

## 2017 Community Meeting Recap for the City of Forsyth

This document is a summary of the 2017 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings to create a five-year CEDS document 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 and the threats to local employment created by the impending threat of Units 1 and 2 shutting down at Colstrip. 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 2017

## 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	Extension Service/MSU
Communication / Broadband (coop)	Chamber of Commerce
New Town Administration	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	Community Newspaper
Emergency service radios are all digital	Community Attitudes/School Sports
Low Cost of Living	Movie Theater
Fairgrounds	Community Foundation
Community Service Groups	County Health Plan
County Growth Plan Adopted	Suicide Prevention Training
Radio station in community	Historical Tourism Possibilities
Watts Murals	Natural Resource Development Services
Fairgrounds Facility and Improvements	Quigley Shoot
Potential for 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
Shooting Range	Proximity to Yellowstone River
Great People	Hospitality
Lodging	Duck Days/Octoberfest
Proximity to MCC Ag Advancement Center	County Fair
Parks	Good School/Sports Programs
Bowling Alley	Recent Sidewalk Improvements
UV System Installed (sewer)	Car Dealership
Riverview Villa	Utility Cooperative in Community
Financial Institutions (2)	Pool
Prince Construction	Innovate Montana Roadshow

## Concerns

Utility concerns/Urban versus rural – costs associated with mandates and density	Downturn in Ag Economy
Availability of Labor in both Service Sector and in Skilled Trades	Threat of BNSF Railroad Changes
Homeless Children	Housing – assisted living and workforce
Coal Future uncertain	Difficulty getting grants and diminishing pool of money
Fish ladder improvements	Lack of skilled trades and services / plumbing etc.
Federal deficit reduction lack of \$\$	No bus service
Streets	Large Corporate Interest in the Community
Lack of ag 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 \$\$
Recruitment of employees/labor force	Quality of Life Issues
Hospice Care	No rental car availability locally
Lack Business Promotion/more local business	Coal Board \$\$ Availability
Pool	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 recreation center	Fed & State \$\$ decreasing
Need to actively maintain websites representing community	Empty Lots/Run down Housing
High number of houses for sale	Rosebud School future
Fluctuations in Fed/State Hwy \$\$ (Prince)	No walking path
Perception of drugs in community	Social services not local (satellite service)

## 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

### ***Marketing Hometown America***

Emphasize marketing of Forsyth to bring home youth and provide job opportunities for younger persons.

### ***Tourism Sign Project***

Placement of signs throughout County to direct traffic off interstate and take tourists across and throughout the County to see historical sites.

### ***Market Recreational Sites***

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

### ***Entrepreneurial Training***

Better Together!! Business mentor program and quarterly training programs.

### ***Processing Center for Independent Banks***

Establish a processing center to serve independent banks throughout the region.

### Projects for Economy/Housing receiving votes

Entrepreneurial Training – 14 Votes

Market Hometown America – 2 Votes

Processing Center – 5 Votes

## **Quality of Life**

### ***Park Improvements***

Purchase and install new playground equipment in parks, remodel bathroom at Riverside Park

### ***Healthy Activities***

Establish a recreational center and a mentoring program similar to Big Brothers and Sisters to connect youth with strong role models.

### ***Drug Court/DUI Court***

Establish a drug/dui court program in Rosebud County to assist persons with dependency problems to overcome them.

### ***Community Leadership***

Establish a leadership training program to expand leadership capacity in the community.

### Projects for Quality of Life receiving votes

Healthy Activities – 6 Votes

Drug/DUI Court – 3 Votes

Community Leadership – 1 Vote

## **Services and Infrastructure**

### ***Levee Project***

Work with federal agencies to obtain recertification on existing levee structure.

### ***Rosebud County and Forsyth CIP***

Both governmental entities would like to pursue the development of CIP documents to categorize and prioritize infrastructure, required maintenance and replacement schedules. This will assist with many items including budgeting and planning.

### ***Hospital Roof***

The hospital roof is in need of replacement.

### ***City Fire Truck***

A more modern and up to date fire truck is needed by the City of Forsyth to provide adequate fire protection.

**Wind Farm**

Roads, an off loading site and electric lines will need to be developed if the proposed wind farm comes to fruition.

Projects for Services and Infrastructure receiving votes

Levee project – 1 Vote

CIP Projects – 3 Votes

Wind Farm – 1 Vote