



## Status of Teton County Commissioners' Priorities

Updated 6/13/16

In early 2015, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) established a list of priority projects and initiatives. This list continues to evolve as projects get completed and county needs change. We will update this list periodically to keep the public informed of the current work the BoCC is engaged in.

### **Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Education**

**Economic Development** - Teton County is working with the cities and other local and state organizations to facilitate economic development in Teton Valley. For the past three years, the County has matched funds from Idaho Department of Commerce to create and support the Teton Valley Business Development Center (TVBDC), which is the organization responsible for implementing Teton County's Economic Development Plan ([http://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/pdf/codePolicy/2013-0610\\_Adopting\\_May\\_2013\\_Economic\\_Development\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/pdf/codePolicy/2013-0610_Adopting_May_2013_Economic_Development_Plan.pdf)). The BoCC requested and is now assisting with a collaborative partnership between TVBDC, Chamber of Commerce, and the Geotourism Center. This will allow the three entities to pool resources and consolidate efforts to help existing businesses thrive while also supporting start-ups and relocations that will create more family wage jobs in Teton County.

**Affordable Housing** - The Teton County, Idaho section of the 2014 Western Greater Yellowstone Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) identified specific housing needs in our community. Recent trends have also pointed to diminishing housing stock and rapidly increasing costs for renting and building. The BoCC hired Navigate LLC, a Jackson-based housing consultant to help establish clear goals and objectives for a comprehensive housing program for Teton County while fostering collaboration with the cities of Victor, Driggs, and Teton. This project, to be completed this summer, will provide the foundation for re-establishing an efficient and effective Housing Authority that meets the unique needs of our community.

**Extension Educator** – The BoCC worked closely with the University of Idaho to fill the County Extension Educator position left open when Ben Eborn was promoted to Area Extension Educator last spring. Victor resident, Jennifer Werlin, was hired by the university as the new County Extension Educator. Ms. Werlin's focus will be on providing leadership and educational programs associated with enhancing local agriculture and community food systems. She will also provide leadership and technical support for the Teton County 4-H Youth Development program.

**Collaboration with Teton County School District** - Members of the BoCC have been attending Teton County School District meetings, strategic planning sessions, and other

community-based initiatives to collaborate on educational enhancement in Teton Valley. They will also be working directly with the school board to help inform the new facility bond measure to address the elementary school building deficiencies