



2011 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Broadus

This document is a summary of the 2011 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings from the five-year CEDS document created last year by SEMDC, and to get community feedback as to what the current state of the community is, how things have changed from last year, and what projects are priorities to be completed for the following year(s).

This year was especially important to host a community meeting because of the many natural resource development projects currently going on, expanding, and those that are proposed to begin in the next few years. There will be many impacts on communities in south eastern Montana, and the goal is to maximise positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more communities understand the impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

This document summarises the thoughts, ideas, and projects discussed at the community meeting. It also summarises some of the findings from the survey that was passed out at the meetings

Broadus CEDS Meeting 2011

Group Discussion

The first activity in this community meeting was to brainstorm strengths, weaknesses, and influential factors in Broadus. This was a way to open up discussion, and begin looking at the various aspects that enhance or hinder this community. Due to the resource industry that is developing locally and regionally, we asked the community to not only think of strengths, weaknesses, and influential factors, but also think ahead to how this industry may affect this area.

Strengths

Eating establishments	Wellness center
Warrior Trail	Physical therapist visits
New airport	Variety of churches
Wild life fence	“The Barn” multi-purpose community center
Ambulance and EMT services (a lot of good work and updates have been put into this)	Golf course
Many natural resources	Pool
Ag-based economy	Theatre
Clean air/water/etc.	Some access to the arts
Underutilized sewage lagoons	Recycling
Nursing home (provides about 52 jobs)	Public transportation for all
Visitor Center	Retail
Good schools and great school staff	Crossroads on highways 59 and 212
Volunteerism is strong	Town square
Land available if maximized	Abundant wildlife

Concerns

County infrastructure	Trying to be everything to everybody
Lack of ‘manpower’ at the Sherriff’s Office	Lack of handicaped access
Great school staff, but worried about how to replace them with quality staff when they leave/retire	Would like to see an increase in population
Difficult to keep/find quality people to work	Lack of Broadband and cell service
“Brain drain”	Difficult to find recreation
Passive feeling towards the planning for energy developments	Difficult and costly to hook water and sewer to lots
Lack of “service-based” workers	Limited lots for development
With energy development comes lack of service workers (due to wage competition)	Lack of diverse job opportunities and higher wage jobs
Floodplains	In need of grant writing management
Lack of services/recreation/housing	Stress on infrastructure w/ energy dev.

Influential Factors

Arch Coal and Otter Creek	Local representation
Danbury Corp.	Custer Country Tourism Reps.
Chamber of Commerce	Eastern MT coal/oil/gas board rep.
City/County/State Government	Funding opportunities
Local emergency and public works	Schools

Working Groups

In this second activity, we divided the group up to discuss the following themes in more detail: Economy, Housing, Quality of life, Infrastructure and Services. Groups were asked to discuss various concerns, and were encouraged to propose a project that could tackle the issue at hand. After the themes were discussed, we came back as a group to review each issue. Each person was given three stickers which they would use to vote on certain projects they deemed more important. They could put all three stickers on one project, or one sticker on each project. This prioritisation of projects will give SEMDC and the community an idea of what the community would like to see accomplished. Below is a summary of each group's main concerns and projects associated.

Economy

Calculated Risks

The community must be willing to take calculated risks (everyone: including Town, County, Individuals, Entrepreneurs).

Healthy and Diversified Economy

A better economy with more jobs and diversified jobs may bring youth back if they leave, or keep youth in the community after they graduate high school.

Adequate and Available Information for Housing/Development/Business

Make available on the website "How-To" information to make it easier for people inquiring about what is available in the community, where to get permits, what is zoning, what housing options are available, how to start a business etc. This will help attract new residents and businesses.

Housing

Housing is needed for workers who come in. Also, lack of quality housing pushes away those interested in joining the community.

Lodging

There is a need for motels for people to stay when working temporarily. This will also help to enhance tourism opportunities.

Culture

There is a family friendly and unique atmosphere in this small community. This is something that is valued by people who live in Broadus, and is also something that could be promoted to those interested in living/working there.

Tourism

There is an interest to increase tourism and enhance the Warrior Trail. Increasing marketing of tourism opportunities in Powder River and Broadus is essential.

Proposed Economic Projects

Website for information and Tourism **(7 votes)**

Career Paths **(2 votes)**

Marketing the community as affordable/unique/safe **(2 votes)**

Educational opportunities regarding coal development

Housing

Housing Needs

There was a great need expressed for various housing types, including: assisted living, quality residential for singles and families, and short-term/worker housing. Currently this is an issue, and will be an increased issue with the potential Otter Creek Coal Development, and other natural resource and energy projects going on in the region. Also, it is difficult keeping or attracting people here due to the lack of quality housing.

Issues with Development

There is an overall lack of education and availability of financing and other development processes, which hinder a more pro-active approach to local development. There is also a concern with floodplain and brownfield sites. There have been floodplains zoned in this area, but when re-assessed by an engineer, some of the land was in fact not in a floodplain. It will take more money and time to re-assess the floodplain areas, however it would seem worth it as the designation of floodplain areas limit development and increase insurance rates, hindering local development. Brownfield areas also limited development and require money and effort to assess and clean local brownfield sites.

Proposed Projects for Housing

Assisted Living Development **(3 votes)**

Pamphlet for and enhanced access to information for those interested in developing new business and housing development **(2 votes)**

Quality of Life

Improved Assisted Living and Medical

There is a great need for improved emergency services: better clinic available, better practitioners, nursing home improvements, and overall healthcare enhancements.

Need for More and Improved Services

People leave, or do not move to this area because there is a lack of services available. There is no day care and limited recreational opportunities. However, given that it is difficult to maintain what is currently available, it is hard to fund, develop and sustain services.

Floodplain

The floodplain zones greatly affect what can be developed there, and are costly and time consuming to re-evaluate the floodplain. This issue affects everything.

County Government

There is an overall feeling that the County Government is not willing to take risks and there is a lack of government backing of projects

Proposed Projects

Floodplain Issues: surveying land to identify accurate floodplain zones (**3 votes**)

PAR Studies on Medical Facilities

Creating awareness regarding nursing home closing and floodplain issues

Developing an adequate community center

Services and Infrastructure

Basic Services

The Community generally provides for the basic services; however there is a need for more/improved emergency services.

Infrastructure

There is a great need for an infrastructure inventory to identify what needs the most improvements, how well they function, and what is needed overall.

Proposed Projects

Planning for more emergency services (9 votes)

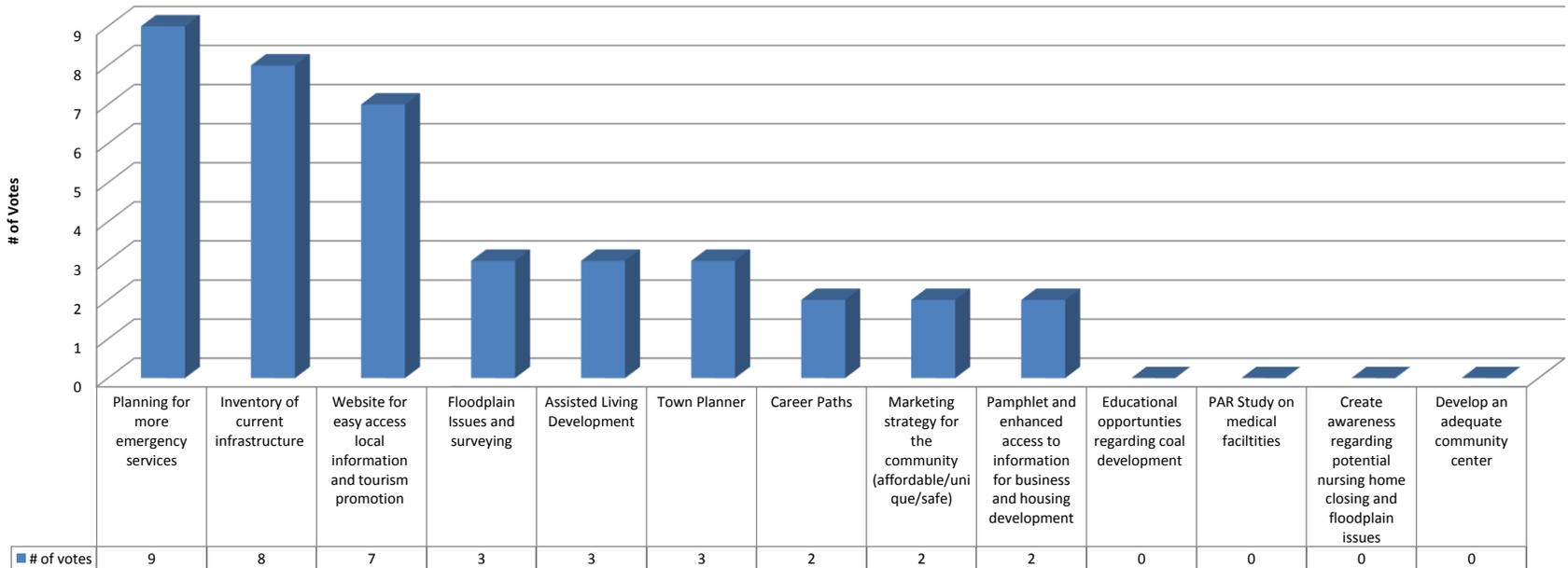
Inventory of current infrastructure (8 votes)

Town Planner (3 votes)

Projects and Survey Results

The following pages are charts illustrating the prioritization of all projects and the results from the survey passed out at the meeting.

Projects Proposed



■ # of votes

