



2011 Community Meeting Recap for the Town of Lame Deer

Photo: Jen Price

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

Lame Deer CEDS Meeting 2011

Group Discussion

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

Chief Dull Knife College	Improved Sidewalks and street names / signs
More street lights	Food Services (for home delivery)
Beauty	Rodeo Grounds
Local Artists	July 4th Pow-Wow
Tourism Coordinator	Tourism
Family Culture	Decent Internet
Financial Institution	Community Pride
Transit system for all	Improved infrastructure (water line) Lame deer to Muddy Cluster
Fire Protection	People are interested in seeing change and improvements
Craft center	Casino and Restaurant (provides jobs and community \$\$\$)
Blooming entrepreneurial /spirit (Various Funding and CDL College)	Boys and girls club
Thirty five nursing home units for seniors	Newspaper (A Cheyenne Voice)
Mullins Lending	Young community (demographics)
Elder Commission	

Concerns

Vacant houses and land (blight)	Lack of proactive groups/actions
Livestock in the roads (Legislation is working on this)	Lack of preventative health care
Lack of housing	Obstacles in getting a loan on the reservation
Lack of available spaces to rent for businesses	With a small close knit community, it is difficult to bounce back when tragedy / deaths occur
Bully culture in schools	High dropout rate
High suicide rate	Drug and alcoholism problem (especially prescription drugs)
Shortage of Police inconsistent	Lack of suicide prevention

Lack of cell service	Lack of / services (auto, etc.)
Lack of communication	

Influential Factors

Elder Commission	Federal Government
Indian Health Services	Lack of communication with Councilmen / Reps / all elected officials
CDK college	Lack of funding
Lack of tax Base	

Working Groups

In this second activity, as a group, we discussed the following themes in more detail: Economy, Housing, Quality of life, Infrastructure and Services. They were asked to discuss various concerns, and were encouraged to propose a project that could tackle the issue at hand. 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, Housing, Quality of Life, Services and Infrastructure

Lack of lodging / food services / fuel location / availability on weekends

The community members felt that they are losing a lot of potential local money by having limited lodging, fuel, and food services because of all of the traffic that goes through this area.

Lack of quality housing and plenty of blight

Many houses are inadequate and overcrowded. There is also blight (abandoned buildings/lots) that are dangerous as they are prone to fires as well opportunistic for crime.

Lacking marketing for tourism

There are many assets in this community such as the culture and local landscape. However it is not promoted much at all.

Need to maximize national resource development

There is much potential for natural resource development in this area which can be explored.

High unemployment, underemployment (very few for youth), and high poverty level

There are few job opportunities, limited opportunities to rent or purchase land for development, many people who work part-time and temporary work. This is especially for youth. There is also a very high poverty rate (32% of Tribal workers fall in that percentage).

Need for life alert

There is no cellular service in this community, and there is a lack of communication for emergency services. The Elder Commission has been pushing the need for having a form of life alert to enhance EMS response.

Projects

Life alert (**3 votes**)

Rest Area for trucks / passer bys (**3 votes**)

Expand Craft center (**2 votes**)

Policy to deal with blighted areas (**2 votes**)

Expansion of classes / training at CDK College (**1 vote**)

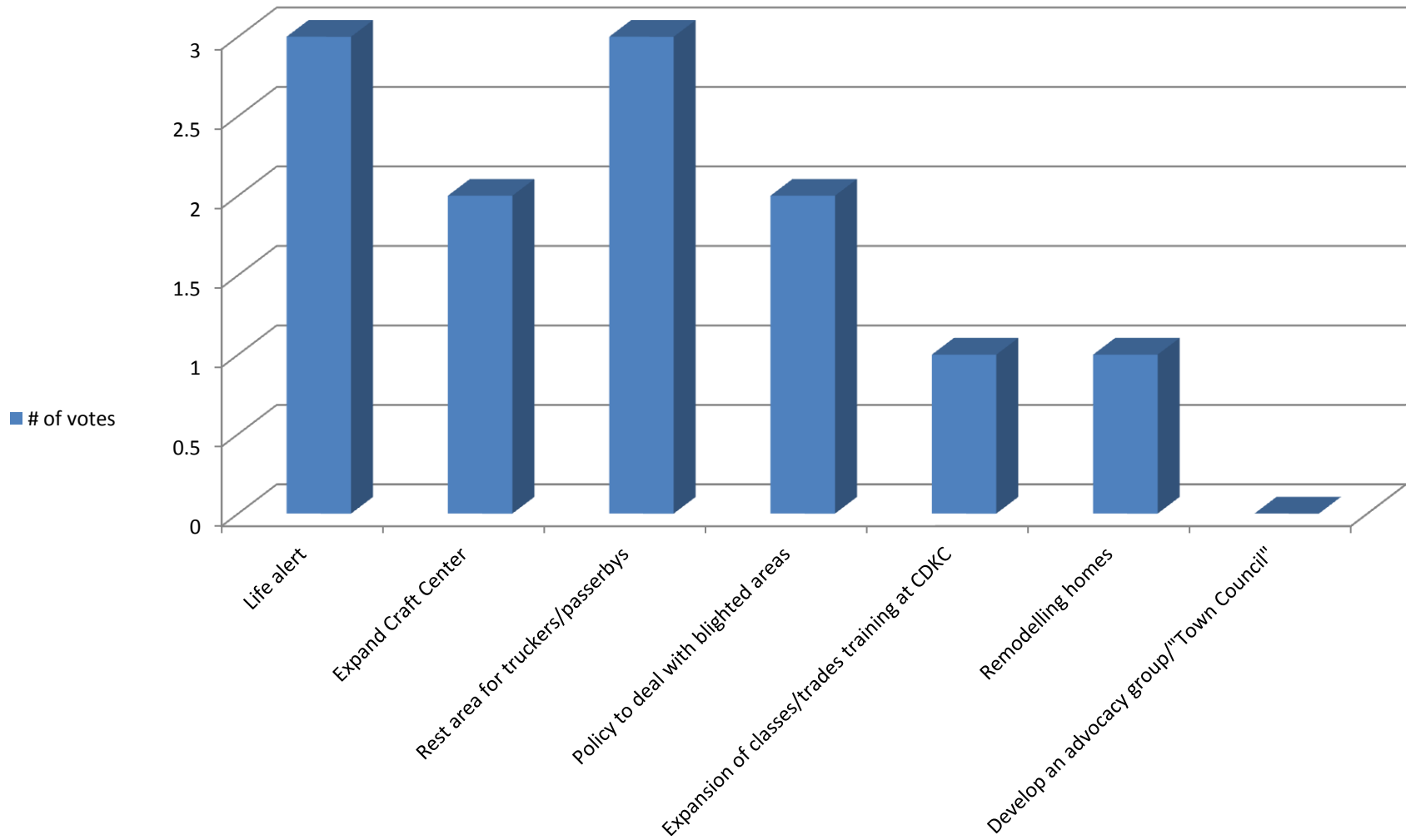
Remodelling Homes (**1 vote**)

Develop an advocacy group / "Town Council"

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.

Lame Deer CEDS 2011 - Projects Proposed



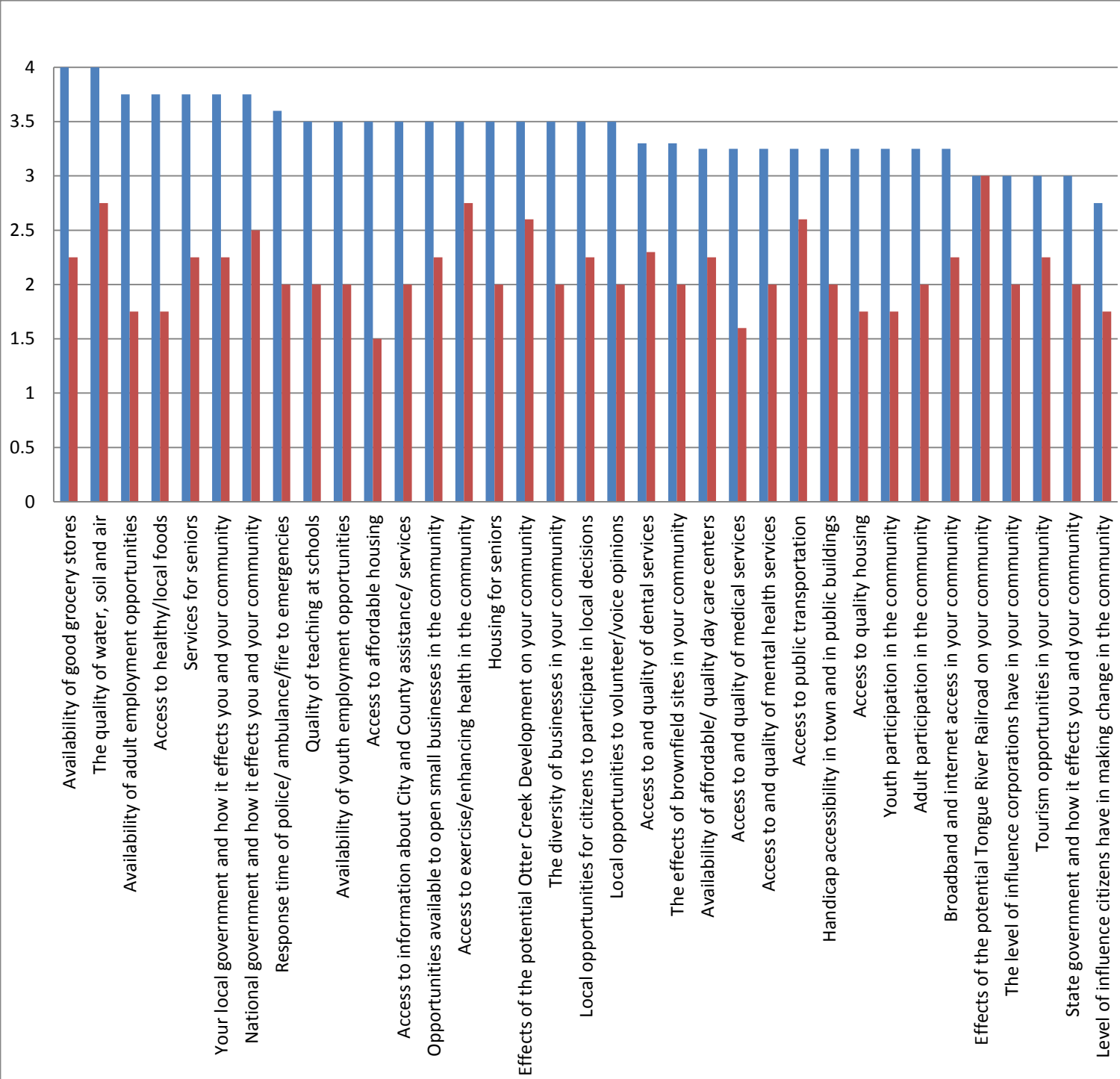
**Lame Deer CEDS
Survey Results 2011**

Total surveys collected: 4

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.)