

2018 Community Meeting Recap for the City of Forsyth

This document is a summary of the 2018 CEDs community meetings. These meetings were designed to discuss local findings to update our five-year CEDs document 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).

While this year has been relatively quiet, there is looming pressure in the community as to coal impacts within the county. SEMDC projects there will 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.

Forsyth CEDS Meeting 2018

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

Library	Extension Service/MSU
Communication/Broadband Capacity	Active Chamber of Commerce
Hunting/Fishing/Outdoor Recreation Opp.	City and County have CIP's
New Hutterite Colony/Diversity	Adult basic ed. and community based ed.
Hospital, good medical, and tele-health	County seat
Child Care Services	IT Support for Businesses offered thru Range
Public Transportation Program in place	Community Newspaper
Emergency service radios are all digital	Community Attitudes/School Sports
Low Cost of Living	Movie Theater
Fairgrounds	Community Foundation
Community Service Groups	Potential for Large Cattle Processing Facility
County/City Growth Plans	Suicide Prevention Training
Radio station in community	Pursuing Historical Tourism Possibilities
Watts Murals	Natural Resource Development Services
Fairgrounds Facility and Improvements	Quigley Shoot
Potential for Wind Farm	Hospital
Location/Transportation	Senior Center
Established Businesses	10 Churches
Grocery/Pharmacy	Nursing Home/Clinic
Assisted Living	Diversified Ag Base/Irrigation Availability
Large Veteran Population	Veteran Services
Recreation Area and Parks	Golf Course
Airport	Archery
Museum	Courthouse
Shooting Range	Proximity to Yellowstone River
Great People/Hospitality	Seeking Funding for Next Gen 911
Lodging	Duck Days/Octoberfest
Proximity to MCC Ag Advancement Center	County Fair
Parks	Good School/Sports Programs
Bowling Alley	Recent Sidewalk Improvements
UV System Installed (sewer) City	Car Dealership
Riverview Villa	Telecommunications Co-op in Community
Financial Institutions (2)	Pool
Prince Construction	Integrated Behavioral Health Program Avail.

Concerns

Utility concerns/Urban versus rural – costs associated with mandates and	Difficulty getting grants and diminishing pool of money
Availability of Labor in both Service Sector and in Skilled Trades	City Website/Keeping up content on all websites is difficult
Homeless Children	Housing – assisted living and workforce
School Population Decreasing	No bus service
Fish ladder improvements	Lack Business Promotion/more local
Coal Future uncertain	Downturn in Ag Economy
Streets	Large Corporate Interest in the Community
Lack of ag processing facilities	Limited local food accessibility
Recertification of dike	Main Street business district suffering
Lack of qualified childcare/pre-schools	Water drainage challenges
Aging population	Building Abatements
Junked Cars	Nursing Home \$\$
Recruitment of employees/labor force	Quality of Life Issues
Hospice Care	No rental car availability locally
Need to actively maintain websites representing community	Commercial/Industrial Move In Ready Buildings unavailable
Pool	Mental Health Services
Affordable Housing	Medical Professionals
Recycling Drop Offs	Future of Power Plants
Computer Tech Support	Federal & State \$\$ decreasing
Threat of BNSF Railroad Changes-Labor	Rosebud School future
No recreation center	Empty Lots/Run down Housing
High number of houses for sale	No walking path
Fluctuations in Fed/State Hwy \$\$	Social services not local (satellite service)
Perception of drugs in community	County Emergency Services Building
No place to recycle used oil	Coal Board \$\$ Availability

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 and Housing

Encourage Development of Commercial Real Estate

Existing stock of commercial real estate sites is limited to non-existent. Evaluate current sites and encourage re-development or initial development of move-in ready sites.

Pulse Crop Facility

Encourage the development of an ag processing center or facility to promote the production of Pulse crops in Rosebud County.

Workforce Re-training Opportunities

Offer retraining to employees affected by coal impacts.

Market Job/Workforce Opportunities

Find non-traditional ways to educate the public about skilled trades types of jobs. Begin at the High School/Middle School level. Utilize job fairs, apprenticeship programs, One MT program.

Expand Tourism and Marketing Opportunities

Placement of signs throughout County to direct traffic off interstate and take tourists across and throughout the County to see historical sites. Establish signage, improve internet presence, improve facilities, improve boat launch, promote Quigley event

Projects for Economy/Housing receiving votes

Market Job/Workforce Opportunities – 9 Votes

Pulse Crop Facility – 7 Votes

Commercial Real Estate – 5 Votes

Workforce Retraining – 2 Votes

Expand Tourism/Marketing – 2 Votes

Quality of Life

Drug Court/DUI Court

Establish a drug/DUI court program in Rosebud County to assist persons with dependency problems to overcome them.

Community Leadership

Establish a leadership training program to expand leadership capacity in the community.

Projects for Quality of Life receiving votes

None

Services and Infrastructure

Levee Project

Work with federal agencies to obtain recertification on existing levee structure.

Wind Farm

Roads, off-loading site, and electric lines will need to be developed if the proposed wind farm comes to fruition.

Broadband Evaluation and Expansion/Improvement

Work with Range to continue to improve the availability and speed of broadband services.

Water Intake

Evaluate and potentially replace water intake system for City of Forsyth.

Front Street Remodel

Front Street is scheduled on the 5-year plan for being reconstructed by MT DOT. Form committee to begin to look at what can be done to make it attractive, functional, and inviting.

EMS Building

The current ambulance building is not suitable. A new building is needed to house emergency service vehicles and equipment.

Projects for Services and Infrastructure receiving votes

Levee project – 4 Votes

Front Street – 4 Votes

EMS Building – 3 Votes

Water Intake – 1 Vote