



## 2017 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Hysham

This document is a summary of the 2017 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to develop 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 changes within the natural resource development arena. There could 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 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

|                                          |                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Safe / Quiet Community                   | Interstate close                                                     |
| Planning Board                           | Hardwired Internet for homes (small scale)                           |
| Hunting / Recreational                   | River                                                                |
| Hysham CIP                               | 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"    | New water tower/improved mains & hydrants                            |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> of July Event            | Senior Activities                                                    |
| Junque Store                             | Chamber of Commerce                                                  |
| County Seat                              | Law Enforcement                                                      |
| Island Access                            | Hunting/Fishing                                                      |
| UPS Service                              | Community Foundation                                                 |
| Pool (Free)                              | Antique Store                                                        |
| Greenhouses (2)                          | Junque Store                                                         |
| Town/River Access with facilities        | Shooting Range                                                       |
| Nail/Hair/Exercise Location              | Fun Run/Splash Dash                                                  |
| Chamber of Commerce                      | Food Bank                                                            |
| Community Facebook Page                  | Education attainment level in community                              |
| Paved runway at airport                  |                                                                      |

## 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?<br>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                                                 |
| Limited housing rental/Low income only                                                                                            | 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                                                     |
| Planning board limits development                                                                                                 | Lack of childcare/women can’t work                                    |
| Lack of natural resource development                                                                                              | BLM delays in permitting Area F                                       |

## 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

### ***Grocery Store Co-op***

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. Significant interest in forming a cooperative to provide a necessary and basic service within the community.

### ***Highway Signage Project***

Develop more effective signage to let people know of what is available in Hysham. Signs at the rest area could assist with this measure.

### **Proposed Economic Projects (That received votes)**

Grocery Store Cooperative – 6  
Highway Signage - 1

## Housing, Quality of Life, Services and Infrastructure

### ***Playground Equipment***

Several groups are working to upgrade playground equipment at school.

### ***Wastewater Improvements***

A preliminary engineering report is necessary to assess the improvements needed for the wastewater system.

### ***Housing Options***

Investigate possibility of decreasing existing low income housing and allow it to be utilized for moderate income as well. Few rentals available

### ***Stormwater Drainage***

Stormwater drainage is needed within the town. This has been placed secondary to the wastewater system improvements necessary at this time.

### **Proposed Housing, Quality of Live, Services and Infrastructure Projects receiving votes**

Housing Options - 1