

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022



2022 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Lame Deer

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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Lame Deer 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 year's meeting and then adding or modifying the information already developed. The lists below are what the group developed through meeting responses.

Strengths

\$\$ available from 2 Brownfields groups for cleanup of sites	History/Archeology
Availability of New Markets Tax Credits	Improved Sidewalks and street names/signs/Beautification project
Basic Services (Grocery and Hardware)	July 4th Powwow
Beauty of the area	Land Resources (445,000 acres trust land) Bear Butte, Thunder Child
Blooming entrepreneurial spirit (Various Funding and CDKC College)	Laundry Mat
Boys and girls club	Local Artists
Business Opportunities	Market Tongue River Land
Casino and Restaurant (provides jobs)	Medical Facility
CDKC Language Preservation Program	Mobile Meat Processing
CDKC PAR Project/Funding	Mini Mall Full
CDKC Simulator Training Equipment	Natural Resources – Water Rights and Mineral Rights
CDKC Solar Install Training Program	New Grocery Store in Ashland
Chief Dull Knife College – Campus Plan/Expansion (5-year plan)	Non-Profits/Community and Youth
Child Care Center Bing Built	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority
Community Pride	One Car Service/Repair Centers
Curbside Garbage Pick Up	Peoples Partnership for Community Development
Designation as Opportunity Zone	Rodeo Grounds
Disaster Mitigation Plan Complete	Solar in Residential with Training offered
Drug Court Started	Stakeholder Coalition
Elder Commission Feeding Program	Thrift Store
Expansion of 911 / Radio Signals	Timber and Coal Resources
Family Culture	Tongue River water rights
Family Spirit Program	Train youth at CDKC and Tribal Housing Authority
Financial Institution	Transfer Station Completed
Flour Grinder/Depot/Bakery/Cash Store	Tribal Propane Business
Fitness / Wellness Center	UCC Codes (financing, liens) established/Court Law & Order Codes
Food Pantry/ Bank	Young community/population increasing
Gas Station – Depot (2)	Younger generation is interested in seeing change and improvements

Concerns

911 system has issues	Lack of Marketing
Basic Water/Sewer Infrastructure- Not Mapped	Lack of marketing mineral rights
Broadband Access/Capacity	Lack of marketing of water rights
Bully culture in schools	Lack of money in the budget for economic development
Challenges for establishing additional water systems	Lack of preventative health care
Concern over funding CDKC expansion	Lack of proactive groups/actions
Concern over the impact to families who are affected by the loss of coal jobs/greater impact due to family structures	Lack of Public Safety
Court System	Lack of services and media/communication source
COVID has caused lots of deaths, and a community experiencing high grief – No assistance	Lack of Skilled workers
Cultural restrictions – keep way they are	Language Preservation Program
Day Care Centers/Child Care	Low percentage of people with Driver's Licenses/can't access services or work
Dependent on Federal \$\$	Negative Outside Business Perceptions
Drug and alcoholism problems (especially prescription drugs)	No Addiction Recovery Center
Emergency Communication System	No assistance for Grandparents
Extremely High Crime Rate	No rest stop
Food Distribution Facility Needed	No way to fund road maintenance
Funding for Family Spirit Program	No Youth Center for those who don't fit Boys and Girls club ages
High dropout rate	Obstacles in getting a loan on the reservation
Human Trafficking prevalent –sometimes by those in their own family	Proximity to Billings – hard for businesses/Retail Leakage
Hwy 212 Initiative – dangerous	School District
Inability to attract private capital- need business park	Senior Housing
Isolation adds to transportation expense	Shortage of Police/Inconsistent Funding
Labor training/ready workforce, life skills	Storage is an issue (Distribution)
Lack of adequate pharmacy services	Suicide rate/Lack of Suicide Prevention
Lack of available spaces to rent for businesses that need water	Tough to recruit for professional jobs
Lack of Community Center or place for Public Meetings	Train young people and they leave
Lack of Community Involvement	Transit System
Lack of Follow Through on Projects	True private sector lacking jobs
Lack of housing: safe, secure, and maintained	Turnover in health professionals at IHS facility
Lack of Jail in Lame Deer	Vacant houses and land (blight)
Lack of jobs for all ages persons	Water not being used to irrigate
Lack of laundry service	Water quality
Lack of Lodging	With a small close-knit community, it is difficult to bounce back when tragedy/deaths occur

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 marks as they chose with one by three various projects or all their stickers by a particular project.

Economy

Establish a Long-Term Funding Strategy / Community Growth Plan

Plan for a long-term funding strategy to provide for the increasing needs of Northern Cheyenne population.

Morningstar Federal Credit Union

Support the development of a new Credit Union to be located on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

Proposed Economic Projects receiving votes

CIP/Growth Plan - 1 Vote

Housing, Quality of Life, Services

Boat Storage Facility at Tongue River Dam

Expand the existing boat storage facility at Tongue River Dam to increase revenue for the tribe.

Build Stakeholder Collaboration and Human Services Coalition

Begin to establish more networking between stakeholders already working in the area. Share information, become aware of efforts and progress in certain areas, support more human service programs.

Busby Boys and Girls Club

Support the establishment of the Busby Boys and Girls Club to further the activities already established in Lame Deer.

Busby Solar Project

Provide support for a solar project located at Busby.

CDKC Master Plan / Add STEM building

Revisit the CDKC master plan, pursue adoption of the plan and start with the implementation of expanding the campus to provide more programs and adequate classrooms. Add a STEM building to encourage science, technology, engineering, and mechanical studies.

Day Care Center

Safe and dependable daycare services are badly needed. Day Care at college has closed.

Food Distribution Center

Build a food distribution center with a full commercial kitchen to house a food bank in a permanent location.

Hemp Growing/ Processing

Research opportunities for growing and processing hemp.

Market Unique Adventures to Tourists

Market native adventures to tourists to explore the area and bring in \$\$.

Provide Access to Mental Health Facilities

Build a mental health facility to assist with the influx of mental health issues within the tribal population.

Training Center

Establish Training Center/Site in southeastern Montana for opportunities in the Energy/Utility/Reclamation industries.

Tribal Data Center

Information on the reservation seems to be fragmented. Establish a clearinghouse/data center to collect information necessary to accurately tell the story of the situation/obtain funding for projects.

Tribal Education Building

Support the construction of a tribal education building that would be the headquarters for all education on Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Travel Center

Construct Travel Center to serve vehicle traffic on Hwy 212.

Tribal Owned Office Supply Store

Support tribal-owned Office Supply stores by requiring all entities to purchase from it to receive tribal services.

Wood Bundling Business

Package wood to be available for heating assistance on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Youth Center and Skate Park

Children that don't fit the ages of the Boys and Girls club have no healthy activities and a lack of safe places to socialize or hang out/obtain food. Develop other activities other than sports

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

Access to Mental Health- 4 Votes

Food Distribution Center- 2 Votes

Youth Activities/ Skate Park- 2 Votes

Market to Tourist – 2 Votes

Infrastructure

911 Addressing / Tele-Communication

Need to update the 911 addressing system to make it easier to find homes in an emergent situation. Also need to improve the emergent telecommunication systems.

Highway 212 Initiative

Work with Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Federal DOT, Montana DOT, Powder River, Rosebud, Carter and Big Horn Counties to create a safety corridor plan on highway 212

Infrastructure/ Water and Sewer

Continue to repair water lines that are very old. Upgrades needed for Sewer Lagoon. Seems to be an inflow/infiltration problem in the Lame Deer sewer system. Fire hydrants are outdated and need repair.

Infrastructure Projects receiving votes

HWY 212- 4 Votes