



## 2015 Community Meeting Recap for Miles City

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 impacts natural resource development have had on the community. There will be many impacts on communities in southeastern Montana, and the goal is to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The decrease in oil prices have drawn some negative impacts recently. The more communities understand the impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

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

# Miles City 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

Medical Hub	Economic Diversity
Financial Hub/Banking Community	Food / Restaurant options
County Seat	Education Hub
Transportation (rail / hwy /crossroads)	WAPA
Schools: Community College (education offered pre-k through – college)	Clean air / Attractive / Healthy Living
Strong Ag economy, ag clusters, and Natural Resource Base	Good quality of Life
Fort Keogh	Rivers and plenty of outdoor recreation
Good paying jobs through Gov't	Some Land growth potential
Largest Hospital from between Billings and Dickinson	Culture / symphony / art center / range riders
Events – Bucking horse sale/car show	Farmers Market
Good, caring, hardworking people	Great telecommunications – IT and fiber are great
Strong volunteerism	Active Leadership community
Strong Historical / Pre. Community	Strong Sports supports
Grain terminal	Economic Development Center
Good roads and access	Increase in Truck Traffic
Auto parts / Ag Support	3 car dealerships – more variety
Convention Center	Proximity to Bakken and Otter Creek
Improved City/County relations	City/County planning improving, strong economic development group
Strong Church Community	Events Facility/Agri Sports Complex
Strong Chamber of Commerce, established popular events	Trucking services expanded
Government Service Center	Legislative representation
Additional retail stores/specialty stores	Critical Care Facility/Air Transport Service for emergency situations
Eastern Montana Industries	Business Diversity
Food Bank/Soup Kitchen	Council on Aging/Aging Hub
Law Enforcement/Fire Protection	New generation of business professionals
Potential and promise in our region	Upgrade of Broadus Interchange in works

Retail Development Growth	Potential Opportunity For Downtown Development
Quantity/Quality of Non Profits	Leadership Miles City Program
State Employees Medical Clinic Added	Airport Improvements – Runway, Hangars
Community Health Center	Secured Funding Phase II of Water Plant
Transportation Study in works	Community Vision and Proactive Attitude
Progress Toward Ag Advancement Center for MCC	Town and Country Club
CCMC Flood Control Project	Strong Western Cultural Heritage
Daily Newspaper – Radio Stations	Good working relationships between groups and businesses
New Detention Center	New Construction Group in Town
Hospital – offer services from birth to hospice	Access to National Corporations in community
Water/Sewer Capacity study near completion	Oil Service Industry Hub
Growing retail hub	Rocks Program
Affordable housing projects	MCC Heavy Equipment program
MCC workforce training programs	Historic buildings and funding to maintain them
Stockman Bank Hub	Low crime rate
Cell Phone coverage	Active service groups (civic groups)
Livestock Sales Barn - New	Lodging – just the right amount of rooms
Fairgrounds – New Livestock Pavilion planned	Phase II Wastewater funded
New Community Foundation	Regional Employers (Private and Public)
Active Youth Groups	Malt Festival

## Concerns

Labor Pool Limited – All Sectors	Parking concerns downtown
Lack of Cell Phone service outside of town	Water infrastructure needs upgrade, difficult to meet regulations /mandates
Lack of activities for the entire family when they are not at work or school	Need for downtown development and diversity
Housing / Costs of housing	Concern with / annexation (can we annex ahead of time)
Downtown Development	Lack of available rail offloading
Lack of measure of success tool	Lack of clinical site to accommodate MCC
Downtown building codes limiting to development in the downtown area	Workforce development not funded by the University system at present yet is in high demand.
Money generated in eastern MT going to western MT	Custer County receiving impacts from oil but no revenues
Increased rail traffic creates need for additional overpass, quiet zones and safe crossings.	Traffic on Haynes make getting on and off Haynes difficult without additional traffic lights.

Southgate Subdivision has only one exit in and out with numerous homes located there. May be safety issue.	Lack of workforce – unemployment at 2.9% - cannibalize each other for labor
How will natural resource development impact the local ag economy and culture?	Single Family moderately priced homes in limited supply
Low Income Housing availability	Demand on Emergency services and security would increase with more population
DNRC/water rights	EPA/Water Quality mandates
Bakken economic traffic decreasing; employment opportunities also down	Lack air service
Flood plain insurance costs	Increase in truck Traffic, impacts on roads
Doctor/Healthcare recruitment difficult	Increase rail traffic
Concern that the money will leave	Need for Impact Fees
FEMA flood insurance increase	Lack of marketing effort to bring back younger generation
Ag commodity prices decreasing relative to previous years	City's capacity to be able to respond to demands from growth
No Shoe Store	Industry Growth impacting infrastructure
Lack of Public Transportation	Convention Center
Grocery Store/North Side	School Special Education Staff recruitment difficult
No taxi cabs after 9pm	Transportation for disabled limited
More and more potential employees unable to pass drug tests	Loss of Colstrip
Prevailing wage rates have increased	Website updates – County
MDU Electric rates increasing	Federal government budgets are decreasing

## 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

### ***West End Development/Annexation***

Consider selling lots owned by City to business owners in West end area and pursue developing an improved appearance for that exit. May require seeking federal release of stipulations that make this not attractive to the City and County.

### ***Rail Off Loading Site***

There is a lack of available rail off loading sites for existing and new businesses in need of this service

### ***Build MCC Ag Advancement Center***

Create a facility that can be utilized by MCC in their equine program as well as other ag programs and the public during the colder months of the year.

### ***Medical Education Program (AHEC)***

Facilitate and build a medical education program in Miles City to bring medical professionals to the rural areas, create economic development with the program and hopefully assist in the retention and recruitment of medical professionals to rural areas such as Eastern Montana.

### ***Community Growth Plan***

Develop a vision to go along with the Growth Plan. This would guide the growth of Miles City and assist in developing the area in an organized manner in accordance with what people would like to see developed.

### ***Crisis Center (State)***

Establish building to house and also staff crisis center to deal with persons who become incarcerated and have mental health issues

### ***Collaboration with Key Groups***

Seems there are several groups that may be working on similar projects and not sharing resources/possibly duplicating efforts. Share priorities and projects.

### ***City/County Consolidation***

Avoid duplication of services and costs.

### ***Business Development Perception***

Several officials have shared that there is a negative business development perception regarding Miles City. Difficult to get through process and get information.

### ***Code Updates***

City in process of updating codes.

### ***MCC/Armory Purchase***

MCC to purchase old Armory building to house HEO/CDL program.

### **Proposed Economic Projects (Those receiving votes)**

Crisis Center – 2 votes

Collaboration Between Key Groups – 3 votes

Build MCC Ag Advancement Center – 2 votes

Rail Offloading Site – 1 Votes

Medical Education Program – 2 Votes

## **Housing**

### ***Senior Independent Housing***

Need for transitional housing to allow seniors to sell homes and move to low upkeep, smaller

housing where maintenance and upkeep is provided.

***Affordable/Moderately Priced Housing***

Need for housing for those persons working in service sectors and for SFH in \$150,000 - \$200,000 range.

**Proposed Housing Projects (Those receiving votes)**

## Quality of Life

***Partnerships of Service Organizations and City to Maintain Public Parks***

Service organizations such as Lions and Rotary are partnering with the City to help in maintaining and doing special projects in City parks.

***Complete City Walking Trail/Biking system***

Walking trails at Holy Rosary and Spotted Eagle could be linked together into a larger trail system.

***Connors Stadium Improvement/Repairs***

The existing baseball stadium is in need of repair and rehabilitation.

***Fairground Repairs and Construction of Livestock Pavilion***

Capital Improvement Plan prepared for fairgrounds. New livestock pavilion and other projects under way. Group called Friends of the Fairgrounds formed.

***Continued Improvement and Spotted Eagle***

The Spotted Eagle outdoor recreation area is very popular. It provides for boating, fishing, swimming, etc.

**Proposed Quality of Life Projects (Those receiving votes)**

## Services and Infrastructure

***CCMC Flood Control Project***

Miles City continues to struggle with matters associated with the existing levee which is not certified, and the floodplain. A dike assessment was completed and now the recommendations need to be implemented. Large cost for dike construction.

***Transportation Needs Assessment***

Area wide transportation study being conducted to improve traffic flow through all regions of Miles City and the surrounding area. This will be particularly important to the Haynes avenue business area.

***Water/Sewer Funding and Upgrades***

In response to the water and sewer study that was conducted throughout Miles City, additional funding for infrastructure is needed.

***Phase 2 and 3 Wastewater Project***

Completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Miles City Wastewater treatment plant upgrade is needed. Secure funding for Phase III.

***Handicap Accessibility (Transition ADA)***

Public facilities as well as streets and sidewalks should be assessed and improved to allow handicap accessibility.

***East Valley Water Line Extension Phase II***

This naturally developing industrial area is served with sewer all the way to the interstate down Hwy 12. Extend water line further down Hwy 12 to continue to allow more commercial and industrial development.

***School Buildings Upkeep and Maintenance***

The public schools are old structures and many components as well as the physical structures are in need of upgrades and repairs. Includes MCC infrastructure also.

***Tatro and Aye Street Sewer System***

These areas are still on septic systems and do not have access to a public sewer system. They are located in the floodplain. If the septic systems fail, regulations do not allow for repair of the systems.

**Proposed Services and Infrastructure Projects (Those receiving votes)**

Dike Assessment – 10 Votes

Transportation Needs Assessment – 1 Votes

Water and Sewer Funding – 1 Votes

MCC Armory Purchase – 4 Votes

School Building Upgrades – 2 Votes