



2011 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Hysham

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

Hysham CEDS Meeting 2011

Group Discussion

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

Safe / Quiet Community	Interstate close
Schools	Hardwired Internet for homes (small scale)
Hunting / Recreational	River
Great Local Business	Good irrigation systems
Two restaurants, 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
Two great Vet Clinics	Summer Farmers Market
Strong Volunteerism	Transportation for public / seniors
Trade Expo	

Concerns

Housing (existed housing is limited)	Somewhat land locked
Internet / Lack of fiber	As energy development continues north of Hysham – where will people live / shop ?
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	EMS underfunded / lack of man power
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 senses with small population	Diversified Agriculture – Apathy

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?)
Farm Policy	Post Office
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	Higher wages in Bakkan may be a strain on labor pool
Technology impacting jobs	

Influential Factors

Farm Bill	Extension Office
Local organizations (Churches , 4-H, Montana Community Foundation, Seniors Citizens)	Strong sense of Community (people love the town)
Demographics / population change	Oil Development
National Economy (Electric co-op, funding, gas / fuel, etc.)	Billings / Forsyth / Colstrip Location

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

Lack of diversity

There is a strong ag economy, however there is a lack of economic diversity in this community.

Lack of grocery store / other services

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.

Marketing the community and promoting local business

Hysham has a strong agricultural base, it is a safe community with a strong work ethic, and there are many outdoor recreational opportunities. The community members at the meetings expressed the need to promote this as well as some of the local businesses in the area.

Proposed Economic Projects

Grocery store (**7 votes**)

Farmers Market (**2 votes**)

Review Growth Policy (**2 votes**)

Housing, Quality of Life, Services and Infrastructure

Lack of housing and land

There is a lack of housing within the community, and limited housing for seniors or those with disabilities. There is little local land available because most of it is currently owned, and people were unsure whether anyone would sell to encourage development.

Pricey Utilities

Utilities are becoming increasingly expensive, and there is no natural gas locally.

Must be more creative to find local solutions

Various things were discussed regarding finding local solutions, and some were a local c-op grocery store, review of growth plan and other planning documents, as well as seeking out assistance from other agencies such as Action for Montana.

Local streets and sidewalks

There is a need for more paving and street/sidewalk repair.

Proposed Economic Projects

Community Directory (**3 votes**)

Enhance local transportation by working with Rosebud Bus (**2 votes**)

Make sure there is representation for low income housing (**1 vote**)

Community group Networking (**1 vote**)

Paving (finances to get materials)

Promoting local services (Booklet / on line)

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.

Hysham CEDS 2011 - Projects Proposed



