

**2008 “State of the Community” County-Wide Conference  
Breakout Session Notes for Growth Policy Update**

**Prepared for the City/County Planning Board  
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The first “State of Community” County-wide Conference was sponsored by the Richland County Health Department, Richland County Planning Department, and the City/County Planning Board here in Richland County on March 14, 2008. The conference held 13 different breakout sessions. During the breakout sessions the attendees were encouraged to share information on their projects and on any ideas for future county-wide needs. Each breakout session had a Note-taker.

This document is produced from all of the Session Notes taken at the 2008 “State of the Community” County-wide Conference, which have been reviewed the Planning Board Conference Committee members. The Session Notes are related to 2006 Richland County Growth Policy’s Action Plan which is found in the “Goals and Implem” section for each governing body, that includes: Richland County, City of Sidney, and Town of Fairview.

The Session Notes are used as a tool to help identify ways the Growth Policy is being implemented and to assist in updating the in 2010.

The Sessions Notes *have not* been adopted by the governing bodies. The Session Notes as listed below represent only one of the tools used to update and maintain the Growth Policy.

The City/County Planning Board extends its sincere apology for the misspelling of names and any grammatical errors in the document. This document was left in the same format in which the session notes where originally taken during the conference, keeping this a working document.

	<b>Location in Growth Policy</b>
<b>“State of the Community” County-wide Conference Session Comments</b>	
One problem is the reversing population, Mid-Rivers is a fixed facility, stranded investment when people start leaving, the cost will spread over a fewer number of people and it will cost more to them.	1a
Bret Smelser-only have three classes-1,2,3 . Would love to see population at 7500. Frustrated to see Williston grow. Need to have Sidney have back at 5000 for next census...because lost gas funds. Current population around 5000.	1A1
Bret Smelser-hoped that will be class 2 city, census is 2010	1A1
Rob Knotts-hard for new comers to assimilate into community	1a1
Sandy Turner-in Sidney 11 yrs, community can invite people to participate through clubs, volunteerism, community should outreach, when you ask people face to face is important	1a1

Alton-Some communities have official welcoming committee...give food/info to new members	1a1
Bret Smelser-good at welcoming businesses but not as much for people, need someone to alert people to new comers, maybe do it through realtors/businesses	1a1
Rob Knots-need same treatment as everyone else in comm. First thing you do when you move to new community is research online...Sidney doesn't have most informative web pages available, needs to be more appealing.	1a1
LibbyKnotts-used to have welcoming committee, would get the names from the chamber, city would also help. Difficult to go to welcome them, sometimes people private. Happened in the 70's. Gave new community members baskets.	1a1
Libby Knotts: Works in Watford City, encourage different entities in city/county to have one website or link them together. they do that in Mackenzie county. Shows what city has to offer...right now have to find different websites. Important for young families because that's where they get their information (online.) On chamber website, only lists businesses that are part of the chamber. May be detriment, example only 2 churches listed. Infrastructure-very important, excited about indoor pool because that's what keep/bring people here. It's the family related things that make people want to live there. Do more of the infrastructure and the whole county could benefit.	1a1
Paul Groshart-city of Sidney council/housing authority-Sidney lost population...now in upswing (up from 2000) but is this sustainable with pop over 55. Need young families to replace those about to retire.	1a1
Nicole Jones-Population increase-state of MT did survey for tourism, when MT recruits people for tourism, try to elaborate on values (hunting, fishing, open spaces) general public thinks that MT is big extreme sports state, getting wrong impression. People think don't have running water/warm meals. How do we advertise? Partner new families with similar families...do with doctors. Introduce them to families with similar interests. Elderly housing-hard, going to more populated areas. Need more land, cooperative model is maybe an option. Transfer wealth into cooperative housing element. Working in other parts of the state.	1a1
Jerry Anderson-Population in Richland County, stable population currently, but decline in rural areas. Housing, day care would come if had stable long term employment opportunities for young people. But some say need housing/day care first. See decline in pop in farms/ranches. No one to replace taking over farm. In terms of stabilizing population/growing, keep businesses we have. Concentrate on businesses and make sure they survive instead of attracting new ones.	1a1
Libby Knotts-week ago went to video conference in Watford City, revitalization. Had inspiring story about how have increased population after years of decline, they focused on first, changed logo to "opportunity lives here", so don't get pigeonholed into stereotype of what we're like. New generations may have different values/ideas about where want to live. They	1a1

also have important- people moved away and brought back business with them. Wind plant, beets. had room to put them there. Were from there, went away and came back. They talked about need to give back to community.	
Jerry Anderson-successes are when ties to Sidney community have. Chances are if see website, and move in, will leave after a few years. Hiring is based on getting expectations in line with those of community. Giving them roots.	1a1
Kathy Helmuth-child care issue: Richland Co no Headstart program. Looked at Headstart again, needs to come through Glendive through Action for Eastern Montana, federal money. Feel like program would help. That is an area where political process could benefit. 2 day care centers, one of which who downsized.	1a1
recruitment is the key, displaced local people who have come back home. Maybe need to call relatives and recruit them.	1a1
Craig Kennedy-bringing in long term employment is key, one of the problems with that, look at long term employers: need workers (in competition with oil industry), need housing and employees to bring big business, also need major transportation in and out of area. Don't have those here. People living in trailers. It's a catch 22-build housing but might not have people to fill it	1a1
Jerry-People look at Sidney, young people are leaving (not necessarily bad) trick is to have them come back. Bring back ideas and skills. Brining people from outside communities, also good, stimulates ideas. If that's all you ever have, then you're doomed.	1a1
Bonnie-In Fairview since 80s, oil boom. Lots of housing but then oil gone. Saw complete decline in community....created skepticism. Don't want to build now. Oil has made impact on community twice. How do you deal with that? Go carefully and not jump in. Need sustainable jobs.	1a1
Vernette-oil has come and gone, created fear. Employers can't compete. Employees are best advertisers for their company. Relationship with supervisor is best reason why they stay, no matter what the pay is.	1a1
Bret Smelser-only have three classes-1,2,3 . Would love to see population at 7500. Frustrated to see Williston grow. Need to have Sidney have back at 5000 for next census...because lost gas funds. Current population around 5000.	1a2
Bret Smelser-hoped that will be class 2 city, census is 2010	1a2
Marcy Hamburg-Population also affects grant funding that city/county receives. Not eligible for certain grants.	1a2
Christ Viets-member of planning board (main function is to overview subdivisions, not about future plans) One of the things we could do to help this issue is to be very good about zoning. If look at map of Sidney, nothing is square. To do new areas of growth, if zoning was there, we have been proactive, these areas can have multiple person dwellings. If we can convince the people that annexation isn't bad...can add to the city without having to lease property. Can have infrastructure there, if want to develop it it's already been zoned and is part of city. Proactive over reactive.	1a5

Bret Smelser-city has grown 30% since 2001, have most of city- has square line, as city are developing main sewer trunk, north of holly is best chance for growth. How much is city function? In Williston building new homes, how much of that is city's responsibility? We want free enterprise but up against obstacles.	1s5
Fear the boom with leave	2 a2
Economic growth has affected the elderly with housing cost, groceries, and gas. The old folks homes are filled to capacity and older individuals can not leave their homes and move to apt due to cost on a fixed income.	2A
Disaster planning, satellite facilities for medical care. SHC to partner with RCHD. Need emergency road clearing to get patients to MASH stations.	2a
Rob Knotts Lambert has built six houses and a tri-plex and developed thirteen lots and school renovation.	2a1
Matt-Home program that is administered, does grants for housing, 80% or less of the area median income (\$24,000)	2a1
Matt-Richland county would qualify for Home program, also has a special program with money set aside for home buying because people often cant afford to pay down payment	2a1
<a href="http://www.housing.mt.gov">Website: www.housing.mt.gov</a>	2a1
Jerry -There is info for section 8, variety of things available on website. On his CD there is info for housing tax credits, home program, CDBG pamphlets, etc.	2a1
Matt- part of it for us is that you as a community need to figure out what your priorities are, then they can help to be a part of figuring out how the funding goes	2a1
Matt- tax credits would be used for rental housing, low income, like Mikoshika state's program. Each state is given a certain number of tax credits to give out to residents. Ask for tax credit, put it on your tax return and get that direct tax credit.	2a1
-utilizing the school tech programs either to renovate houses or start Habitat for Humanity	2a1
-Rob one of the things we discovered in Lambert to move it forward, they had to subsidize the entire thing. May have to do the same thing in Sidney because people	2a1
Matt- community development block grant has specific funding that can help with building, administered from the state	2a1
Matt-Rural community assistance partnership	2a1
Matt -community development block grant programs are available for non-profits	2a1
Matt-up to 500,000 \$ in grants to help start infrastructure for sewage lines, water access there are a lot of hoops to go through but \$500,000 is worth it for water, sewer, lagoon system in Sidney (CDBG)	2a1
Matt-most of the programs they administer are for housing for low income, but Sidney is looking more for middle class housing	2a1
Jerry-have teacher set aside programs in some communities to help building housing for teachers as well as fire, police	2a1

Talking about senior project, it is possible tax credits could be used for seniors provided that their income is	2a1
Matt-Many won't qualify because they are living off farm money	2a1
Matt- developer can keep all of the tax credits to build. Tax credit is 80-90 cents on the dollar. Will go down because of bank investors. Tax credit program is competitive. Point system, geographic distribution, need, etc. Last year 6 million dollars in requests, 4 million this year.	2a1
Rob- Lambert isn't looking for workforce housing but regular family housing. Tired of living in the city but there is nowhere to live out in the country, there are no houses to buy.	2a1
Jerry- Trust land, if the city has a lot of money they need to spend they can give it to the housing authority as a loan and let them buy the land and contract or build on it, whatever infrastructure they can afford to bring in. It would reduce the cost of a building. A lot in Sidney is \$25,000.	2a1
Leif- availability of lots isn't bad either, there are 15-20 lots available and ready to sell. Some don't have sewer, or city water.	2a1
Greg- a lot of that comes back to state regulations for being a plumber, electrician, etc. there are only so many apprentices you can have. One day there will be no licensed electricians or plumbers	2a1
Greg-it takes 9 years to get your license for plumbing, etc. It is going to get worse, they can't stick build these houses (modular homes) on site when there aren't any subcontractors. That is one of the other problems with the lots available, there is covenants that nothing can be brought into the subdivision. Covenants need to be revised to make it easier to build in Sidney.	2a1
Leif- political pressures from the neighbors not to bring modular homes into the neighborhood. Too much like trailers. There is some question about the enforceability of the covenants.	2a1
Greg- There is a stigma of a house that comes in on wheels. People think they are trailer houses.	2a1
Leif- even with good modular homes, they aren't the answer to our problem because they are well over \$200,000 after all is said and done. Typical people coming to Sidney can't afford that price.	2a1
Greg- if you did do a nice apt building for people who want to get out of their 300,000 sq feet homes, people would move out of their homes and other families could move in.	2a1
Rob-moderately priced housing is the most important issue in Richland county	2a1
Leif- the only way to make it available is to build elderly housing	2a1
Rob- another choice is house movers. Buy a house somewhere else and move it and have it set on a foundation in Sidney. Much cheaper	2a1
If the idea is to build houses for young people to move into, you can't build that for \$125,000.	2a1
Greg- multiple dwelling low maintenance housing, not "low income" or "elderly housing"	2a1
School tech construction would be low cost, high benefit housing	2a1

Subsidized infrastructure would be high cost, high benefit housing (county money)	2a1
MT board of housing- low cost, big benefit or high cost, high benefit	2a1
Revise covenants- low cost, high benefit	2a1
Education of quality modular homes-low cost, high benefit	2a1
Buy house and move it- low cost (depending, could also be high cost if you have to pay a lot to move it), high benefit	2a1
Matt- tax credits would be used for rental housing, low income, like Mikoshika state's program. Each state is given a certain number of tax credits to give out to residents. Ask for tax credit, put it on your tax return and get that direct tax credit.	2a1
Rob Knotts-provide housing, by developing more land	2a2
Hard to get financing/recession	2a2
Central school or Yellowstone merc into condos	2a2
No partnerships to make it economical between developers and other sources of income	2a2
Savage Senior Center- Think outside the box for funding	2a2
House upgrades/new homes freeing up existing homes for new homebuyers	2a2
Subsidies/incentives to private	2a2
Identify money and lots available through private and public funds	2a2
Government involvement (city facilities)	2a2
Private/public money	2a2
Homebuyer Education so upcoming generations understand the implications of over spending and having everything now	2a2
Acquired grants (housing Authority)	2a2
Private and government	2a2
Consensus with private development	2a2
Sidney develop along 350 and north of holly	2a2
Fairview- south and east of Powderkeg	2a2
Mobile lots available	2a2
Habitat for Humanity- house, remodel to meet needs	2a2
Housing rehab assessment	2a2
Developing partnerships throughout the community having conversations about the issues	2a2
Supporting and maintaining current resources	2a2
Encouraging land owners to sell or develop unused land	2a2
Build trust in the stability of local economy	2a2
Develop programs that support community investment regardless of financial need	2a2
Developing stages of a Community Foundation that supports current infrastructure throughout the county	2a2

Community attitude has changed about what's going on and how it affects them	2a2
Availability of contractors	2a2
Lack of housing becoming a public safety issue- trouble attracting law enforcement	2a2
Lambert- building housing for teachers	2a2
Fund to help people revamp homes- materials and labor expensive	2a2
Family Self Sufficiency Program- what would it take to get this?	2a2
Self help homes- pay for materials, lot= price of house, families get together and build	2a2
Leadership- for a specific project from start to finish	2a2
Modular home vendor	2a2
Habitat for humanity	2a2
Create housing subdivisions without creating "bad neighborhoods"	2a2
Willing to volunteer to help build	2a2
Lack of materials/land/funds are biggest hold ups	2a2
Help with financing for young homeowners	2a2
Low interest financing to refurbish current homes	2a2
Apartments and lofts near downtown	2a2
Central school be updated to housing?	2a2
Declining populations	2a2
More affordable housing for middle class	2a2
Build 4-plex, duplex for seniors to move into to free up housing for families	2a2
Benchmark ourselves to other communities that have succeeded: Forsythe, Williston, Powell, WY	2a2
Educate the community- show plans to neighbors	2a2
Survey the community as to needs, desires, fears	2a2
Targeted people on steering committee	2a2
What happens when transient population moves out	2a2
Land trust	2a2
Acquired grants for housing (housing authority)	2a2
Government/public and private development	2a2
Develop in Sidney north of Holly along CR 350	2a2
Develop in Fairview south and east of PowderKeg	2a2
Habitat for Humanity	2a2
Remodel to meet needs of family	2a2
Paul-cooperative housing- similar to townhouse groups, put assets in and when leave can take those assets with you. Still pay a monthly fee.	2a2

Jerry W.-Housing, huge problem in Richland county, if you want to recruit someone to work here, problem is they come here to work, but until they move here, we don't really have an employee. Lots don't think about: asset in Rich county, lots of older people, Lots of people not quite at that point, and would like to move out of ¾ bedroom house...need to explore building single level housing. I go to lots of communities, Williston has built beautiful condos and filling them up as fast as can build. Those types are quicker to put up and would open multiple bedroom houses	2a2
Alton-Work in building department and have numerous inquiries from people outside of town, they were prepared to build one/two bedroom houses, but rent stopped them (so low) Needs to be \$600-700 range.	2a2
Bret Smelser-Frustrating there hasn't been housing built. first have cost. Developer was going to build twin homes (one level) but they were considered duplexes but neighborhood wouldn't accept it. What can I do for community? Not just for yourself. Would have had 2-3 twin homes on market...but neighborhood didn't want rentals.	2a2
Rob Knotts Lambert has built six houses and a tri-plex and developed thirteen lots and school renovation.	2B1
Rob Knott's -Lambert because salaries are low is why they are building houses for teachers	2B3
Jackie Young-Fairview is renovating house for teacher	2B4
Matt-Home program that is administered, does grants for housing, 80% or less of the area median income (\$24,000)	2C
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Oil boom is good for those that can take advantage of it, but it is pushing the elderly out of their homes, they do not have the financial resources to sustain their lifestyle in a community that has increasing prices	2C
VISTAs did a survey for the elderly to decide what their major complaints were: number 1 was housing.	2C

Jerry- when you determine that you have a need, it will be a process steps in what to do, identify concerns first, give them a call and they will direct you to appropriate individuals to help you figure out where to go from there, reassess needs, elderly in Sidney may be the area of largest concern in Richland county. Is there a need for workforce housing? Single mom/dad housing. Figure out what the key needs really are.	2C
Melissa, RCHD: housing is now a problem for everyone, not just the elderly; everyone needs to be involved in that discussion	2c
Rob Knott's -Lambert because salaries are low is why they are building houses for teachers	2C2
Oil boom is good for those that can take advantage of it, but it is pushing the elderly out of their homes, they do not have the financial resources to sustain their lifestyle in a community that has increasing prices	2d
VISTAs did a survey for the elderly to decide what their major complaints were: number 1 was housing.	2d
Can't afford rent, can't afford home repairs	2d
The economic situation in Richland County right now is making them 2 <sup>nd</sup> class citizen	2d
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Aging population has increased	2d1
Elderly-handicapped need help	2d1
Elderly/Retirement housing community	2d1
More elderly housing- assisted living	2d1
Provide housing for seniors	2d1
Special designed senior housing	2d1
Increasing resources for ag research...	3a1
Jeremy Norby – agriculture is a very mature market; from producer standpoint – produce more or don't spend as much – only two ways to make money; research can step in figuring out a way to make methods more effective; concern is how can changes be applied; don't have time to experiment with cost cutting and/or production	3a1
Mary Helen – open mindedness – in order to grow in Mt. we need to look outside; example of growing grapes in Mont. Through research – another product we can promote in Montana; movement of people liking locally	3a1

produced products – one more variety of a product to grow;	
Ben Larson – fundamental level – research stations are publicly funded – from budgetary perspective – money seems to be staying the same or decreasing; if we want to talk about resources – we need to do some additional lobbying for increased funding or private fundraising drives; how do we address the issue of the value of the research	3a1
Connie Iverson – Sidney needs to think about what we’re doing; stand to lose Sidney Sugars – this would be a huge loss; how are we going to support these industries; even specialty crops; I’d like to see some action	3a1
Jerry Bergman – what you’re allowed to do varies by state; difference in funding between the two states; North Dakota – funding increased by 22 million; Mont. 30 million; budget for 7 resources centers is 3 million; more ag receipts need to go into investment and research and development for agriculture; research centers in North Dakota have line-item budgets;	3a1
Pat Torgerson – legislature – billings, equipment are antiquated and they are overwhelmed w/ expenses to keep up with technology	3a1
Jerry – complimented legislature and obtaining funding in Eastern Montana	3a1
Chet – good question	3a1
Leonard – how many people at the grocery store are going to pay more for something that is locally grown	3a1
Chet – will the grocery stores allow this? Does anyone realize that we have grape research in Williston?	3a1
Ben Larson – market is not as stable is some of the reason of why high value crops have gone away; onions as production crop not going to be put in the ground	3a2
Chet – no variety trials w/ onions; tough to work two high value crops at the same time; conflict w/ sugar beets; onion marketing approach has changed	3a2
Ben – good that sugar beet contract was extended – good that longest running crop will continue going; issues with profitability; asked for thought on sugar industry	3a2
Jeremy – issue here is transportation; consumers becoming more aware of what they are eating	3a2
Mary – what happened to “Made in Montana” program?	3a2
Julie French – it’s still there; talk in last legislative session to do more with this program	3a2
Connie Iverson – would this include beef products and other specialties? It seems like the Made in Montana doesn’t get here	3a2
Jeremy – once you get out of the river valley it limits your ability to produce specialty crops; irrigation is an advantage we have here; specialty crop management changes when you increase land size; Sidney allows itself to focus on the specialty crop area – once these area are expanded the focus is more difficult	3a2

Greg – Made Montana issue – doesn't think we should re-invent wheel; don't create a larger Eastern/Western Montana barrier; water not listed as a topic – we're going to see a lot of things come up in this area; water vital to this area b/c of specialty crops; marketing analyst through state extension suggestion – need to be in the private sector/supported by private industry; marketing is a huge area when you wear many hats; growing of the crops is becoming more challenging – producer has hands full w/out marketing aspect	3a2
Greg – livestock – beef industry lands a tremendous feeding system opportunity; Richland co. is beef country; Yellowstone valley used to be full but has been overshadowed by beet industry	3a2
Pat Torgerson – maybe dry land can shift to camalina (oil crop)	3a2
Beth Cook – is there any type of growers assn. in this area – a collaboration between local growers?	3a2
Jeremy – there is a sugar beet growers assn. everyone gets a contract offer; most active marketing group in terms of associating contracts	3a2
Beth – producer doesn't have time or market knowledge to do marketing – didn't know if assn. could work on this	3a2
Ben Larson – if there are separate producer assn. they could split the cost and/or lend support or guidance	3a2
Wade – most have check off programs	3a2
Ben Larson – directed/focused marketing effort	3a2
Wade – everything is on scale – no two producers raise exactly the same product; they want uniformity and this is not the case in beef cattle production	3a2
Carol Evans – we are in an area that is so large – why couldn't we get into open range that the coastlines are going berserk over – market our area as a great American outback; seems we could make use of our land and marketing our locations	3a2
Mary – Montana is already known for our beef; we already have the reputation; organic movement – if we could get everyone bonded together – various industries – and promote what we have out here	3a2
Greg – we as a US economy faced w/ high energy costs and things that have changed- we sometimes start functioning w/ paradigms that we have grown up with and apply them to the future; we're going to change w/ these things; on a national basis of where our foodstuffs are coming from – we need to push for additional monies for research facilities we have to target these specialty crops we have and help us identify these through a marketing system; we have an opportunity here	3a2
Julie French – ethanol plants – there isn't the investment like there used to be b/c of corn supply; carbon credits; need for community in agriculture; this area is unique in the fact of the research that does go on here – we need to use the research to stabilize the economy	3a2

Jeremy Norby – from farmer’s point of view – biggest drawback is marketing other specialty crops; also expense of specialty crops; work to form alliance to help form specialty crops and market them; reference to “Alaska grown” products as a marketing technique; get marketing professionals involved rather than asking farmers to do it themselves – that asks a lot of them; Richland Economic Funds a possibility here; sugar – one year extension is good; once factories close they don’t reopen – impossible to get everything open and running again; vital to keep sugar beet factory going; budgeting is difficult because those raising sugar beets are losing money; American Crystal – allotment – right to sell sugar on the domestic market; block stocks – sugar they were unable to sell – sugar in storage they are waiting to sell; storage is a valuable asset of the factory – allows them to play the market; important for growers to be able to deal with factory; want to see factory succeed b/c of local jobs – huge economic hit to county	3A3
Wade Van Every – wool is marketing w/ other wool pools – volume loads put together; work w/ Mt. Sheep Institute to make sure everything is to standard; through pooling efforts w/ other producers we are seeing more success; upswing in the market; sheep business is profitable; lower investment to get going in sheep business; in Richland co. sheep numbers have dropped while other areas are staying the same	3A3
All retirement centers are full	3d
Vernette Job Services--Have a manual that is given out to newcomers to RC and is updated annually. There is money available until 2009 for training and relocation and interview clothes. Working with Sage truck driving and DCC – WIRED program--	4 B1
Scott Johnson go through the bank to get a loan and if they need matching funds or monetary requirements so that new business can be developed in Richland county	4A
Leonard Odenbach - Savage has the dairy, and most of the feed that goes into that dairy comes from the surrounding area (no figures) so it helps the community by buying the feed for 500 cows	4a
Sandy Kust: money available to those who can prove economic growth; target rates here (for self sustainability) are much too low here for this area to be available; there are 7 different ranking criteria, and you have to rank pretty highly and there is fierce competition	4a2
Also interested in putting together House Bill 278- our share of the oil/gas dollars (about 1 million); Ours is a temporary setup of receiving this money, while in ND (Watford City) the situation is permanent- and they are actually receiving a bit more per capita, so they are working on making our situation more	4a2
Chet: Brent wanted to be here and to discuss the improvement of the lagoon system, and the opportunity to build an auditorium or civic center, and also revamping the truck route (width and height requirements for some trucks are not met by current truck route)	4a2
Nicole Jones, MidRivers: contacted about a community scale in Savage	4a2

Nicole Jones, MidRivers: it increases freight cost to have to go elsewhere, b/c they have to take the hay to a dif. place to be weighed, then back track- and with fuel what it is- it would be much more efficient to have a scale in Savage	4a2
Chet: I think what Brent wanted me to convey was that we need to stick to our guns, we need to fight to keep a large portion of the gas/oil money in our county	4a2
Bill 798- want federal money to go to the schools, tribes, etc.	4a2
Grant owned packages are available for gas, oil; to help take some of the tax pressure off residents	4a2
Butch Renders: many EMS grant opportunities come directly from the state, but I am unsure where the moneys come from	4a2
The moneys from oil need to be given back not just to the county but to the cities	4a2
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: the redwater freshwater project (west Fairview to fort peck) is concentrating more toward the east end b/c that's where the supporting population is	4a2
Wolf Point to Scobey water project is a continuing water project- using Culbertson to continue the project; Culbertson can also be used in the RedWater project	4a2
High quality water is hard to come by here, so this project could be huge	4a2
As a county/area, we should have a steering committee- the schools, county, cities are getting funding, and we need a committee to have funds donated from these entities to create some infrastructure that would otherwise not have existed	4a2
We have opportunity- we need to be organized	4a2
Nicole Jones, MidRivers: like a revolving loan fund? Or a community foundation?	4a2
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: a seed stock of community funds, where the interest could be used without depleting the entire account	4a2
Chet: if these organizations could have priority lists and decide together which are maybe the top five that they would like to divert funds towards and work together to approach the issues	4a2
The lagoon project that the Mayor mentioned- that is along those lines	4a4
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: people need to be involved to identify an individual who has had to walk through the process of building/expansion in the county and sit them down to try to streamline the process- b/c time is money and there are some time restraints and sometimes the money has to be spent in a designated in a certain amount of time (and paperwork takes time) Which would end up being a county resources, and would be invitational rather than confrontational	4a5
Karen O'Dell Senior Issues working on completing a resource directory so that seniors have access to services. Sending the information to the children of older parents and willing to send information.	4B

Wayne Van Every chamber of commerce brought in a gentleman to their banquet that brought in expertise in downtown development and what kind of business is needed in the community.	4B1
Paul Groshart what is sustainable is the SHC by the multi-million dollar expansion will make SHC a regional resource	4B1
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: people need to be involved to identify an individual who has had to walk through the process of building/expansion in the county and sit them down to try to streamline the process- b/c time is money and there are some time restraints and sometimes the money has to be spent in a designated in a certain amount of time (and paperwork takes time) Which would end up being a county resources, and would be invitational rather than confrontational	4b2
Chris Viets: the subdivision regulations do address the state law that is in place for dairies, and there are very stringent laws in place for that type of thing. And DEQ requirements; there are a lot of loops	4b2
Jackie: So then something really positive came out of this, and people are stepping up and learning the process- and now we have the position of County Planner	4b2
Cindy Ellison, Recycling with the developmentally delayed cardboard and newspaper joined with SHC and five other agencies to provide transportation services there are currently Lodge, Richland county senior coalition, and Richland county opportunity's incorporated	4b2
Jackie Young, Fairview School, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senior Housing Association: Large numbers show support and will have more pull than one member standing alone	4b2
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: we need an infrastructure of people (a grass roots infrastructure) that exists in a circular system of information, who have to be ready at a moments notice to be ready to get up and go to Helena and support the interests of Eastern Montana	4b2
Eastern Montana needs to identified the players that can come together and form a cohesive group that can have people go to the House and "watchdog" eastern Montana's priorities in Helena	4b2
We need to be organized when it comes to our interests in the state, or we will lose	4b2
Julie Brodhead: so how does one go about starting this cohesive unit?	4b2
Jackie Young, Fairview School, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senior Housing Association: I think that the groups that are in place right now just need to be organized and supported; and if/when you get the call to get to Helena to be support- you have to be willing to drop what you're doing and go	4b2
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: there are numerous retired people in this area that would be willing to go, if they were educated and had an affordable means of transportation	4b2
Jackie Young, Fairview School, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senior Housing Association: throw 8-12 people on a bus together and they'll be fired up and ready to argue when they get to the forum	4b2

People in eastern MT cannot afford to be complacent, cannot think that there will be someone else to take care of it- or that they're opinion won't matter	4b2
Connie Iverson – Dust in the west, same committee, also the emissions from the motors that pump the wells were other issues identified. She would like to see them do some air monitoring, is DEQ doing it?	4b2
Pat Torgerson – Move to bio-diesel and clean renewables, put your money where your mouth is, put money into developing these technologies, it would create jobs as well	4b2
Pat – Approve ethanol plant at Trenton, build new refineries, Montana has watched other state develop renewables around us, its time to move state-wide	4b2
Emily Adams – What about using corn to grow ethanol?	4b2
Smelser, retail is failing due to lack of employees	4B2
Karen O'Dell Senior Issues working on completing a resource directory so that seniors have access to services. Sending the information to the children of older parents and willing to send information.	4b3
Vernette Torgerson-housing and daycare are an issues, businesses lose employee because can get job but can't afford the house. There's a waiting list for every day care in town...don't run in evenings and weekends. Families may not come if family can't find work/or have solid daycare. Maybe businesses could come together and share collaboration of developing daycare for their workers, especially if have split shifts. Day care for 30 children was developed-hire and retains employees due to philosophy.	4b3
Kathy Helmuth-child care takes care of children, not the day. There are growth pains in child care industry, in terms of child care as a professional, due to rules/regulations. There is a process, and rules. Want child care providers to have degrees but yet want to know the cost as well. In state of MT-state rate is \$3 or \$3.25 per hour.	4b3
Roger Meyer-day care issue-addressed, sister in day care center, loses people when charges 2 dollars/hour, if you have child care center \$1000/month, you would have facilities and people to run it. As an average group, the comm. can't afford the \$1000/mo. At that type of facility you need certain number of children, and it's not going to happen in Sidney. Follows with housing issue. Cost of renting, in reality is not very high. And here people are upset about it.	4b3
Kathy Helmuth-have president of Montana child care association, have strong leadership at state level and they're making their voice heard. IN terms of population and rest of state, don't have answer to get more child care providers. In past 5 yrs SHC came to meeting, providers said can't make it work, can't open home/center for one or two children. Association said hospital should open own child care center. Full time kindergarten is a huge child care issue.	4b3
Mayor Smelser, Sidney has put 10,000 aside to do a downtown enhancement project County Project "streetscape"	4b4a
Nicole Jones, Mid-Rivers: sustainable infrastructure- the Fairview pool is a very good project- I know people may be frustrated with it, but as far as the grant process goes- they are getting the information they need and they are moving forward	4b5

Mayor Smelser, Sidney has put 10,000 aside to do a downtown enhancement project County Project “streetscape”	4B5
Cindy Ellison, Recycling with the developmentally delayed cardboard and newspaper joined with SHC and five other agencies to provide transportation services there are currently Lodge, Richland county senior coalition, and Richland county opportunity’s incorporated	4B6
Sandy Kust: money available to those who can prove economic growth; target rates here (for self sustainability) are much too low here for this area to be available; there are 7 different ranking criteria, and you have to rank pretty highly and there is fierce competition	4b6
Vernette Job Services--Have a manual that is given out to newcomers to RC and is updated annually. There is money available until 2009 for training and relocation and interview clothes. Working with Sage truck driving and DCC – WIRED program--	4B6
Bret Smelser-go forward in community by building infrastructure that attracts families, i.e. waterslide, indoor pool, expansion to hospital, need to be more user friendly	4c
Also interested in putting together House Bill 278- our share of the oil/gas dollars (about 1 million); Ours is a temporary setup of receiving this money, while in ND (Watford City) the situation is permanent- and they are actually receiving a bit more per capita, so they are working on making our situation more	4c1
Jackie Young, Fairview School, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senior Housing Association: Large numbers show support and will have more pull than one member standing alone	4c1
Greg Rauschendorfer, LYREA school: we need an infrastructure of people (a grass roots infrastructure) that exists in a circular system of information, who have to be ready at a moments notice to be ready to get up and go to Helena and support the interests of Eastern Montana	4c1
Jackie Young, Fairview School, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senior Housing Association: it is a matter of convincing the legislative body; we have already talked to the republican rep from billings and he is pushing the bill for us; last time oil was discussed before the state- large numbers of Richland county members went to Helena to support our cause	4c2
Leonard Odenbach – What about putting an oil refinery and pipeline to reduce truck traffic to Minot and Billings?	4c2
Beth – Always hears stories about the end of the last oil boom (laughs), what kind of impact does having the oil well on your property have once the oil is gone and the well remains? What is it doing to the economy? Can farmers return after the minerals run out?	4c2
Kathy – (very excited) Wells are often poorly placed to allow efficient tractor operation and fuel is expensive, takes time and money, which is why farmers quit farming when the well is drilled. This is especially bad for farmers that don’t own the mineral rights, so they just get shafted. Also the wells need roads and the oil people get lost and drive through farmer’s yards, it creates inconvenience for their families and livestock.	4c2

Nicole Scribner- Dist. 2: SPIFSIG Grant- assessing community perception of underage drinking and DUI- new approach to prevention, environmental and social norms as the source of this problem (No. 1 priority)	5A
Jenny Gwynne: need to be addressed: people who fall between the cracks- make too much money and too little, b/c they are too old and too young, wrong sex, etc.- the people who fall through all the organizations that target very specific groups	5A
Cindy, ROI: Board looking into various ways of serving people: daycare, mental services, etc.	5A
Carol Evans- Would like to see more bike paths around town – can’t get from home to town safely on a bike as it is – town would benefit from more paths – Sidney could become a place for bicyclists	5a
DiFonzo: the VISTA group and our public relations officer (Travis Rosaaen) have been working on that	5a
Nicole Scribner, Dist. 2: Increase lines of communication between public and police officers, through district 2. Person from Dist. 2 will be going out into the public to figure out how to improve communication between Police and Community	5a
If there is interest in restarting one- it is an independent board that determines what rewards are given for tips, DiFonzo thinks it was a good program and that there would be no objection to starting one	5a
Scott Johnson: Thinks it was a good program	5a
Helen Schmitt, Domestic Violence: works with a lot of other domestic violence programs, thinks our law enforcement in Sidney is excellent in the aspect of domestic violence; police is represented on domestic violence board	5a
DiFonzo: domestic violence is one of the major concerns in this area (6-8 calls per month of varying severity); in Richland County this is a large issue; when the economy starts	5a
Organizers have trouble getting people to step up and help deliver meals, it is sometimes the only contact that the elderly have in the day- the police help, but he feels there is a need for more community support	5A
Karen Odell, Senior Companions Director/Brenda Eberling, SHC: Meals on Wheels and other programs need a doctor/nurse/social worker to recommend it, all the meals come out of the hospital, seeing an increase in the number of slots available would be wonderful (but there are only so many and if they are full, someone needs to leave the program before someone else can go on)	5A
Terry – as long as State and Federal funds are available, paths will continue to be worked on, the question is where exactly to extend them. possibility of going to high school area, and also airport area. want to accommodate East and West side of town equally if at all possible.	5a
Shelee Warner – Cancer Control Plan – Nutrition Coalition sent information on VISTA and Healthwork’s plan of installing workout stations on bike path – received \$3000 for project – Shelee now has control of this project – plan needs to be further developed but funding must be increased – possibility of expanding trails by using access roads along canals?	5a

Terry- bike path follows irrigation- fills two goals—bike path and getting rid of ditches in town – issues with city plans: potential for reduced speed limit, increased lanes on road-- bike path may go to 7 <sup>th</sup> to get to the stop light	5a
Frank DiFonzo – no safe crossing on South Central past the middle school— possible bike path will be moved or diverted to crosswalk – city would most likely not install a new crosswalk – problem right now is how to get across Central – only way is to make a 2 block diversion to 7 <sup>th</sup> – crosswalk is also important to the youth to get to pool, ice rink, other places of activity	5a
Alyssa Lindsay – Why aren't there stop signs in Sidney?	5a
Frank – intersections are too close together for stop signs – Montana has statute for unmarked intersections – seems to work as long as everyone knows the rules – looking at Lincoln Ave, its become a through street because everything along it is well marked, resulted in faster traffic – most people seem to deal with lack of stop signs fine	5a
Around school zones there are parents who stop in the middle of the road to drop off/ pick up children – this causes a lot of danger and should be addressed – needs to be an educational process – school should indeed help too.	5a
Rebecca – Is there any bike safety class?	5a
Kin Youngquist – isn't any localized place for physical activity – people who aren't familiar with the system have to do a lot of searching to find physical activity program	5a
Terry – Sidney has always had Park and Rec board which watches over parks and allocates funds, but have dealt with parents that handle Little League Baseball, etc. Problem is that when Park and Rec starts to primarily handle it, parent involvement will drop off	5a
There is a Park and Rec Board but no staff	5a
Rebecca – There is a need for one central location that has all information pertaining to recreational activity programs	5a
Kim Youngquist – VISTA did put together a resource guide pertaining to this subject, but most the information has since changed – continually needs to be updated and changed	5a
Libby – instead of creating another board, can the groups work to give their information to the Chamber to post in on the website or publicized somehow?	5a
Renee – still have the database of town orgs that offer these programs but again must be updated – sports and rec would have to put into brochures and again updated – equals a lot of work	5a
Frank – form a recreation district – would like to see a collaborative effort of many counties in Eastern Montana to facilitate the progression of Park and Rec services – needs to be County wide	5a
Shelee Warner – there are other programs other than sports – summer art programs – still needs organizing	5a
Becky – been working on pool project – Parks Board was able to get a tax question put on ballot – developing survey – want to accommodate the most possible people with pool – again needs to be a point of contact	5a
Frank DiFonzo, Police: people call and give tips, try to give information; many	5a

times they are just trying to get information on something they heard about	
Community lacks a place to hang out; she has bought a house on 14 <sup>th</sup> to create a “retreat center”; a middle class approach to things- targets mind/body/spirit oriented individuals	5a1
Scribner, “Montana Change Project” Sidney does value their youth and what is being done to develop activities for children?	5A1
Nicole Scribner- Dist. 2: SPIFSIG Grant- assessing community perception of underage drinking and DUI- new approach to prevention, environmental and social norms as the source of this problem (No. 1 priority)	5a1
Jenny Gwynne: need to be addressed: people who fall between the cracks- make too much money and too little, b/c they are too old and too young, wrong sex, etc.- the people who fall through all the organizations that target very specific groups	5a1
Cindy, ROI: Board looking into various ways of serving people: daycare, mental services, etc.	5a1
Brenda Eberling, SHC: works with LAPC and the Sidney Education Foundation Board- trying to increase communication between SHC and community in terms of health information (has been successful); trying to get in onto the website- easily accessible to the public (message mapping, signs and symptoms, etc.) Has been worked on from the hospital side	5A1
Kathy Helmuth-in charge of reporting...interesting that it’s on the agenda. Is this a problem? Have at least 4 in the past year that are very low birth weight. about 100 babies a year. Be careful when look at statistics, 1/100 is a big percentage. Does that mean we have a problem? 2006 said to boss we will have an issue. 5 low birth weight...not preventable situations.	5A1
Jason Ellitson (water department City of Sidney) – Montana DEQ website, you can access all water system records; include 9-year interval testing. Ongoing study, John Righton, trying to map aquifer that the city draws from, City has a protection plan for its wells and monitors static water levels. All city water is ground water, the aquifer is not changing, it is affected by the operation of the canal a bit, but not significant	5a1
Grant/scholarship program to help people stay in community	5a1
Amy Schubert, VISTA: working with local advisory councils, mental health and substance abuse- to identify the areas of specific need	5a1
Also, SHC has “Live it Up” to help women take control of their own health; just started, happens 2 times a year	5a1
Kathy Helmuth-Ensuring services that were provided. Still concerned about 1 out of 100. Was there a systems issue that caused this? Because couldn’t afford it as an example? I’m more than willing to visit with people about these issues. Have gaps in community, and looking for programs/volunteers.	5a1
Tony – The other impact they have is the court and police system. The influx of people is stressing these systems. There are a lot of strange names in the Police Beat, and those people are having a negative impact.	5a1

Brenda- Rec. facility and how to make it self-sustaining. Indoor pool, if SHC can use it they can get funding for maintenance, more walking trails around the town. Auditorium (convention center) combined with the HS, make it a community building. Housing, young families are okay, but aging population is a problem. Retirement population is in need for more housing (single level, low	5a1
Grant/scholarship program to help people stay in community	5A2
Paul Groshart what is sustainable is the SHC by the multi-million dollar expansion will make SHC a regional resource	5b
Organizers have trouble getting people to step up and help deliver meals, it is sometimes the only contact that the elderly have in the day- the police help, but he feels there is a need for more community support	5b1
Karen Odell, Senior Companions Director/Brenda Eberling, SHC: Meals on Wheels and other programs need a doctor/nurse/social worker to recommend it, all the meals come out of the hospital, seeing an increase in the number of slots available would be wonderful (but there are only so many and if they are full, someone needs to leave the program before someone else can go on)	5b1
Karen Odell, Senior Companions Director: Works on several senior boards and organizations, 3 years ago formed coalition to address some of the most serious issues facing elderly right now	5b1
Melissa Boyer, RCHD: people become complacent, when they hear about meals on wheels and other opportunities, they think the issue is taken care of (when its not)	5b1
Need to create a movement of outrage to improve awareness and what it would take to completely take care of someone/and issue	5b1
We are able to leave our jobs for volunteer EMS and fire, why not for meal delivery	5b1
Melissa Boyer, RCHD: Neighborhood watch- RSVP has tried to bring that to the community, to get another organization to hook on to it	5b1
We seem to be afraid to go knock on a neighbor's door; if meals on wheels cannot accommodate someone, you still can	5b1
Rene Goss- Library: collaborative efforts with several services, family services in beginning stages of family resource center with accessible resources to everyone in the community; parenting classes (started by domestic violence) with materials available to those who can't attend the classes. Wide range of subject material for those who have specific issues and related issues	5C
Health and Safety- identify need of library: space. They work with several community groups and several age groups	5C
Helen, Domestic Violence: more people utilize the space (library) than realized	5C
Renee Goss: society is paying a little toward this right now, currently they work to see that reading materials are out- for all adults so that everyone can remain productive in the community (tech training for young and old)	5C

Renee Goss – In process of developing post-secondary availability now – bringing in resources from Dawson Community College – working on education calendar – survey to find out what kind of trainings are needed most – make education availability information readily accessible to the public – what you can do, where it is held, who does it, how to get in, etc.	5c
Shelee Warner – Extension office is doing class via the internet but it is a live PowerPoint	5c
Frank – Have Vision Quest, allows for example arraigning arrestees being held somewhere else, etc.	5c
Renee – more and more education is made available via web cast	5c
Brenda Eberling, SHC – There is state programs called iLink – more cost effective than telemedicine – its PowerPoint and live audio and visual – contact State DPHHS for more info	5c
Libby – idea to create Rural Learning Center – area where you can have conferences and gatherings with commercial kitchen that can be used by the public for community-based purposes?	5c
Frank – Should not rule that idea out – others have stated that they want to see a facility for community use such as this – in the works and may become an opportunity for growth – can be used for all kinds of events	5c
Renee – Library would continue to work with Dawson CC in developing Adult Learning Program	5c
Nicole-Rec complex for winter sports, maintenance of walkways for winter b/c they're slippery, Private industry, need for manufacturing, nice family restaurant is needed, multifaceted bus. that's diversified, (mall w/ office space available) ambulance and fire is doing well, and we're well covered.	5c
Renee Goss – In process of developing post-secondary availability now – bringing in resources from Dawson Community College – working on education calendar – survey to find out what kind of trainings are needed most – make education availability information readily accessible to the public – what you can do, where it is held, who does it, how to get in, etc.	5c1
Shelee Warner – Extension office is doing class via the internet but it is a live PowerPoint	5c1
Renne Goss- Library: collaborative efforts with several services, family services in beginning stages of family resource center with accessible resources to everyone in the community; parenting classes (started by domestic violence) with materials available to those who can't attend the classes. Wide range of subject material for those who have specific issues and related issues	5c2
Earle, Library has connection with DCC to provide classes in library. Vernetta also said more classes will be offered and has a dedicated staff member.	5C2
Butch- Library, Community Recreations Facility for kids/sports activities.	5d1
Septic system for those out of the Sidney grid N. meadow ship, lift stations. Backup generator. There needs to be a back up if they loose power for lift station.	5d1

Carol Evans- Would like to see more bike paths around town – can’t get from home to town safely on a bike as it is – town would benefit from more paths – Sidney could become a place for bicyclists	5d3
Terry – as long as State and Federal funds are available, paths will continue to be worked on, the question is where exactly to extend them. possibility of going to high school area, and also airport area. want to accommodate East and West side of town equally if at all possible.	5d3
Shelee Warner – Cancer Control Plan – Nutrition Coalition sent information on VISTA and Healthwork’s plan of installing workout stations on bike path – received \$3000 for project – Shelee now has control of this project – plan needs to be further developed but funding must be increased – possibility of expanding trails by using access roads along canals?	5d3
Renee-Library/Auditorium	5d3
Nicole: Workforce housing(move elderly in big housing to smaller houses, renovation to rundown housing), water/sewer expansion and road maintenance	6a
Keith- Water and Sewer facilities,	6a1
Water and Sewer improvements including the Dry-Red water development. Build new subdivisions for Sidney and Fairview. Also focus on road expansion/improvement.	6a1
Julie Goss – Conservation District drilled 42 wells last fall between Fairview and south of Crane, and they are sponsoring the John Righton study, they were tested this week and are being analyzed in Butte, they will publish the final report to the City of Sidney and Fairview as well as the county, they are looking to go to the legislature for additional funds to proceed further, they are coming from an irrigation standpoint. Conservation District is aware of these issues, got something from DEQ recently about working with other government organizations to spread their study information publicly.	6a2
Working building collections so that is available to region offering more activities. Offering facility for non-profits for meeting and other events to fully utilize building	6A3
Robin H.- Auditorium, Library, Buildings at the Fairgrounds (Arena and Commercial),	6a4
Frank: one of the questions that brought this up is that there is a terrible situation when you cross the RR to go to the east side of town – adjacent to the city limits/by the shops; we’re having a hassle with the RR; it’s extremely hard for vehicles to cross; we need both crossings; we’ve had a number of fatal accidents but they’ve all been rural – none in Sidney; we as a govt. entity could put some pressure on the railroad; lights at RR crossings are expensive; the two lights we have at RR crossings are a direct result of fatalities;	6a5
Tony Barone: They had to go through so many hoops and it was so costly they couldn’t do it;	6a5
Frank: considered a public utility so there are different rules	6a5
Frank: ag people who use those crossings complain a lot because it’s hard on their vehicles; if growers or an org. that represented them would approach the city to see about getting the RR crossings repaired; county should be involved	6a5

with this too; I bet if we had a collaborative approach between city and county	
Name: Mid Rivers Gerry Anderson -Misnomer of public facilities, internet in RC. is ubiquitous, high speed internet is available all over RC. Mid-Rivers is building out their. Landline internet to 80% of the residents. Wild Blue is the service where high speed is not available.	6-C
Name: Greg Rauschendorfer-Uses Wild blue and is appreciated. Nemont is aggressive but prefers mid-rivers cell service.	6-C
Name: Gerry Anderson-700 MHz service north of Lambert for cell phone.	6-C
Name: Renee Goss-Thanks mid-rivers for sticking around and providing service. Was asking about satellite service in regard to disaster preparedness, and wanted to know if the websites would go down during a disaster.	6-C
Name: Gerry-The likelihood of it to go down is remote in a disaster.	6-C
Butch Renders- During a power outage is there a possibility of having internet?	6-C
Gerry- Mid-Rivers is looking at implementing self-healing fiber ring that will allow traffic to be rerouted within the limits of their area. Can control the internet within the Mid-Rivers area but outside the area it can't be protected. Mid-Rivers has back up power. Cell service has 4 towers in RC, 1 in Savage, 2 in Sidney, 1 to be activated N of town, N Lambert, Richie tower, S Vida provides service, not the best, because it's a lot of area to cover. Analog is about 30 miles. Line of site technology is going to have a few dead spots. FCC turned down analog service, Mid Rivers is keeping it. 911 service 95% needs to be digital-range is about 15 miles, but it's still reduced service. Each new tower you need to go to the FCC for license. Nemont is licensed for the entire area, has universal funding, and can be more aggressive in putting up towers. They have roaming agreements with Verizon, CVMA Mid-Rivers gets paid. Towers in rural areas aren't very lucrative due to the low number of subscribers. Will try to do their best to put towers in rural RC. But it's hard to pay for it b/c of low subscriber, can't pay solely from roaming charges from Verizon. They've been putting towers on the highways – esp. b/c of oil traffic. In an isolated spot, if no one is taking service it's hard to pay for.	6-C
Universal service funding, if you're rural, cost of doing business is more expensive. This is based on the landline cost.	6-C
One problem is the reversing population, Mid-Rivers is a fixed facility, stranded investment when people start leaving, the cost will spread over a fewer number of people and it will cost more to them.	6-C
Chet: we've had some different sessions where we've talked about traffic on 201 – many of have kids and we don't know how fast trucks are coming down hill – have to make sure to check to see if any vehicles are coming	6d
Brenda: people dropping off kids at schools – stopping in the middle of the street; junior high is really bad; there is no place at the junior high for parents to go to pick up kids other than teacher parking lot	6d

Frank DiFonzo: approx. 9500 vehicles travel down Central Ave. each day; roughly 60 accidents per year on Central despite all of the traffic; most of the accidents we experience are at intersections with traffic lights; the middle school has always been a nightmare – loading zones have been moved; we have to make sure children and parents obey traffic laws; we’re looking at constructing a recessed area; biggest problem with vehicle safety is that everyone drives a little bit differently; answer isn’t putting cops in front of schools so we essentially rely on the public; we need help of highway dept. to rectify	6d
Frank: now parents are on Central; people usually just in a hurry; most don’t disobey traffic laws	6d
Frank: in 9500 traffic count on Central – approx 500 are heavy vehicles; very few truck accidents; most traffic on Central not creating a problem; we have a lot of north south traffic that comes out of Canada; it’s a state highway and there’s nothing we can do about that; if there was more room to expand the street it would have been done a long time ago, so I don’t know how we can rectify that.	6d
Frank: Pedestrian safety – safety that’s practiced by pedestrians – not drivers; not a big problem – but it’s not a safe problem; you’re never totally safe; in a two vehicle accident one of them had the right of way; we need to go into the schools to educate kids about traffic safety – not only pedestrian safety; not only pedestrians but people operating motor vehicles; pedestrians have rights but they also have obligations; bicycle safety also an important issue; you have to be careful – even if you are a pedestrian; we know everyone doesn’t drive safely; but pedestrians can do something about it; it’s a responsibility everyone has	6d
Frank: middle school kids can only cross where the traffic light is – policy; we’re going to have another safe crossing at Gem City when they redo the street at 7 <sup>th</sup> and Central; we’ve had kids get hit at crosswalks – that’s how the light project got started; mayor at time said it wasn’t justified but they came back later and changed plan; state dislikes traffic lights – create problems rather than help them at times;	6d
Smelser, working to re-build trucking route around the town and the DOT is coming to finish study. They are working to Making farm to market road larger and wider and new road to Lambert to make travel quicker.	6D1
Smelser and Larson, Three lane vs. four has been tabled which is why an alternative truck route is an option. Controversial issue can be dealt with comprise and meeting everyone’s needs and the split was on the county council due to the Sidney Herald’s survey.	6D1
Tony - #1 impact is roads, it’s a plus, we got some roads paved (County Road 328, 128) and built, but it also degrades those roads.	6e
Connie – County is trying, but in spite of the money, a problem exists, ideal would be to pave all country roads. She thinks county is doing a good job, but the impact is so big they can’t fix it.	6e
Mary – Not just building, but maintenance	6e

Connie – Has talked to Russ Houtari (road foreman), he is trying, and they do put stuff down to control dust, and keep the roads graded. She thinks he is very busy, fielding a lot of complaints/concerns. It may be beyond his ability to handle.	6e
Smelser, working to re-build trucking route around the town and the DOT is coming to finish study. They are working to Making farm to market road larger and wider and new road to Lambert to make travel quicker.	6-e2
Frank: discussion on farm to market road 488; talking about making improvements; 9 <sup>th</sup> ; with 10 <sup>th</sup> there would be more to work with	6-e2
Frank: 10 <sup>th</sup> makes more sense; going by east side of town; going west side would incur more expense; discussion of a route to divert traffic around the city; if we had a state designated bypass we could make people use it; current bypass doesn't meet state requirements – that's why it's not being used	6-e2
Frank: where the bypass crosses at 488 would be made into a gentler turn for trucks and then we would be able to tell trucks use the truck route	6-e2
Frank: yes; bypasses in a town like Sidney could be a good thing and a bad thing; in terms of business development you don't want northern traffic to bypass Sidney; if it's close enough to town this may not be a problem; 40% of truck traffic comes from Fairview area and goes through town;	6-e2
Ben: What's the thought of taking 126 up the Culbertson Highway	6-e2
Frank: that may be what part of their plan is; problem is that people don't want to give up property; there are certainly some prospects; any talk of a bypass needs to take in the considerations of the community;	6-e2
Ben Larson: I would have a concern that for some reason the inability to purchase land on Central avenue – forcing a strip development – would rather see development go downtown	6-e3
Brenda: Central will be just as blank as main street	6-e3
Jackie Young: Borger, TX – had truck traffic through town so they build a bypass around town; beautified w/ trees, etc. main street then dried up and there was no parking; businesses then developed around bypass; this comes to fear for a lot of people	6-e3
Chet: Williston and Watford City have a zone; loans have helped to renovate areas; maybe there's something there with some of the money to help create a downtown area	6-e3
Frank: in Williston businesses have gone near the bypass	6-e3
Frank: we do have potential for some strip development; land is for sale; credit union is building a new building next to the post office; that land off of the highway right of way has been designated for sale	6-e3
Jason – Glendive treats the Yellowstone surface water for drinking, we use ground water in Sidney.	7a
Julie Goss – Dry red water rural water authority being worked with, looking to come out of Fort Peck, trying to do survey of rest of county to see who in county is interested. When it started it ended in Lambert, but they have expanded interest and are expanded their plans to match, they are finding a lot of interest, Conservation District is working with McCone, Valley, Garfield	7a1

and Dawson Counties	
Jason Ellitson (water department City of Sidney) – Montana DEQ website, you can access all water system records; include 9-year interval testing. Ongoing study, John Righton, trying to map aquifer that the city draws from, City has a protection plan for its wells and monitors static water levels. All city water is ground water, the aquifer is not changing, it is affected by the operation of the canal a bit, but not significant	7a2
Julie Goss – Conservation District drilled 42 wells last fall between Fairview and south of Crane, and they are sponsoring the John Righton study, they were tested this week and are being analyzed in Butte, they will publish the final report to the City of Sidney and Fairview as well as the county, they are looking to go to the legislature for additional funds to proceed further, they are coming from an irrigation standpoint. Conservation District is aware of these issues, got something from DEQ recently about working with other government organizations to spread their study information publicly.	7a2
Julie – Yes, we do water bureau and rights, they do not do testing, but just purchased a monitor to monitor rivers and streams, but they send samples to Williston and Butte.	7a2
Chet Hill – Back to water quality – opportunity in Roosevelt County where private land owners could bring water samples and it would be forwarded for them to get it tested, this is something to consider adding to the public meeting about the well test results, this is something that could be implemented on the Extension Side, also tell people what they should test for, provide guidance and education on these issues at that meeting, bring in a specialist to get us updated on the latest testing techniques. This service is still there, but not widely used (or possibly not available in Richland County currently, he not longer works with this directly). It would cost a couple hundred dollars, but he thinks it will be wanted.	7a2
Libby Knotts – On the assessment team with Kathy, et.al. concern for water quality in general (saline, naturally bad water), concern about potential oil impacts (impact of drilling), is this a perceived or real problem? There was a website that had some information, this could be a way to publish data about test wells and results in the county, need to tell people how to test their own well water (closest place is Williston, but they don't have a full battery of tests)	7A2
Kathy – Quality and quantity are possible oil drilling impacts, both need to be addressed, it is at least a perception that it might affect water tables and natural reservoirs. Cities have to do some testing, she sometimes gets reports on fluoride levels, but how does this information get out to the public and how can they access it, the internet may not be an easy way for people to do that.	7a2
Pat Torgerson – Dry land (not irrigated) owner, would like to see a county-wide system for well testing and have a clear way to access that, have it be stored centrally, legally valid documents.	7a2
Connie Iversen – Julie could have public meeting when results come in	7a2

Kathy – Piece of private well and water testing – dental screening with pre-school screening, and we have a unique problem of having too much fluoride, so kids can be over-exposed at the dentist, public health would like to come to the meeting to talk about that issue	7a2
Kathy – Switch gears – Environmental committee and town focus groups talked about the air quality effects of oil well flares how it would be solved by natural gas pipeline, but that has not moved forward, does anyone know where that is?	7B
Earle and Smelser, Wind energy is being developed in Dawson county and looking to move this way and ethanol plant was going to be built and plan has changed and ND and MT are looking at building a refinery	7B
Jerry with Lower Yellowstone – There is a lot of concern with quality for irrigation with the oil and gas upstream. They do track what’s being done, as do districts and citizens upstream. We do have good quality for irrigation; the USGS has monitoring stations that run continuously all along the river. Quantity – We are in a water rich area with no stored water, we don’t need it, and we rely on the return flows from other irrigation projects. They are identifying the aquifers, and we are water rich there also, terrific ground water resources.	7b3
Mike – are they monitored?	7b3
Jerry – Yes	7b3
Kay – Would like Jerry to speak to amount of fertilizer and overhead spray effects, especially in the return flow and run-off.	7b3
Jerry – Over the years that Bureau of Reclamation and Mines have done testing, they have found a good track record, no significant degradation of quality. There’s a large volume of return flow which helps. We have the Clean Water Act being administering, he knows of no problems that have been identified.	7b3
Craig Herbert – We do have storage feeding the Yellowstone out of the Yellowtail dam which keeps our flow up, they could have messed up but they did not prioritize the Missouri and that’s what kept our flow up.	7b3
Carol Evans – does oil stuff mess up irrigation water?	7b3
Mayor Smelser, Sidney has put 10,000 aside to do a downtown enhancement project County Project “streetscape”	7C
new website is in the works-Chamber of Commerce	7C
RENAISSANCE PROGRAM –N.D.	7c4
National Historic Tax Credit	7c4
CDBG	7c4
HOME program	7c4
Sandy Turner: Suggests preservation of the Yellowstone Mercantile in the wake of its 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. – Williston as example of possibilities, including a dance studio, etc.	7c4
Jennie Gwynne: Have performing arts or other center been suggested before for the Yellowstone Merc? To be used for kiosks or some kind of gathering place.	7c4

Sandy Turner: Restaurants are most essential. Casinos make the most money without very much effort. Watford City example: Downtown building –The Baker- would be a good model. They have historical items, sitting area and restaurant/movie theater. Something like this for Sidney would be ideal. Utilizing a historical building for this purpose, if possible, would be ideal.	7c4
Peggy Torgerson: JK Ralston original at old Post Office (now extension office) is a good example of how to preserve history in old buildings.	7c4
J: Renaissance Program – utilizing this program to make buildings functional again. Example: A computer company came in and improved building while preserving its historical value in Jamestown. How could we use something like this in Montana?	7c4
Matt: National program: National Historic Tax Credit, CDBG, HOME program	7c4
Rob: There’s no point in destroying old buildings, we should restore and “pick them up.” Only two buildings in Richland County on the national register. – One is the first Sidney church on the Truck Rte.	7c4
Rob: Two different kinds of Register with different ways of operating	7c4
Jennie: Difference between private and public buildings and preservation	7c4
Sandy Turner: Missoula walking tour – example of unveiling old buildings that were covered up in the 50’s-70’s and how important it is to preserve people. “History tugs and peoples’ hearts.”	7c4
Sandy Turner: Our goal at the MonDak is to preserve the Scout Cabin but it will be very expensive. I do not have time to work on it and I do not know what it would cost. “It takes more than one person’s vision.”	7c4
Rob: Cheerio Bar in Sidney, many buildings on Central in Sidney and many Fairview buildings like the Hotel Albert are examples of Richland County historical buildings. We should make these buildings functional parts of the community.	7c4
Sandy/Rob: Discussion about preservation/utilization without making them all “historical shrines.”	7c4
(Jerry W.) We need to work now at preserving buildings that are not already deemed historical. They will be seen as historical 30 years from now so we need to act now to preserve them.	7c4
Sandy: Also, we need to use community members like Mary Mercer – Mary stresses that history is yesterday, not only hundreds of years ago. It is already important. To function properly at the MonDak we would need many more people. Our older volunteers are done, and everyone older works and does not have time to volunteer. Mary Mercer used to volunteer 30-40 hours a week and no one does that now. They work and are busy and might give 3-4 hours a week.	7c4
Rob/Sandy: The group gets smaller, older and are not as capable of performing the jobs.	7c4
Working building collections so that is available to region offering more activities. Offering facility for non-profits for meeting and other events to fully utilize building	7d1

Peggy : Beginning of Richland County specific foundations. – Montana Community Foundation.	7D1
Sandy: Membership, County funding, city funding and grants. We would like to increase membership. Membership is so vital, not only financially but in participation/numbers. We are not a service organization. People think we are the Lions or other organizations. But it is about the commitment people make saying that they value history and culture in the region. It's about believing in the community. Newspaper advertisements are not effective. We are always asking.	7d1
Rob: The Lambert museum receives 10\$/yr per membership, county funding and memorials.	7d1
Rob: We try to do a newsletter once a year and that acts as our membership drive and renewal notice.	7d1
Sandy: We have a lot of repeat members – we are opened year round. We are a large facility. The people who built it during the last oil boom clearly had a vision that Sidney would grow. We are using it more as a cultural center to take advantage of it – it is almost too big for this town.	7d1
(Sheila (?)): I would like to see support of both local museums and libraries. Since we don't have a college or opportunity for advanced studies, people can go there for research/information.	7d1
Sandy Turner: Collaboration is very important.	7d1
Rob: I would like to learn more about Plan Giving (?)	7d1
Peggy : It is on the agenda after Library – what else can you tell us about that.	7D2
Wade Van Every Next priority after library.	7d2
Rob: I would like to see one parking lot of 200 feet x 300 feet to host motorcycle safety classes here.	7d2
Wade VanEvery We brought a gentleman from WY who worked on downtown revitalization project. He spoke about the process, showed pictures and held a Q&A. He said we worked with lots of people and put plans together and showed them to the community. It's a large issue because it involves truck routes, etc.	7d2
Peggy : Is it on the school board's plate – Yes. How much money does the school board get from oil each year?	7d2
Terry-a notice Sidney is updating boundary of city limits. public hearing will be held regarding that. if there is interest how the zoning is, what changes would like to be made, that time for forum will come	8a
Jerry L. – there is potential – two main keys – water availability and cost of power; new irrigation requires power – this has been a real issue in Richland county; cost per acre just for power; water rights – we are in a water rich area this is not as much of a problem and can still be developed;	8a
Julie Goss – Pat Riley said to get an irrigation water well at this point is almost impossible to get on one's own; aquifer study; water is first in line; it's going to be a big issue	8a
water expert in state govt. lives in Sidney – need to tap into this resource	8a

Mary Helen – are hurdles you’re facing b/c of wetland issues?	8a
Jerry – on water wells – Mont. Doesn’t have good map of surface water – concern if we’re going to pump water to help elsewhere; North Dakota has a good understanding of where their water is at; endangered species are sometimes difficult to get around	8a
Marcy-rather not answer. as it was brought to her. if county is zoned, I am out. Majority of Richland is agricultural. irrigational or dry land, farm land. If you zone and say “housing in certain areas, farmers ever want to create a subdivision, he can’t create b/c it’s zoned for agriculture. it has to stay w/n exemption b/c of tax. Zoning is also difference in taxes based on it. so it differs	8a
Elton-extend city zoning 4-5 miles of city. one legislature opposed to that, it was thrown out. future expansion where streets were correct and lined up	8a
Terry-you’re looking at me (laugh) got to be a case by case basis. the city has discovered generally annexed property do not bring in a tax source that covers cost of supply and services. there are cases in Missoula for i.e. where city was annexing everything to get 60,000 population level. Sidney did look for annexation when they dropped below 5,000 pop do to federal loss of money. hope to reach 5,001 level to qualify for funding. 80,000 for street. as far as city being anxious to reach any population there, it’s not necessarily there. most eastern counties work together really well with jurisdiction area, all subdivision activities happen around town. don’t want to see county subdivision. further west you go in county, lot of confrontation. Richland works well together, but not a lot of state law that encourages that. I don’t know if that answers your question, but we’re not looking for annexation	8a
Terry-North and south west. a large 40acre track w/in city limits that is undeveloped. South of 15St	8A1
Terry Meldahl-an estimate of 25 build able infrastructure lots; maybe more than that. some are empty lots people don’t want to sell now	8A1
Terry-few years ago big rush to buy lots, but it takes a lot. after sewer and water requirement, market has dropped off a little, but no interest. But it is available and ready to go	8a1
Sandy-some people who could afford a modular home those lots could work for them. These lots are not as expensive	8a1
Terry-Building inspector can tell you to move in modulator	8a1
Alton Hillsland Manufacture home is approved by HUD, not international building. lots of confusion about homes and just as well built, but doesn’t have stamp of Montana international building code. All comes down to economics. Value of lot is lot on type of house	8a1
Carol Evans-most logical direction for Sidney to grow? N, S, E, W	8a1
Leonard-on planning board during 1 <sup>st</sup> oil rush. one of things they tried to do was keep subdivision off of prime agricultural land. If you go south and north, you are in irrigation district. encourage people to go SW and they made some mistakes	8a1

Sandy-how many or are all of them have infrastructure there? It is a huge financial burden on developer	8a1
Terry-a notice Sidney is updating boundary of city limits. public hearing will be held regarding that. if there is interest how the zoning is, what changes would like to be made, that time for forum will come	8A3
Scott Johnson-Last zoning was in 1983 was last year to do master plan beyond city limits? wants to know if there is a process of doing a new one? will there be new changes	8A4
Terry-no major changes, just refreshing and updating of map. can't actually zone outside of limits	8A4