

2019 Community Meeting Recap for the City of Forsyth

This document is a summary of the 2018 CEDS community meeting. This meeting was designed to discuss local findings to update a 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).

With the announcement of Colstrip Units 1 & 2 closing at the end of 2019, there is looming pressure in the community as to what the impacts will truly be. 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.

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Forsyth CEDS Meeting 2019

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.	Town 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
RV Park	Community Foundation
Community Service Groups	Potential for Large Cattle Processing Facility
County/City Growth Plans	Suicide Prevention Training
Radio station in community	Leadership 29 Program
Watts Murals	Natural Resource Development Services
Fairgrounds Facility and Improvements	Quigley Shoot
Wind Farm Activity	Oil Activity
Location/Transportation	Senior Center
Established Businesses	10 Churches
Grocery/Pharmacy	Quality 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)	Car Dealership
Riverview Villa	Telecommunications Co-op in Community
Financial Institutions (2)	Pool
Prince Construction	Integrated Behavioral Health Program Avail.
Power Grant \$\$	Handicap Fishing Access
Levee	Wind Farm Development Impact \$\$
Community Activities – Darts, Christmas Stroll, Youth Sports	Museum

Concerns

Utility concerns/Urban versus rural – costs associated with mandates and density	Downturn in Ag Economy
Availability of Labor in both Service Sector and in Skilled Trades	Threat of BNSF Railroad Changes
Homeless Children	Housing – assisted living and workforce
Coal Future uncertain	Difficulty getting grants and diminishing pool of money
Fish ladder improvements	City Website/Keeping up content on all websites is difficult
Federal deficit reduction lack of \$\$	No bus service
Streets	Large Corporate Interest in the Community
Lack of ag processing facilities locally/PULSE	Limited local food accessibility
Recertification of dike	Main Street business district suffering
Lack of qualified childcare/pre-schools	Inability to get water out of town/pools there
Aging population	Building Abatements
Junked Cars	Nursing Home \$\$
Recruitment of employees/labor force	Quality of Life Issues
Hospice Care	No rental car availability locally
Lack Business Promotion/more local business	Coal Board \$\$ Availability
Pool	Mental Health Services
Affordable Housing	Future for BNSF Employees if train is rerouted
Recycling Drop Offs	Medical Professionals
Computer Tech Support	Power Plant Closures
No recreation center	Fed & State \$\$ decreasing
Need to actively maintain websites representing community	Empty Lots/Run down Housing
High number of houses for sale	Rosebud School future
Fluctuations in Fed/State Hwy \$\$ (Prince)	No walking path
Perception of drugs in community	Rental Housing
No place to recycle used oil	County Emergency Services Bldg
School Population Decreasing	Commercial/Industrial Move In Ready Bldgs unavailable
Oil and Wind Development Impacts	Increase in Drug Activity
Increase in Child Dependency Issues	Felony Rate Increase
Increased Online Shopping	Potential for Increase in Taxes with Loss of Colstrip

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.

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.

Market Historical Features Near Forsyth/Geocaching

Set up geocaching events, market historical sites, hold bus tours w/PA systems at peak tourism times.

Alternative Crop (Hemp) Market/Process

Develop and promote hemp or other alternative crop market and establish a processing facility.

Projects for Economy/Housing receiving votes

Workforce Retraining – 1 Vote

Market Job/Workforce Opportunities – 4 Votes

Expand Tourism/Marketing – 2 Votes

Alternative Crop – 5 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.

Projects for Quality of Life receiving votes

Drug/DUI Court – 1 Vote

Services and Infrastructure

Levee Project

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

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.

Projects for Services and Infrastructure receiving votes

Water Intake – 2 Votes