

2015 Community Meeting Recap for the City of Forsyth

This document is a summary of the 2015 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings from the five-year CEDS document created 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).

While this year has been relatively quiet, there have been pressures in the region due to the slowdown in natural resource development that is taking place in the Bakken. Additionally, there are large projects such as the development of Otter Creek that are proposed in the region. SEMDC projects there will be many impacts on communities in southeastern Montana, and the goal is to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more communities understand the impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcome will be.

This document summarizes the thoughts, ideas, and projects discussed at the community meeting.

Forsyth CEDS Meeting 2015

Group Discussion

Rather than perform a typical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats assessments, SEMDC led the group through the exercise by having them first examine the results of last years' meeting and then adding or modifying the information already developed. The lists below are what the group as a whole developed.

Strengths

| | |
|--|---|
| Library | CTAP Program |
| Communication / Broadband (coop) | Chamber of Commerce |
| New Town Administration | New planner and grant writer |
| One Montana Urban/Rural Exchange | Adult basic ed. and community based ed. |
| Hospital, good medical, and tele-health | County seat |
| County Health Plan in the process | Suicide training |
| Public Transportation started up | Full Time Planner (County) |
| Emergency service radios are all digital | Community Attitudes/School Sports |
| Sewer Project | Movie Theater |
| Fairgrounds | Community Foundation |
| Community Service Groups | County Health Plan |
| County Growth Plan Adopted | Suicide Prevention Training |
| Flood Repairs Completed in Community | Historical Tourism Possibilities |
| Watts Murals | Natural Resource Development Services |
| Fairgrounds Facility Improvements | Quigley Shoot |
| Wind Farm | Available Housing/Buildings |
| Location/Transportation | Senior Center |
| Established Businesses | 10 Churches |
| Grocery/Pharmacy | Nursing Home |
| Assisted Living | Clinic |
| Large Veteran Population | Veteran Services |
| Recreation Area and Parks | Golf |
| Airport | Archery Course |
| Museum | Courthouse |

Concerns

| | |
|--|---|
| Utility concerns/Urban versus rural – costs associated with mandates and density | With increased nat'l resource development, there will be pressure on housing. |
| Labor in both Service Sector and in Skilled Trades | BNSF Railroad Changes |
| Homeless Children | Housing – assisted living workforce |
| Worried about boom and bust, not sustainable growth | Difficulty getting grants and diminishing pool of money |
| Fish ladder improvements | Lack of skilled trades and services / plumbing etc. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Federal deficit reduction lack of \$\$ | There will be an Impact with Otter Creek, but Rosebud will probably see little money from them |
| Streets | Large Corporate Interest in the Community |
| Lack of processing facilities locally | Limited local food accessibility |
| Recertification of dike | Main Street business district suffering |
| Lack of qualified childcare/pre-schools | Inability to get water out of town/pools there |
| Aging population | Building Abatements |
| Junked Cars | Nursing Home \$\$ |
| Continuation of Best Beginnings due to loss of key personnel | Quality of Life Issues |
| Hospice Care | Downturn in Bakken Activity |
| Lack Business Promotion/more local business | Coal Board \$\$ Availability |
| SE Montana Tourism representation from Forsyth is missing | Mental Health Services |
| Affordable Housing | Future for BNSF Employees if train is rerouted |
| Recycling Drop Offs | Medical Professionals |
| Computer Tech Support | Future of Power Plants |
| No Bus Service | TRRR on hold |
| Evaluate Website Options | |

Working Groups

In this second activity, the group was asked to discuss projects that would assist in addressing some of the weaknesses or needs in the community. At the end of the identification of meaningful projects, the group was given three stickers and asked to vote for specific projects. They were allowed to place their stickers as they chose with one sticker by three various projects or all their stickers by a particular project.

Economy and Housing

Community Recruitment Plan

Development of recruitment plan and marketing of existing businesses in community.

Tourism Promotion

Historical, Geo-Tourism, Riverboat site – develop a tourism marketing plan for attractions in area.

Market Recreational Sites

Establish signage, improve facilities, improve boat launch, promote Quigley event

SE Montana Tourism Rep

Identify capable and willing candidate from Rosebud County/Forsyth to serve on SE Montana Tourism board.

Projects for Economy/Housing

Community Recruitment Plan – 9 Votes

Tourism Promotion – 8 Votes

Market Recreational Sites – 6 Votes

SE Montana Tourism Rep – 6 Votes

Quality of Life

Promote Local Artists

Numerous artisans in the area need promotion of events/items.

Elderly Care Hub

Forsyth has a number of services and also housing available to naturally transition aging persons from their individual homes to independent living, assisted living and finally a skilled care nursing facility. Market this more and capitalize on existing facilities and services.

Projects for Quality of Life

Promote Local Artists – 2 Votes

Services and Infrastructure

UV Sewer Treatment

Infrastructure maintenance is a constant concern for rural communities.

Vacuum Truck

Due to drainage challenges in the community, this truck can be used to pump out backups in the sewer, etc.

Sidewalk Project

Add, repair and replace sidewalks in Forsyth for beautification and safety purposes.

Dike Project

Challenges with federal agencies and dike around Forsyth.

Street Repair/Drainage

Basic maintenance and repair of streets. Drainage is a challenge in this community due to Yellowstone River being adjacent to it.

Evaluate Website Options

Chamber, City and County have websites. Maintenance challenges. Prepare plan for improvement.

Projects for Services and Infrastructure

UV Sewer Treatment – 1 Vote

Vacuum Truck – 3 Votes

Dike Projects – 3 Votes

Street Repair Drainage – 1 Vote