



2017 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Lame Deer

Photo: Jen Price

This document is a summary of the 2017 CEDS community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings to incorporate into 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).

The reviews this year focused more on infrastructure needs and building skills for small businesses.

This document summarizes the thoughts, ideas, and projects discussed at the community meeting.

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Lame Deer 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

Chief Dull Knife College	Improved Sidewalks and street names / signs/Beautification project
Street Lights	UCC Codes (financing, liens) established/Court Law & Order Codes
Beauty	Rodeo Grounds
Local Artists	July 4th Pow-Wow
Improvement in School District	Flower Grinder/Depot/Bakery/Cash Store
Family Culture	Timber and Coal Resources
Financial Institution	Community Pride
Transit system for all – Rez Runner	Water line - Lame Deer to Muddy Cluster
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority	Younger generation is interested in seeing change and improvements
Medical Facility/Addiction Recovery Center	Casino and Restaurant (provides jobs)
Blooming entrepreneurial spirit (Various Funding and CDL College)	Boys and girls club
Thirty five units for seniors/those in need of housing	Laundry Mat
Non Profits/Community and Youth Elder Commission Feeding Program	Young community (demographics) Sawmill operating at tribal owned site in Ashland
Natural Resources – Water Rights and Mineral Rights	Land Resources (445,000 acres trust land) Bear Butte, Thunder Child
Northern Cheyenne Development Corporation	Business Opportunities
Peoples Partnership for Community Development	Train youth at CDKC and Tribal Housing Authority
Tongue River water rights	Transfer Station Completed
Thrift Store	Gas Station - Depot
Curbside Garbage Pick Up	History/Archeology
Mini Mall/Business Incubator	Market Tongue River Land

Cell Towers Added	Basic Services (Grocery and Hardware)
Two Car Service/Repair Centers	

Concerns

Dependent on Federal \$\$	Isolation
Vacant houses and land (blight)	Lack of proactive groups/actions
Livestock in the roads (new policies enacted however)	Lack of preventative health care
Lack of housing	Obstacles in getting a loan on the reservation
Lack of available spaces to rent for businesses that need water	With a small close knit community, it is difficult to bounce back when tragedy / deaths occur
Bully culture in schools	High dropout rate
Suicide rate	Drug and alcoholism problem (especially prescription drugs)
Shortage of Police/Inconsistent Funding	Lack of suicide prevention
Low percentage of people with Drivers License/can't access services or work	Lack of services and media/communication source
Lack of media for communication	Lack of money in budget for econ. dev.
Lack of Lodging	Inability to attract private capital
Lack of marketing of water rights	Lack of marketing mineral rights
Proximity to Billings – hard for businesses	Water quality
Lack of Council Involvement	Isolation adds to transportation expense
Labor training/ready workforce, life skills	Train young people and they leave
Storage is an issue (Distribution)	Negative Outside Business Perceptions
Challenges for establishing additional water systems	Lack of jobs for all ages of persons
True private sector lacking jobs	Cultural restrictions – keep way they are
Lack of Public Safety	No way to fund road maintenance
Lack of Follow Through on Projects	Lack of Community Center or place for Public Meetings

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, Housing, Quality of Life, Services and Infrastructure

Community Center

Having a community center or “meeting place” was brought out by residents. It was noted that most available buildings have been utilized for offices of some type and that there is no place for meetings in the community.

Roundabout

Utilize the proposed roundabout in Hwy 212 to create beauty for the community and slow traffic. Will also improve sidewalks, storm drains, etc.

MEDA Town Assessment

There was substantial enthusiasm to hold a town meeting assessment for Lame Deer. This would involve outside experts to assess and offer information on strategies and projects to address critical projects to the residents of Lame Deer.

Small Businesses

Continue to work with small businesses to develop entrepreneurs and business skills in the population. Establish a local trading/flea market for vendors to sell their goods.

Infrastructure

Continue to repair water lines that are very old. Upgrades needed for Sewer Lagoon. Seems to be inflow/infiltration problem in Lame Deer sewer system. Fire hydrants outdated and need repair.

Social Reform Services

Establish a private or non-profit counseling service to assist with social reform issues such as obtaining a drivers license, getting a GED, finding housing, etc.