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PRESS RELEASE

Musselshell Valley Development Cooperative Incorporated

Harlowton, MT [4/26/24] – Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) is excited to announce the incorporation of the Musselshell Valley Development Cooperative (MVDC) as a real estate investment co-op. This represents a significant step toward revitalizing housing and commercial spaces in Harlowton, Montana.

The MVDC was founded for community-driven investment development and affordable housing. It confronts the pressing need for affordable housing and commercial real estate to attract entrepreneurs, businesses, and individuals. Its goal first and foremost is to provide quality housing for its community members.

"We formed the MVDC to address some of the complex issues our community deals with, regarding housing, commercial spaces and shared community spaces. We desperately need more of all of these, but we really only have the existing infrastructure to work with," said Shauna Eagleton, Board Member. "The vacant buildings in varying conditions of disrepair are our target projects. We plan to purchase, renovate, and sell our project properties back to the community. By being completely owned by community members, there is already an energizing sense of pride and ownership within the community." Eagleton added.

"MCDC was really helpful moving through the process and a great resource. They provided us with the next steps to keep us moving forward." Mandie Reed, Board Member. MCDC Executive Director Tracy McIntyre added her excitement to this project. "It has been a pleasure to see this cooperative form and give us a new way in Montana to address housing and needs locally."

The incorporation of the MVDC marks a significant milestone in the Montana Cooperative Community and further reflects MCDC's commitment to promote and utilize the cooperative business model to address Montana Communities' economic, social, and housing needs and demonstrates our dedication to Montana by finding localized solutions through the cooperative business model for critical community needs. For more information on the MVDC, email together@mvdcmnt.com and follow them on Facebook @MVDCoop.

Montana Cooperative Development Center is the statewide economic development organization dedicated to utilizing the cooperative business model to address communities' economic and social needs. MCDC serves all 56 counties and the eight Tribal Nations within Montana. MCDC is currently working with over 30 community groups across the State that are exploring cooperative solutions. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.mcfdc.coop or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mcfdc.coop>.

MCDC thanks the US Department of Commerce–Economic Development Administration for its continued funding and support in bringing investment cooperative programming to the State, Montana Department of Ag and Harlowton MSU Extension Office for their support.

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