



2011 Community Meeting Recap for the City of Forsyth

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

Forsyth CEDS Meeting 2011

Group Discussion

The first activity in this community meeting was to brainstorm strengths, weaknesses, and influential factors in Forsyth. 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

Library	Mental Health
Communication / Broadband (coop)	Year round indoor swimming pool
Flood repairs will provide many improvements public and private	New planner and grant writer
Dyke and lack of flood plain	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	

Concerns

Dysfunctional utility (electrical) Services / high cost	With increased nat'l resource dev. Regionally, there will be pressure on housing. Otter Creek will affect people living in the Tongue River and they concerned about livelihood
Facing concerns regarding oil extraction north of Forsyth – water and infrastructure concerns	Legislature redistricting / lack of representation Urban vs Rural
Medical district \$\$	Housing – assisted living workforce
Worried about boom and bust, not sustainable growth	Difficulty getting grants and diminishing pool of money
Rural Post Office – closures in rosebud county (not Forsyth)	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
Adult Ed cut services because -- \$\$	Large Corporate Interest in the Community
Lack of processing facilities locally	Limited local food accessible

Influential Factors

Multi-National corporation decision making	Lack of Local processing and value-added ag
Federal and state legislature and budgets	Farm Bill
Price of energy (global prices and demand)	Difficulty to get grants
Transfer of wealth	Difficult to provide benefits / wage package
Federal Energy Policy	Compliance Rules for banks (Federal Legislation)
Demographics in Eastern MT (increasing elderly/senior population and decreasing youth population)	Developing energy Projects will create a large demand for employees and to be difficult locally to compete with demand
Diminishing Pool of grants \$\$\$	Debate on climate change

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 and Housing

Local and regional natural energy developments

There is oil being drilled north of Forsyth, the Bakkan to the East, and the potential Otter Creek Coal in Powder River County. Much of this development will bring more people which is bringing a need for more housing and workforce housing. There was the concern discussed about whether Forsyth will be able to proactively and sustainably plan ahead for any "booms" to maximize any of the development effects and stay away from the losses that occur during "busts." This planning would need to include infrastructure, housing, population increases, etc. There is also the threat that if Forsyth acts reactively not proactively, Forsyth could enhance infrastructure and build housing, but do it prematurely.

The same things that attract housing developers will attract business

Forsyth does have a nice website, but perhaps there are ways to promote both new community members and new entrepreneurs/industries.

Projects for housing

Inventory of housing options / structures / land and look into incentives (taxes / zoning) –
(6 votes)

Quality of Life

Accessibility and “walkability” in the community

There are a number of streets without sidewalks, and some areas that are dangerous to cross (especially the railroad crossing on the east of town). There is also the issue of getting youth to walk and exercise more.

How to maximize the pool

The community pool is an indoor pool in Forsyth that is an asset to the community for health and wellness, but it is expensive to run. Community members felt that if more people used the pool and more programs were put in place it would justify the cost of the pool. This also aligns with the previous issue of getting youth more active, and how to promote the pool to do that.

Proposed Projects

Quincer addition (**1 vote**)

Sustainability of clinic (**2 votes**)

Collaboration (**4 votes**)

- Between towns, organisations, businesses, schools, entities for youth programs
(Nutrition Health, Sex-Ed, Parenting)

Enhancing how we use the pool

Walking Path / RR crossing accessibility

Services and Infrastructure

Burden on Range Telephone if / when they service Otter Creek (Cost Burden)

There would be a financial burden on Range Telephone if they were to install internet in the Otter Creek area, as they would not get the money back for years to come which may also raise cost for locals.

Infrastructure updates

Infrastructure updates will make development and housing easier, as well as mitigate some issues such as flooding.

Services needed:

Ag workers, legal services, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, heating, cooling, computer services

Projects.

Service and storm system update **7 votes**

Recruit/train for needed services & link with existing business to supply & demand **7 votes**

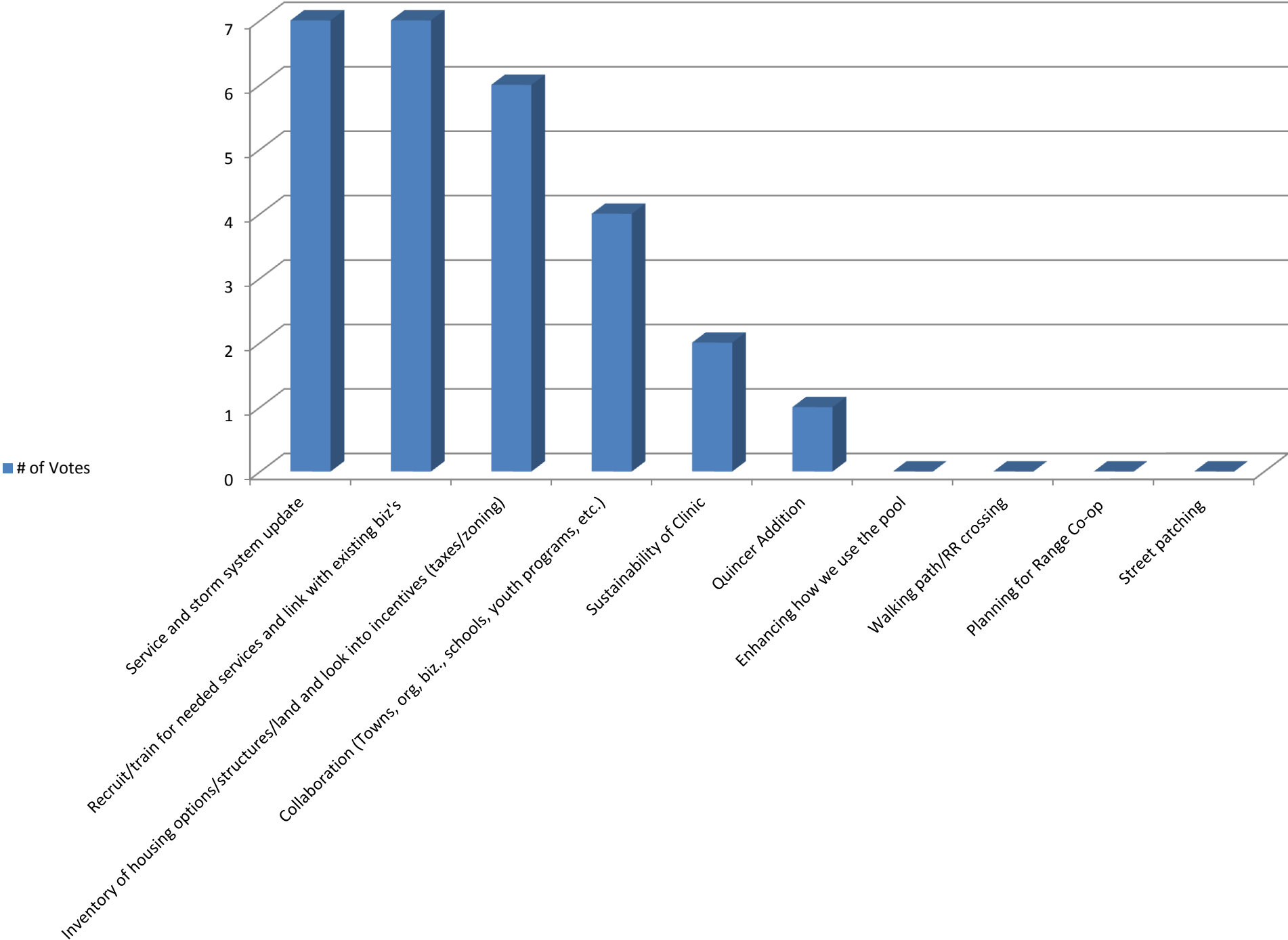
Planning for Range co-op

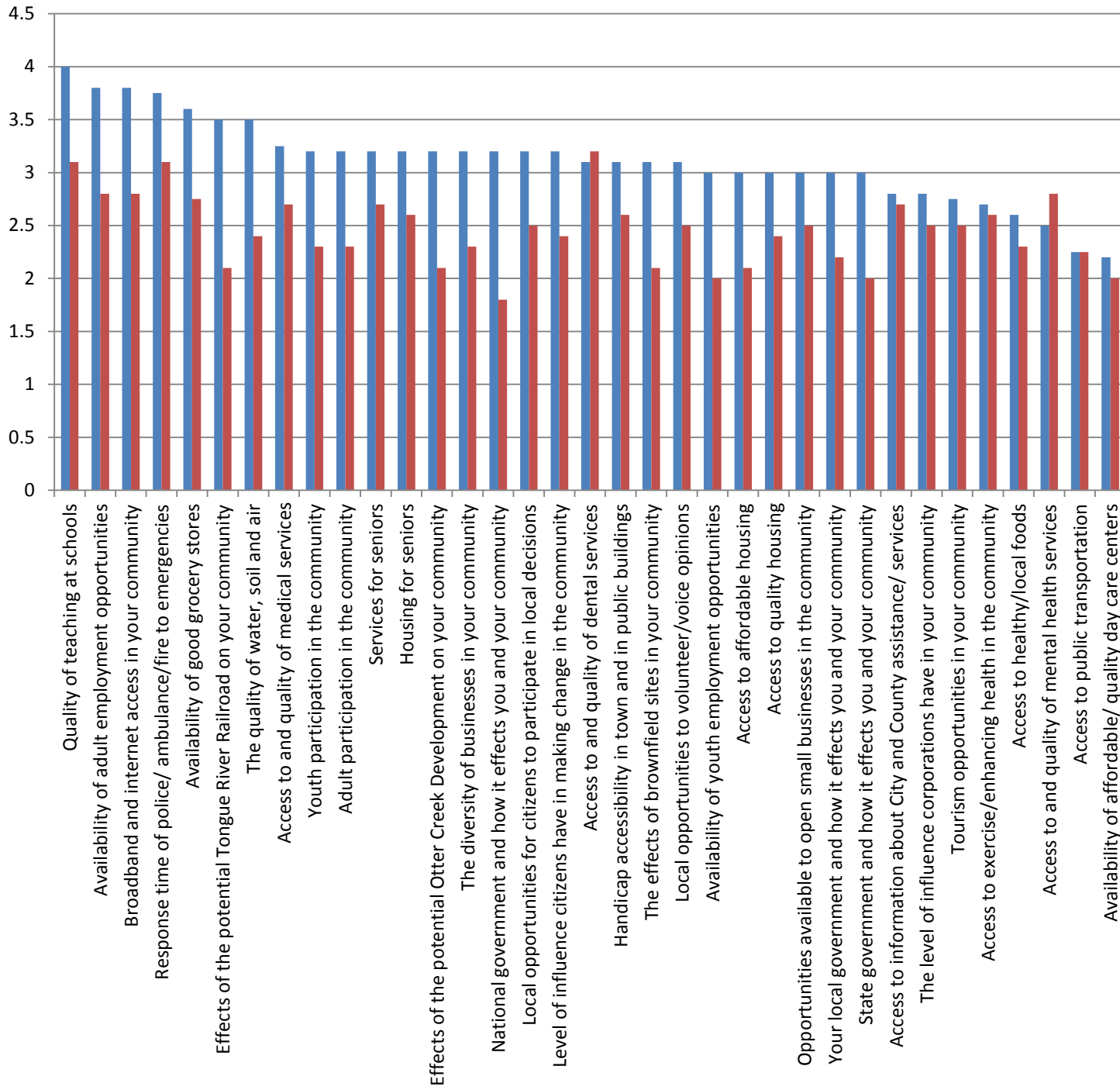
Street Patching

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.

Forsyth CEDS 2011 - Proposed Projects





Forsyth CEDS Survey Results 2011

Total surveys collected: 8

Scale: 1-4

1 Not at all Important/Completely Unsatisfied

4 Very Important/ Completely Satisfied

■ How important is this to you? (avg.)

■ How satisfied are you with...? (avg.)