

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022



2022 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Hysham

Annually, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) initiates public input throughout a four-county region to assist in developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In the past, we have held community meetings to gain insight into trends, strengths, and concerns in various communities. This year we held in-person meetings but also designed surveys to invite conversation about the current state of each community, to discuss how things have changed from last year, and to note what projects are priorities to be completed for the following year(s). These conversations are incorporated into a five-year CEDS planning document created by SEMDC to be utilized in the process to assist the communities in Southeastern Montana.

This year it was especially important to host community meetings because of the economic impacts on our region recently. SEMDC is working with citizens and communities to find ways to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more individuals in each community understand economic change and its impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

Developed by:

Southeastern Montana Development
Corporation (SEMDC)

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Hysham CEDS Meeting 2022

Group Discussion

Rather than perform a typical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats assessment, 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 developed through meeting responses.

Strengths

4th of July Event	Junque Store
Access to Rosebud Library	Law Enforcement
Active Community Foundation	Liq. License - Up sale
Active senior Community	Local Financial Institution
Antique Store	Lodging
Available land for expansion/development	Lower Yellowstone Byway
Beautiful historic buildings	Main St. Building - opportunities
Café / Hardware Store / Local Ownership	Museum/culture
Chamber of Commerce	New water tower/improved mains & Hydrants
Community Facebook Page	Oil Activity
Convenience Store EXP. Increased tax base	Paved runway at the airport
Community Foundation	Planning Board
Community Spirit "Holidays in Hysham"	Playground Equipment
Community Support and fundraising for pool	Pool (Free)
County Capital Improvement Plan	Pool Income
County Seat	Possible Remote Work
Doctor visits once a week	Possible Value-Added Ag
Downtown Building – possibilities	Potential bedroom community (of Billings / Miles City)
Education attainment level in the community	Professional Property Manager
Electrical / Co-op	Public Health
EMS (Fire / Ambulance)	Railroad Spur/2 New Railroad Sidings
Expansion of Fiber Optics	Rest Area
Food Bank	River
Four churches	Safe / Quiet Community
Fun Run/Splash Dash	School Enrollment
Garbage Canister Site	School website
Good irrigation systems	Senior Activities
Growth Plan / County	Shooting Range
Hardwired Internet for home (small scale)	Street Fest Event
Highly educated agriculture workers	Strong agriculture base
Highway 311 Improvements	Strong morals/ethics as a working Community
Hunting / Recreational	Street Fest Event
Highly educated agriculture workers	Storage Unit Business
Hunting/Fishing	Strong Volunteerism
Hysham CIP	Town/River Access with facilities
Implement dealer	UPS Service

Interstate close	Vet Clinic
Island Access	Wind Farm
	Yucca Theater

Concerns

Apathy	Lack of Restaurants
Age increasing – lack of availability of services (pharmacy/groceries – basic) will be a factor for people looking to move here	Lack of senior living services/facility
City services – water, sewer, etc., high costs	Lack of skilled trades, electricians, plumbers
Colstrip Impacts	Larger machinery / fewer employees
Competitive advantage is a challenge	Leadership & Education
Connectivity - Remote Work	Limited housing rental/Low income only
Decreasing property values	Major employer lives elsewhere
Dept of Rev Office – State Services	Marketing of Community Foundation
Development - how to be a success story?	Maturing Population
Difficult to get basic services with a small population	No grocery store
Diversified Agriculture – Apathy	No Public Transportation Bus/impacts
Frontage Road (W)	Obtaining/Retaining Teacher
FSA Office Now closed	Old Vacant Buildings and Lots
Fire Hall	People shopping behaviors (if it were local...will people buy local?)
“Gendered work” difficult for women to find work	Price of utilities
Grant \$\$ for infrastructure	Public Rest Rooms
Hard to Engage the Community	Recruitment Challenges
Housing BLIGHT	School Kids not in Public Schools at Hysham
Housing (existing housing is limited)	Schools – lack of families with school-aged children
How to capitalize on Natural Resources	Solid Waste Rate Cost
Keeping local land Agriculture	Somewhat landlocked
Lack of agriculture workers/support	Street Condition
Lack of diversification	Tax Base
Lack of general store – clothing, etc.	Technology impacting jobs
Lack of Highway Signage	The community can be perceived as exclusive
Lack of Local Businesses	Town Blight- enforcement
Lack of Lodging/Motel Options	Technology impacting jobs
Lack of Natural Gas – Cost of business	Vacant Properties (25+)
Lack of natural resource development	Water main line condition (plant to town)
Lack of proactive planning zoning	Wastewater mains/lagoons
	Will we be proactive with potential expansion in local natural resource development?
	Yucca Theater building

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 asked to vote for specific projects. They were allowed to place 3 checkmarks as they chose on various projects, they felt were the most important.

Economy

Community Marketing Strategy

Develop a community marketing strategy.

Proposed Economic Projects (That received votes)

Community Marketing – 1 Vote

Housing, Quality of Life, Services, and Infrastructure

Fire Hall

Fire Hall PAR/PER to prepare for a possible construction project.

Lagoon Improvements

Lagoon improvements are needed.

Lift Station (2nd) Replacement

Replace 2nd lift station

Main Street Revitalization

Apply to the MT Main Street Program. Address blight and street paving needs.

Wastewater Improvements

A preliminary engineering report for wastewater has been completed. Funding necessary to complete upgrades

Proposed Housing, Quality of Live, Services, and Infrastructure Projects receiving votes

Fire Hall – 8 Votes

Main Street – 4 Votes

Lift Station – 2 Votes

Lagoon – 2 Votes