local level throughout Montana, including with Montana's American Indians.

Barrett commented, "There will be a focus on

pursuing growth in the more dynamic areas of Montana's economy, but also in the more challenged areas, including seeking real growth in rural counties and on Indian reservations."

"Hopefully I can take my skills and experience and put them to the best use to serve the people of Montana," Barrett said.

Barrett will continue to live in Butte, commuting to his position in Helena.

The BLDC has now launched a regional search for an executive director to replace Barrett. The BLDC board voted to have Jim Smitham, deputy director of business development, serve as the interim executive director while the search is in progress.

A search committee, which includes board members Bill Fogarty, Bill Kebe, Rick Edwards, Dave Keck, and Zena Beth McGlashan, has developed the position's job description and advertising effort.

The board members hope to narrow the applicant pool to 3-5 qualified candidates who will then be interviewed.

The position will be advertised in late January and hopefully filled by March.



Thank you Evan Barrett for your long dedication to Butte and the Butte Local Development Corporation.



305 West Mercury Street
Butte, Montana 59701

406-723-4349

Presort STD
US Postage
PAID
Butte, MT
59701
Permit
NO. 560

Message from the Interim Executive Director



Jim Smitham

As you may be aware, the Butte Local Development Corporation is going through some changes.

The Executive Director for the

last 18 years, Evan Barrett, has been appointed by Governor Brian Schweitzer to be the Chief Business Development Officer for the State of Montana. Dave Gibson formerly held this position during the Martz Administration. However, Dave has moved over to the University System to coordinate their economic development efforts.

In order to properly fill the vacated Executive Director's position, the BLDC Board of Directors is conducting a candidate search. This search will seek out applicants within a region extending from Washington and Oregon, east to North Dakota and south to Utah. However, during the search period, the Board has appointed myself, BLDC Deputy Director, to be the Interim Executive Director.

As the Interim Executive Director, I am actively pursuing several recruitment projects,

proceeding on Evan Barrett's previous projects, and working out several loose ends from Barrett's departure. However, during the search period, the BLDC is short staffed by one person. Therefore, we are all picking up some slack to ensure a smooth transition and I am pleased that the shift is going very well.

Additional changes have happened around Butte since the start of 2005. Butte's newly elected Chief Executive Paul Babb has taken office and appointed Bill Penn to be the Director of Economic Development for Butte-Silver Bow. This position was formerly held by Kathy Fasso. Bill brings many assets to the job. He has a huge amount of energy and a vast knowledge of business operations. He has hit the ground running and accomplished a great deal in the short period he has been on the job. We see the coordination of Butte's economic development activities being greatly enhanced with the presence of Paul and Bill.

We feel that 2005 will be a very busy year from an economic prospective and fore see many new jobs being created throughout Butte.

BLDC Activities

The project activity at the BLDC has been very good for the last quarter of 2004 and thus far in 2005. Currently we are working on:

- Recruiting four small manufacturing facilities
- Assisting an expanding local company find new office space
- Preparing proposals for a large manufacturing facility
- Working with the TIFID Board to complete preliminary work needed to make the Silicon Mountain Technology Park "Construction Ready"
- Facilitating a meeting with a project developer who may be interested in locating in Butte
- Preparing a marketing plan to aggressively pursue warehouse distribution projects for Butte
- Analyzing the progress achieved by the BEAR (Business Retention And Expansion) program during 2004 and starting the 2005 campaign
- Working with Montana Tech on two projects that will enhance their programs

To receive the BLDC Newsletter electronically, please email bldc@bldc.net