



2015 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Hysham

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).

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 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. It also summarizes some of the findings from the survey that was passed out at the meetings

Hysham 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

Safe / Quiet Community	Interstate close
Schools	Hardwired Internet for homes (small scale)
Hunting / Recreational	River
Great Local Business	Good irrigation systems
Two bars, four churches	Implement dealer
Museum / culture	Electrical / Co-op
Growth Plan / County	Potential bedroom community (of Billings / Miles City / Otter Creek)
Active senior Community	Strong moral / ethic as a work community
Strong agriculture base	Highly educated agriculture workers
Beautiful historic buildings	EMS (Fire / Ambulance)
Local Financial Institution	Paved airport
Access to Rosebud Library	Doctor visits once a week
Vet Clinic	Summer Farmers Market
Strong Volunteerism	Transportation for public / seniors
Trade Expo	School website
Community Spirit "Holidays in Hysham"	Alternative options for grocery
Available land for expansion/development	Community Support and fundraising for pool
Railroad Spur/2 New Railroad Sidings	Downtown Building – possibilities
Vacant Lots Available	Street Fest Event
4 th of July Event	Personal Shopper Service
Junque Store	Bakken Labor/Traffic
County Seat	Law Enforcement
Island Access	Hunting/Fishing
UPS Service	Community Foundation
Pool (Free)	Antique Store
Greenhouses (2)	Hysham Hilton (Lodging)
Town/River Access with facilities	Shooting Range
Nail/Hair/Exercise Location	Fun Run/Splash Dash
Chamber of Commerce	Food Bank

Concerns

Housing (existed housing is limited)	Somewhat land locked
Lack of Natural Gas – Cost of Business Development	Obtaining/Retaining Teachers
Will we be proactive with potential expand in local natural resource development? Lack of proactive planning zoning	No grocery store
Competitive advantage is a challenge	Lack of Highway Signage
How to capitalize on Natural Resource Development - how to be a success story?	Lack of diversification
Keeping local land Agriculture	The community can be perceived as exclusive
Difficult to get basic services with small population	Diversified Agriculture – Apathy
Lack of skilled trades, electrician, plumber	Lack of senior living services/facility
School Enrollment Down	FSA Office Now closed
Tower Fixed	Maturing Population
Lack of Restaurants	Internet Connectivity
Population Down	Recruitment Challenges
Lack of Skilled Trades	Lack of Lodging
Age increasing – lack of availability of services (pharmacy / groceries – basic) will be a factor for people looking to move here	People shopping behaviors (if it were local...will people buy local?)
Lack of Local Businesses	Newspaper
Schools – lack of families with school aged children	“Gendered work” difficult for women to find work
Lack of agriculture workers / support – larger machinery / fewer employees	School Kids not in Public School
Technology impacting jobs	City services – water, sewer, etc., high costs
Lack of general store – clothing, etc.	Price of utilities
Street Condition	Old Vacant Buildings
High Electricity Cost	Public Rest Rooms

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

Rehabilitation of Downtown Building

There is a lack of basic services (such as a grocery store) in this community. The community

members at the meeting expressed understanding that a small population is often unable to create the demand necessary for certain services. However this too is an aging community where it will become more and more difficult for people to leave town to be able to access basic things like fruits and vegetables.

Highway Signage Project

Develop more effective signage to let people know of what is available in Hysham.

Proposed Economic Projects (That received votes)

Rehabilitation of Downtown Building – 7
Highway Signage - 2

Housing, Quality of Life, Services and Infrastructure

Playground Equipment

Lions Club civic group is working to upgrade playground equipment at school.

Sidewalks/Streets/Drainage

Paving and repair of streets, drainage and sidewalks in Hysham would enhance the appearance and make the town safer.

Town Water System

Study, Tower, water infrastructure, etc.

Street Fest

Very successful festival that attracts many participants. Expand and build upon the concept

Chamber Tree Project

The Chamber of Commerce is proposing a tree project for increasing attractiveness of community.

Proposed Housing, Quality of Live, Services and Infrastructure Projects

Playground Equipment – 6
Town Water System – 5
Sidewalks, Streets, Drainage – 6
Street Fest – 1
Chamber Tree Project – 2