

**2nd Annual “State of the Community”
County-Wide Conference
was held on January 23, 2009
in Sidney, Montana**

**Session Notes
and
Evaluation Findings**

**The document was compiled on
February 18, 2009**

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Thanks You's

Thank you to all of the Conference Committee members who helped to bring this conference together. The input from the City/County Planning Board, Richland County Planner Office and Richland County Health Department helped to shape the conference. Without the hard work and dedication of Becky Hayes, Melissa Boyer, Ray Trumpower, Judy LaPan, Marcy Hamburg, Rita Steinbeisser, and Cal Oraw the 2nd Annual "State of the Community" Conference would not have been possible.

Thank you to the Sidney Herald and The Roundup for helping the committee to keep the public informed on the progress and direction of the conference. We greatly appreciate the informative articles you wrote in reference to the Conference and for publishing the Committees' news articles. Community partnerships like you not only help to foster new ideas and projects but to ensure the quality of life we enjoy here in Richland County continues.

Thank you to the AmeriCorps*VISTA's Jay Witte, Hearshell VanLoven, Stacey Schmitt, and Becky Hayes who assisted with the Conference throughout the conference planning process, setting up and the day of the conference; without the VISTA's insight and assistance this conference would not be what it is today.

Thank you to the **Facilitators**: Ben Larson, Wade Whiteman, Lisa Aisenbrey, Wade VanEvery, Loren Dunk, Stacey Schmitt, and Butch Renders; **Action Reporter**-Leif Anderson, Judy Johnson, Renee Goss, Josh Johnson, Thom Barnhart, Steven Schwartz, Russ Huotari, Bob Burnison, and Leslie Messer; and **Session Note Takers**: Beth Redlin, Ray Trumpower, Melissa Boyer and Chris Viets. Their assistance provided the Committee with the necessary documentation of the comments and information provided by the participants. The information gathered will be utilized to determine how implementation and updating the Growth Policy, and to update and to continue to move the Strategic Plan into action.

And a special thank you to EVERY attendee, without your attendance and participation this conference would not have been a success. You helped to make this conference a very useful and informative tool in the planning process to ensure our County is prepared for the future.

Disclaimer

The Committee extends its sincere apology for the misspelling of names and any grammatical error in the document, as this report was compiled using the data collected by different session note takers.

Comments:

The Conference was co-sponsored by the Richland County Health Department, Richland County Planner Office, and the City/County Planning Board.

The Conference provided the City/County Planning Board and Richland County Planner Office with a way to indentify how the 2006 Richland County Growth Policy could be updated and to determine ways in which the Growth Policy was being implemented.

The Conference provided the Richland County Health Departments the opportunity to determine if the 2008 Richland County Community Strategic Plan was being implemented and to continue moving forward with updating the Social Health Index and Strategic Plan.

This report was compiled to provide as accurate record as possible of all of the data collected throughout day of the Conference. The data collected was gathered during each of the eight (8) concurrent sessions, the information was compiled from: Session Notes, PostIt easel notes, Index Card comments, Sign-in Sheets, Action Group Signup sheets, and the returned Evaluation Forms; and the data collected from the Luncheon Speaker presentation.

The Concurrent Sessions provided throughout the Conference day included: Housing, Physical Health Resources, Educational & Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, Youth Opportunities & Development, Transportation, Public Safety, and Economy & Community Development. .

Each Session was lead by an experienced Facilitator. The Facilitator's main responsibility was to keep the discussion on the Session topics and to encourage participation from each of the attendees. As a result from the first County-wide Conference six (6) Action Groups were formed. In each session an Action Group Reporter provided information on the groups progress they have achieved.

Concurrent Session #1

Room 1 – Housing

Facilitator: Ben Larson

Action Group Report: Leif Anderson

Note Taker: Beth Redlin

PARTICIPANTS: Jason Elletson, Troy Jensen, Randy Olson, Sandra Kust, Helen B. Schmitt, Donna Goff, Cindy L. Eleson, Robert Burnison, Rita Jacobson, Annie Kleinsasser, Theresa Livers, Terry Meldahl, Jay Frank, Leonard Odenbach, Paul Groshart, Louisa Barber, Leslie Messer, Penny Zimmerman, Roger Meyer, Craig Kennedy, Connie Smith, Nicole Jones, Marvellee Fink, Lonnie Cross, Vernetta Torgerson, Loren Dunk, Steve Schwartz, Robin Hernandez, Linda Simonson, Connie Iverson, Raedelle Aspenlieder, Josh Johnson, Graycie Sharbono, Chris Viets, Joan Eldridge, Gene Buxcel, Marcy Hamburg, Tony Barone, Wade VanEvery, Butch Renders

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Increase the quality and availability of the housing market (especially for low-moderate income persons) to allow for population growth – *CSP/GP Housing Goal 2A*
- Encourage development to meet the housing needs of seniors and those with disabilities – *CSP/GP Housing Goal 2B*
- Explore possible methods of renovating old buildings on existing lots and improving the safety and appearance of homes in the county – *CSP/GP Housing Goal 1B*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. What should be areas of top priority for the Housing Action Group?
2. What other types of projects are being worked on? (Including who is doing the work and what the timelines are)
3. Do these projects require assistance in terms of support or funding (on the private, public, local, state or federal levels)?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Do the Growth Policy or CSP need any revisions to reflect recent changes in the community?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Report from Leif

- committee realized don't have enough places to live for all price age ranges...how could we create more inhabitable spaces in Richland County
- increase number of places to live in general is focus rather than making certain n80,000-100,000 homes available...move seniors may free up that price range...higher end homes 250,000 plus, free up 125,000
- make inhabitable homes habitable another approach...determined not many existing structures that fit that parameter...so need to look at new construction

- In exploring those options...gap between cost to build and what market will bear or people able to pay...rent structure not high enough to make it pay for developers
- SO how do you close that gap...fundamental question is do you let the free market try to ignore that out or government intervention? ...not popular to have government step in...subsidize or try other measures.....impression that Williston was doing lot of govt. subsidy to complete projects there....did have a project that did use govt. money (36-plexes using star funds) but really only on they did
- most of the developing there is the result of private developers...we were originally hoping that we could apply what they were doing but found it was limited
- Thought about coming up with a developers package....done leg work here's where you can put it, here's how water, sewer etc. can happen...kind of a no-brainer...can just come in and start pounding nails...extend to single family home packages; packages for apartments; single level senior housing; even a motel package
- Land trusts also looked at...formed subcommittee...complicated...Jeremy Norby will discuss and trusts shortly
- Mobil homes in Sidney (manufactured/double-wide/trailer) have to be in trailer park...no option to buy a spot to put that or even to rent needs to be addressed...have started working on...stretch to build new park, but ay be able to enhance or explain existing parks ...looking at Wagon Wheel or Hilltop Estates.
- Local investors limited...overcautious over conservative or maybe smart...climate now more difficult to attract developers...may need to look to government
- Things that are happening include people building their own homes...then another unit becomes available 2) other area is senior housing options popping up (Paul G.) 7-8 homes

Discussion:

- Challenges in lending
- Concerned a year ago, but if you walk into Stockman Bank just as easy to do today as a year ago, all the different programs are still available FHA, etc. ad interest rates are at historic lows
- The only exception to that would be, four-plexes to rent...requiring more down, etc...but for individuals buying home still good

Jeremy Norby - Land Trust explanation

- instrument form 40 years ago used in areas where housing isn't available for everyone...started one in Missoula...trust of money collected through government, private dollars, grants, etc...buy section of land and then subsidize housing ...homebuyers can upgrade homes...can afford 60,000 house is 100,000....then when sell can only get equity out...i.e. if improvements make it 100,000 but market value 200,000 you have to sell for 100,000...now trusts in Bozeman and Kalispell \$500,000 grant and may go to million under new housing regulations....now s time to get in

Paul Groshart – SENIORS Housing

- architect evaluate apartments 8-9 buildings at sunset.....3.6 to 4. million to do renovations Housing Authority hired consultant...5 towns in Sidney...renovating two that not occupied...met with families in homes...to see if they are interested in buying those homes...residents given first choice, vouchers afterward, then open to community to sell those 5 homes...make homes available 35,000-40,000 wag level? Housing authority would hold back 25% of loan as silent second
- Consultant has done 20 of these around the country...

- Not sure how long will take...have to qualify thru bank and take classes to understand responsibilities of being a homeownership family....looking at demolition for buildings mentioned earlier, but think there will be fed dollars available for new (36 units)
- Looking at acquisition of old hospital...did hazardous material survey...found some asbestos...cost of 200,000-250,000 for abatement
- Also looking at expansion at Crestwood 18 units using grants...for 88 units at Crestwood...key is finding funding will be millions
- also look at housing choice voucher home ownership program...families talk with landlords of rental units and others and see if willing to sell then housing authority assists with payments....but probably not feasible here

Discussion:

- how get over not in my neighborhood attitude...has committee worked on that zoning, education, etc.
- last few years seen need become so great that the community as a whole feels it is needed so gains support and begin to look at new and old alternatives again...consensus that need is great helps overcome that
- support of self-building homes are there programs in place?
- looking for programs, but have also see people coming into the community that can help with building...also bad economy in other parts of state....saw good builder coming here from Bozeman, relocated his business, have seen that with a couple of builders...have a new electrician...not a lot of luck with attracting plumbers, but that would be great....more of these services available makes it easier for
- nature of service for seniors...range
- more service for seniors but not to level of lodge
- do you have motel packet
- Don't have yet, but you may be able to help with showing this is helpful...concept considering but not completed yet...is it useful?
- yes see the need for motel ...some people had to sleep in their car
- feel if we had a packet available, will aid developer but also sends strong message of community support
- When we don't have sites ready for callers, don't think community support there. Holiday Inn express building in Williston, but they might have considered here if we had something like this available
- same is true in some housing...builders encouraged if packets available
- referred group to discussion topics (three)
- Have a shortage, very few empty units in town (two mentioned by Paul), Leif asked for anyone with info to pass it on
- Limited mobile home lots...have some empty, but owner doesn't want to rent
- Market, cost too high for many
- \$900 mo for one bedroom units; 1400 for three bedroom in Williston 36-plex
- any lots available to build?
- not much available right now, few options for 4-plexes, etc. same issue for mobile homes; but single family homes there are places to build (10-15 options)
- owned by developer
- why mobile home lots not available

- 70 lots in wagon when park in 2004-2006 sold for taxes...bought by lot owners who didn't ant neighbors
- north end of wagon wheel, 70? lots, oil company bought, but have had no interest in doing anything with that property...if Sidney a boomtown, can
- Hilltop 44 lots, however, if 12 lots or less doesn't have to deal with MT DEQ...but have been trying to get people to buy...last info 100 lots available, but only 12 being are being used
- condition of lagoon is unknown...unfortunately costly to assess lagoon to support the additional units...catch 22...so looking at possibility of covering cost of assessment with grant...also looking to see if can get on city water and sewer but cost is around quarter a million
- how much does state environmental rules impact situation...since we're in legislative year, can something be done there
- not comfortable answering...people currently in wait-and-see mode
- what groups are causing housing situation...oil industry?
- yes, it's oil...working people looking for housing...kind of people we want here
- 170 jobs Franz, Mitchell's etc., 20-25 hr. jobs, typical working families...looking for a hundred thousand dollar house 3 bedroom for \$600/mo
- what happens when oil leaves?
- of course, that's definitely a concern...starting to see layoffs...don't know answer to that...where things are going to go
- at job service, construction industry collapsing on other side of state now looking at our area, plumbers, etc. but they're looking at finding housing...not looking for jobs in oilfield just cheaper place to live...question looking outside Sidney...Albert hotel?
- have tried to be inclusive, Lambert rep...but not savage or Fairview
- Manor a great asset for seniors in savage...teachers, however, have real problems cuz can't afford the housing
- Land trust good option for this
- Legislative efforts related to housing...Gary Amestoy lobbyist looking at these very issues two bills...public water and sewer for Lambert and Savage etc. for stimulus payment
- adjustable tax credits for elderly homeowners...potential action step ...prepare for 2011 session, her office happy to help with that
- landlord legislation, one piece of legislation...have to have carbon monoxide and fire detectors in rentals; 19.6 million to MT to buy back foreclosed homes...only about 105 home was foreclosed at that time...probably a lot more now, but in order to use the money must put 25% on foreclosures...will be challenge for the state to do that...think have to do within 18 months, otherwise money goes to another state for their foreclosures
- concentrate on low income/moderate income earners...talked about mobile homes...appear to become additional opportunities
- do smaller towns have lot
- 117 ...don't want to open up have city water, but not sewer landowner, wish somebody would approve him
- Resident Home Communities in part brought in because of mobile home park owners wanting out...trust owns land, homes become more affordable, banks, Sheila rice a contact...done in Great Falls? RHC similar to land trusts, but slightly different structure
- demolition of 36-unit at RHA...private public involvement...when take down can recycle some materials for other homes...some people willing to put in time...reuse lumber, materials, etc.

- not a problem for us anything in there can be reused...not hazardous materials...but some of the materials very old 20-year-old windows
- but lumber could be reused...maybe group of folks want to do this and with green on people's minds may have dollars for recycling....
- certainly okay for private homes...this is public facility are there any restrictions?
- if being used for other housing purposes
- program hope 6 – dollars to deconstruct those building instead of just knock down...something we didn't even think about ...all stick built in 1952...yeah, there is probably some very good lumber in there
- for out lying areas get behind red water project
- to by a Romo in Bainville conversations has said he can build affordable homes...are their lots available?...by utilizing him can keep the money here...
- only a couple of subdivisions can't put in his type of homes; not at south meadow
- available lots...North Meadow,...problem with Romo homes...have to get plumbers, electricians, concrete etc. escalate costs
- think could be affordable at 1200 sq. ft.
- think the smallest he's built is 1400, think it topped out at \$200,000...maybe can cut some corners...often want heated tiles in bathroom, etc...could get new home and move in at \$150,000 on the border for teachers, policeman...love the idea of using someone locally to solve our problems

SENIOR HOUSING

- noted expansion Crestwood into old hospital
- Is there anything that the city or county could do to waive fees? can give tax breaks to spur particularly types of housing
- That is exactly the type of thing we'd like to incorporate into development packages...if we could offer development incentive, could get a four-plex built; haven't yet talked with city and county about this topic
- when city annexed property in...they don't have to take in all at once...that option is available if brining in NEW land...can phase in
- so could be part of a developer's package
- has been done for some businesses
- Sidney sugars expansion/Busch Ag examples of where tax breaks given
- Plumbers/electrical way higher because they don't have time so bid higher
- what is demand? how do the five homes mentioned by Paul affect that?
- not meeting our potential....need 30-40 more housing units would be a good start and maybe sufficient for our needs....gut feeling...the most exciting thing right now is stuff Paul is working on with expansion at Crestwood
- closed on house and renovatingbeen off market three years...had 10 different people begging me for it
- is the Yellowstone Mercantile building a possibility for seniors
- question regarding renovation costs, but also need to provide off street parking, which is a problem
- What about Central School
- had considered in past, but at the time couldn't decide how they wanted to
- seeing conversions elsewhere...particular for teacher housing

- Population mix...less than 30 people on waiting list for FHA; 10 at Crestwood; problem is some make too much money to qualify for programs...can rent and THEN earn more
- currently no one on welfare in either RHA or Crestwood
- 65% ON SOCIAL SECURITY
- data says losing population, but Sidney has all the parts needed to continue thriving...offer as positive observation

RENOVATION

- not much available to work with
- individuals fixing them up already in some instances
- there is one foreclosure happening

Placed dots on sheets to indicate areas of interest

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS:

Marvellee J Fink, Vernetta Torgerson, Rita Jacobson

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

Mobile Lots

Wagon Wheel – 75 lots

- Oil Comp

Hill Top – 88 lots

- Sanitation problems

Fairview Units – 2 votes

Status

Current Shortage

- very few empty units
- limited mobile home lots
- new construction costs too high

Solutions

- land trust – need initial \$\$
- senior housing
- subsidized housing
- developer packages

Senior Housing

Crestwood Expansion – 2 votes

Developer package/tax relief – 14 votes

Central Elementary – 4 votes

Low Income

Mobile homes – 7 votes

Land trust/resident-owned communities – 8 votes

Recycle building materials – 2 votes

Water/sewer – 2 votes

Concurrent Session #1

Room 2 – Physical Health Resources

Facilitator: Wade Whiteman

Action Group Report: Judy Johnson

Note Taker: Melissa Boyer

PARTICIPANTS: Brenda Eberling, Gale Frank, Kay Fulkerson, Tina Rehbein, Leslie Thiessen, Julie Brodhead, Amber Ellis, George Biebl, Jeff Mead, Kathy Helmuth, Renee Goss, Sandy Turner, Stanley Lindbloom, Carrell Evans, Bob Evans, Libby Berndt, Scott Doty, Rita Steinbeisser, Lisa Aisenbrey, Karen Olson-Beeken, Julie Goss, Diane Kalvoda, Paula Anderson, Terry Meldahl, Michelle Frank, Melissa Larson, Shelee Warner, Holly Salsbury, Angie Thiessen-Idoate, Idelle Badt, Rebecca Miller, Shelly Rosaaen

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Get everyone physically active in Richland County by providing physical activity options for all age groups – *Community Strategic Plan*
- Meet community needs for indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities – *GP Public Services Goal 4A*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. What should be areas of top priority for the Physical Health Action Group?
2. What other types of projects are being worked on? (Including who is doing the work and what the timelines are)
3. Do these projects require assistance in terms of support or funding (on the private, public, local, state or federal levels)?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Do the Growth Policy or CSP need any revisions to reflect recent changes in the community?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

We need to increase the excitement about wellness

Thin to Win is successful when participants get into teams

A recreational booklet was completed 3 years ago. It needs to be updated or the format needs to be changed

NAPA Grant through the health department

Nutrition and Physical Activity

Promotes breast feeding

Promotes worksite wellness

Promotes physical structures like sidewalks
Promotes nutritional component on menus

Sidney Park and Recreation got funding from the county for youth volunteer boards for capital improvements

Skate Park
New playground equipment in Fairview at Sharbono Park

Options for all ages were brainstormed

Top priorities were determined to be: 1. Clearing house and recreation coordinator; 2. Walking path; 3. Recreation center; 4. Senior issues; and 5. Sub committees

Other topics discussed were using the Sidney Herald as an information center, their community calendar.

Developing a wiki as an information center through the library

Requesting funding from park and recreation for walking path (funds that the commissioners earmarked for capital improvements)

Getting the Physical Activity Action Group to go to the meeting at the high school about the truck route and the possibilities for sidewalks next to it.

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Carrell Evans, Michelle Frank, Julie Goss, Brenda Eberling, Jeff Mead, Tina Rehbein, Libby Berndt, Gale Frank, Rita Steinbeisser, Deb Prevost, Wade Whiteman, Sandy Turner, Julie Brodhead, Kay Fulkerson

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

The group began by brainstorming about different opportunities for each age group to be physically active that could be established/used in Richland County. Each person was given sticky notes to place under labels for each age group. Each idea was then listed on the large posters, the sticky notes are stapled to the posters themselves

Baby-Toddler 0-3: Mom & Tot swim lessons, Stroller Races, Baby Pool, Toddler tumbling

School Age 4-18: Public skating at Dome, Biking groups, Adopt a grandparent, New Park Equipment, Soccer, Year-round swim lessons, Cycle cross/Skate Park, Dancing lessons, Non-competitive waffle ball, Young programs, Swim nights

Young Adult 18-35: Fox -n- Geese (??), Ice sculptures, Dance, OPEN gym, Bowling isn't accessible to the public, Fitness stations on walking path, Walking/running club, Active meeting, Marching band, One stop shop info – WPR on live (??)

Adult 35-65: Strong Women, Strong Bones, Savage to Fairview – Use of existing right of way roads for bike/walking, Bike clubs, Adults sports leagues, basketball, soccer, etc, Engage adults, when watching kid's sports, Cheerleading classes, Support groups for activities/mentors/partners, Dance lessons, Dances that are smoke-free/old style, such as line dancing, polka, Lap pool, Adult education

Senior 65+: Silver Sneakers, Walk-a-thon, Ballroom dance, Armchair exercise, Group walking Water exercise, Safer crosswalks (education), Create activity groups, Tennis, Tia-Chi (Thai-Chi??), Intergenerational activities

Family

Frisbee golf	Arcade (physical or progressive)
Geocaching	Activity stations on the walking path
Dance lessons	Tennis
Horse trails/trail rides	Corn/wheat mazes
Cross-country skiing	Scavenger hunts
Historic walks	Fishing tournament
Use railroad beds for walking and biking	Rock hunting
Sledding parties	Treasure finding with metal detectors
Community Rec center	Public garden
Indoor walking at the fair grounds	Roller skating at the hockey rink
Indoor pool	Biking and biking clubs
Go-carts	Canoeing and kayaking
Mini-golf	Family bowling night
Laser tag/paint ball	Wii competitions
Snowshoeing	Activities at parks
Use trails at Seven Sisters	

Miscellaneous: Trap, Archery, Self-defense classes, Tae Kwon Do

How-to publicize activities: Park & Recreation Board Info, Online brochure, Chamber of Commerce, Newspapers, All be on the same page, Website calendar at the County or Sidney Herald One-stop shopping, Cohesive groups, Library wiki, Develop plan on how to get it out Groups need to take responsibility to get info to correct sources, Biannual information/update meeting for all groups, a community recreation meeting, Coordinated worksite wellness

Funding: Corporate/private donations (have a company “buy” a section of the walking path), County funds given to Rec board and walking path funds, Fish, wildlife and parks, Utilize county-wide non-profit groups for grants, Highway funds (truck route sidewalks), Community pride/sponsors for sidewalks, etc., Local option taxes (in legislature), Minority-based grants

Priorities

(A number of options were given based on areas in the Community Strategic Plan highlighted by the Physical Activity Action Group and then attendees voted with sticky dots to show their highest priority for the community)

County rec. director/coordinator/One place for information and calendar of events (support and connect events) – 19 votes, Senior citizens – 3 votes, Bike paths/walking – 15 votes, Winter/year-round activities – 2 votes, Subcommittees – 3 votes, Community Recreation Center – 7 votes

They would also like to see the action group attend the February meeting for the highway.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS:

- Could the coordinator position possibly be a volunteer position that could possibly develop into a paid position?
- Support 3-lane through town to be a safe downtown and add walking/biking path to truck route when that is redone – all happen at once will support the big picture of our community.
- Not living in Sidney I heard a lot of people say “It’s in the Herald” or it’s on a website. I think you have to keep in mind that the Sidney Herald no longer provides newspapers at the store in Savage, so therefore you have to subscribe which means you receive your information later than everyone else. Also not everyone in the county has internet access. A Park & Recreation director would be a great resource, especially for those of us who don’t live in Sidney.
- I think we need to look at the big picture and focus on what benefits the community as a whole such as the bike path and recreation center. When people (families) move into a community they look for these amenities!
- I think we’re missing the boat by focusing on these separate activities – if we focus our efforts on a walking path this would impact residents of all ages – offering a life-long physical activity opportunities community. Also, maybe we need to look at doing donations rather than writing for grants.

Concurrent Session #2

Room 1 – Educational & Cultural Development

Facilitator: Lisa Aisenbrey

Action Group Report: Renee Goss

Note Taker: Chris Veits

PARTICIPANTS: Lisa Aisenbrey, Helen B. Schmitt, Donna Goff, Christina Rehbein, Shelly Rosaaen, Marvelee Fink, Annie Kleinsasser, Rita Jacobson, Idelle Badt, Karen Olson-Beenken, Paula Anderson, George Biebl, Rebecca Miller, Holly Salisbury, Loren Dunk, Steve Schwatz, Melissa A. Larson, Amber Ellis, Julie Broadhead, Rita Steinbeisser, Kay Fulkerson, Robin Hernandez, Connie Smith, Carrell Evans, Stanley Lindbloom, Steve Olson, Lonnie Cross, Vernetta Torgerson, Katherine Irigoin, Ben Larson

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Expand opportunities for life-long learning for adults and children beyond the K-12 system – *CSP and GP Public Services Goal 3A*
- Support the Richland County Public Library in providing quality services for the recreational and life-long learning needs of all residents – *GP Public Services Goal 3A:2*
- Support the MonDak Heritage Center and other local museums, and develop other cultural resources, such as a performing arts center – *GP Natural & Cultural Resources Goal 4A: 1-2*
- In light of the county's upcoming 100th anniversary, prioritize and implement historic building retention, preservation and restoration – *GP Natural & Cultural Resources Goal 3A:4*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. Are there any projects being worked on that were not covered in the action report?
 - a. If so, who is working on these projects?
 - b. What type of assistance do they need? (Funding or support on the private, local, state or federal levels)
 - c. What sort of timeline do these projects have?
2. What type of other funding options are available (private, local, state or federal) for projects to improve education and cultural offerings in Richland County?
3. What should be areas of top priority for the Life-long Learning Action Group?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Should we pursue plans for a brick and mortar life-long learning center to be included with upgrades to the Richland County Public Library?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Discussion topics were overviewed by Lisa Aisenbrey who then introduced Rene Goss

Rene introduced the members of the Life Long Learning Committee members that were in attendance.

R. gave power point addressing “What has committee done in the last year”

The goals established at the last conference were:

Expand opportunities for life-long learning for adults and children beyond the k-12 system.

Explore a variety of options to expand post-secondary educational opportunities in Richland County.

Established the library is only one of the many entities that are involved in life long learning. Job Service – many programs to establish job skills, DCC, other formal education systems offering long distance education.

Have a draft of a survey to come out sometime this next year.

Have established a WIKI web site, www.richlandcountylearningopps.pbwiki.com with a link on the library and county web site.

It has a page for formal education, a page for informal education and a learning events calendar page. Objective is to collect everything that is available in one place and an interactive calendar that organizations can update.

Have grant along with four other counties to have a conference May 1&2 to bring in professionals to train local people to prepare for Counties 100th anniversary

Extension office will be getting a smart board and smart cam that links to a computer so any training done in Sidney anywhere will be available to anyone with high speed internet. Possibly by the end of February.

Idea- Steve Olson –Steve Olson, have a place on the wiki site to list a learning need that isn't being addressed

Does anyone know of funding options that are not being used?

Cindy Eleson- Internet based site “Grant Station” that acts as a clearing house for grants.

Rene Goss- It is expensive but the Baker library has it available to the public for free.

What should be the top Priorities for from now on?

1. Life Long Learning Center

-establish what needs to be part of it

-have a separate survey for entire county asking for opinions

-have Life Long Learning (LLL) Committee approach the Commissioners and the Library trustees to shave ideas

Continue to look at existing structures in the community that could be adapted to these needs.

Could we adapt St. Mathews to cover a lot of what we have been talking about.

2. Public Relations & Communication

Stress how housing multiple entities make sense.

Educate the public thoroughly because perception is reality

to prepare the public for the possibility of a mill increase for sustaining the facility. educate as to who the life long learning entities are, Possible combo for Rich Co. could be Job Service, Library, Extension, possibly auditorium, classrooms.

Can we use university communication students for this?

Montana non profit association has yearly conference. Would be good place for cost effective marketing ideas

Ask schools to give their PR support. also educate them as to what resources they could use in the new facility.

Churches

Tie into local businesses. ROI, Blue Rock, hospital etc could use this facility and could lend their support.

Idea is to get as many involved in this support as possible.

3. Life Skills, Work Skills, Health education skills
4. Continue with assessment of needs (survey)

Who is missing from this audience?

Commissioners, New president, DCC & area colleges

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Stan Lindblum, Michelle Frank, Tina Rehbein, Beth Redlin

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

Organization unknown, but the group seems to have voted with sticky dots on the top priorities for this action group.

Educate:

- Commissioners
- DCC with us on PR
- Williston & others on PR
- Montana Non-profit Association member network
- Newspaper and radio series

How to fit with local school systems

Churches as potential partners in a conference center

Business support

Life Skills

- Family Resource Center – Parenting
- Boys & Girls Club – Parents

Soft Skills

- How are the adult education classes working?

Evaluating Statistics

Home school groups

Extension Office – Web Cam & Smart Board

Make sure “Needs” (for the building) are on the wiki

(Priority Areas from goals with voting)

1. Building – look at existing structures (St. Matt’s?) – 16 votes
2. Life skills/soft skills/job skills – 3 votes
3. PR Plan – 2 votes
4. Survey – Assessment – 9 votes
5. Cultural Events Center – 3 votes

Top Priority

1. Continue to research building – emphasis on education
2. Life skills
3. County-wide input in a building – Committee contact Trustee Board
4. PR Plan to educate the public about value

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS:

- Cultural events: Community choir, orchestra and theater with locations. Use of MDHC, St. Matt’s, AOG, Yellowstone Mercantile
- Tina Rehbein – Support the MonDak Heritage Center and other museums and events, not only for those out of high school but those still attending K-12 schools. Life-long learning begins early and needs to be encouraged.
- Provide place to have Master’s program so people don’t have to go out of town.

Concurrent Session #2

Room 2 – Natural Resources

Facilitator: Wade VanEvery

Action Group Report: Josh Johnson

Note Taker: Beth Redlin

PARTICIPANTS: Jason Elletson, Greg Anderson, Gene Buxcel, Leonard Odenbach, Penny Zimmerman, Sandra Kust, Butch Renders, Connie Iverson, Julie Goss, Wade Whiteman, Terry Meldahl, Leslie Messer, Diane Kalvoda, Randy Olson, Jeff Mead, Shelee Warner, Marcy Hamburg, Graycie Sharbono, Bob Evans, Linda Simonson, Tod Kasten, Jerry Nypen, Tony Barone, Leif Anderson, Brenda Eberling, Robert Burnison, Nicole Jones, Raedelle Aspenlieder

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Expand opportunities for improved residential water quality in Richland County (including encouraging the potential for the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority project) – *GP Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 1A:1-2*
- Expand irrigation – *GP Agriculture Goal A:1*
- Monitor impact of oil drilling on air and water quality as it effects agricultural, commercial and personal use – *Community Strategic Plan*
- Publicize available natural resources as a marketing tool for commercial and agricultural development – *GP Economy Goal A:4*
- Increase resources for agricultural research that supports growth of agribusinesses and improves competitiveness of growers – *GP Agriculture Goal A:4*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. Are there any projects being worked on that were not covered in the action report?
 - a. If so, who is working on these projects?
 - b. What type of assistance do they need? (Funding or support on the private, local, state or federal levels)
 - c. What sort of timeline do these projects have?
2. What type of other funding options are available (private, local, state or federal) for projects to improve natural resources in Richland County?
3. What other areas might need to be addressed on the Water Quality website?
4. What are the next strategies and action steps for the Water Quality Action Group?
5. Are there projects being done in other areas that might be a good model?
6. What are current community concerns and needs regarding monitoring and improving air quality?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Josh Johnson – Interstate Engineering

- Good group of people with diverse expertise
- Two of the big items 1) made a pamphlet on water quality in Richland County...what causesgives contacts for testing labs, etc. ...DEQ regulations all water systems have to be tested community dept. have info; 2) created a website...links to DEQ, EPA, a lot of water regulations set already;
- Also created a little flow chart of what you have to do on water quality issues
- Our goal for our group was to get that info out there
- The website we'll continue to make the site better
- Also discussed dry Red Water District, Missouri River Yellowstone River and interstate, have handouts available...

Roger Myers – Red Water Board Member

- How many live outside Sidney...for \$100 you can express your support...get on the list for a hookup in the project is successful...if not the money is refunded ...use the numbers to gage support in talking to state and federal legislators...can sign up by calling Jeanie Ray with McCone County Conservation District...DRWA.com is the website
- Started several years ago...last July bill to authorize project was read in senate and sent to committee...Penny Zimmerman is here and can talk about it...once authorized can get more funding...currently getting on local and state level...spent several hundred thousand on feasibility studies, and purchases for plant north Fork on rock creek...ft. peck is source of water for entire project
- With the stimulus package, we're hoping to see some of that...could be kicked off pretty quickly given work already done 116 million project when completed, but may go up
- Once authorized expect appropriation for at least the plant at fort peck and then mainline to Circle for Phase I; phase II hasn't been discussed yet, encouraging the project to come this way...Fairview to west Glendive all the way to Jordan...board will decide which way they go, group trying to influence them to come this way...I'm appointed as Richland Co. Conservation Dist. Representative

Discussion:

- rural Culbertson project is reasonable (Dry Prairie) is this similar, yes
- Can see where towns may come in here, too...has happened in Nebraska and other areas
- is ACE involved at Fort Peck; are you going to be under them...Corps does what it wants...don't listen
- Can set aside water for municipalities
- vying for a water right from the state; still dealing with the Corps...will need to get an easement to put in pipeline...the hardest negotiation is fish and wildlife because going thru refuge. Hired consultant to come thru to look at those issued
- Offered Jeannie's number 485-2744 ext. 100 (Sen. Tester's Office)
- Primary better to rural residents...quality of water? Quantity? Maintenance? Etc.
- all, but quality is the biggest issue...livestock producers in particular have problems
- constituent question in Savage – would they be able to irrigate yard?
- think yes can do...suitable for irrigating land
- water in Fort Peck is good, better than what's coming out of the ground here
- low 30-60 dollars a month...best guess is \$41 for 4-member family , but depends on use...livestock obviously pay more, etc.

- this project is not an irrigation project; can water lawn but cost is based on usage
- benefits – development, obviously can't do without good reliable water, valuable to E. MT
- focused on the water end of it this past year...
- brochure is product of water quality group but designer Becky?

Topic Discussion section

Expand Irrigation -

- Monitor impact oil drilling
- air quality west of Bob Albin's air quality monitor...can be access from DEQ website
- includes dust and other emissions...pretty stable right now, but on Dec. 13 peaked in the danger zone
- also monitoring sites at MDU and Sidney Sugars
- why spike
- air quality, what about pesticides crop dusters spraying over my house, anything monitoring that?
- certain rules
- is there unintentional exposure...what do we do in emergency room?
- don't think most of it harmful to humans
- agree – lot of times
- retired farmer couldn't put the amount of chemicals on farm land that we do on our lands
- worry more about lawns and golf courses, farmers can't afford to overdose
- questions on irrigation...any projects in the works
- potential for the area – intake project issues response to endangered species...addition of stuff to boost pallid sturgeon...there area areas that could be expanded on, the reason not being done is cost for a public project, although individuals are doing...biggest cost is power lifting water to land...our project no expansion plans, partly because federal project...but small projects can probably be done...may be some assistance to cover power costs
- asking about new sprinklers...is it impacting irrigation project
- fairly substantial transition from flood to sprinkler...saves water...our system, high demand when really hot, sprinklers can help curb some of that demand, but doesn't allow for expansion?...if pulling water right to maximum can't do any more
- with increase of spray irrigation adverse effect on the aquifer
- drilled 45 wells Fairview to half way to Savage...next phase monitor wells to see if drop is do to irrigation changes; how much taking out;
- Aquifer study great; cities need to be concerned since water systems from wells
- City draws water out of aquifer, new irrigation projects being proposed so concern can support and maintain quality, city participating with study
- Aquifer always replenished
- enough study done know there's more water available...lot of contribution form 400 miles of open ditches and from individual farms ---percolation of excess water---perched water table during season low in spring and then goes up over season...should hold up well
- Aquifer study looking for old Yellowstone bed...would have gravel think will have water there....some water by Lambert but salinity too high for irrigation use
- measuring quality
- Quality studies done...high in iron...orange on houses those people probably in aquifer
- agreed

MARKETING NRESOURCES FOR AG and ECON DEV.

- The group hasn't talked about it yet, stuck to water end of it so far
- Bruce Smith talking about food to table network...part of natural resources here...we can grow some of our food here...people are trying to grow onions, carrots; also expanding on farmers' market...dream would to see year round farmers' market...can possibly partner there
- irrigators there looking at value added and biomass

INCREASED RESOURCES TO AG RESEARCH TO AID AGRIBUSINESS and GROWERS

- Can't compete...greenhouse at Crane tried to compete with tomatoes with local grocers...California could do it cheaper
- Consumers now looking at local produce because of contamination of other products in large production areas...people are willing to pay more if know safe to eat
- do you think need to advertise in the local markets...say grown in Lambert, Savage, etc.
- yes
- Tie local products to trends of better health, locally grown organic...partner with nutrition coalition
- Resources in our area, greenhouses cost is heat, some places in ND capturing heat from flares etc. that is begin wasted now, if can begin to capture...of course need to be sustainable
- Wind energy
- Biomass work
- Julie French bill on that in Legislature
- Methane from garbage dump very viable ...in Billings can heat 100 comes for 40 years....also by extracting it project city of Billings and MDU avoid other problems associated with
- biomass...SE Montana biomass task force....also looking at Russian Olive as woody biomass source
- trying to clean up private forest land...Custer National forest...use product for biomass instead of fires
- grass straw other items also being considered for biomass
- under research that the community understand that the facility we have on the north side of town is very valuable both state and federal, important resource
- MSU building project currently before the
- geothermal, program with REA?....can use with greenhouse...can we come up with cost breaks for businesses to put in
- what funding resources are available that could help action groups...any suggestions people have would be helpful
- DNRC in Culbertson grant at Froid Farm...think some is available...res. Conservation and development thru Eastern Plains RC&D
- RC&D has done wind studies...right now invern energy (same as Judith gap) Lindsey divide leased acreage for a potential 200 mW wind farm there
- do research on clean coal, big resource here
- So much of what we try to do in agriculture has turned on coal...ethanol plants, potato processing plants...coal cheap energy...our coal is an advantage here, have to figure out how it is reasonably utilized...affects all the other stuff talking about including electricity for irrigation
- basically covers topics action group ID's, any other topics for consideration like coal that was mentioned

- what is the greatest road block for developing coal in this state? Question environmental, coal not high enough quality
- lawsuits by environmental groups
- whatever you build or do, you have to have a transmission system to move that product...power lines, coal by rail, gasify it and move by pipeline...infrastructure to move natural resources very expensive...have to get to consumption center...who does and how does it get done?
- do state regulations, tax incentives have an impact...is there4 something we can look at as an action group?
- does play a part, MT not known as friendly to large companies coming in...speaking on coal, we have more coal reserves in US, but only mine 1/10 of coal compared to Wyoming 400 million
- new administration trying to come up with new jobs, new roads, new airports...some of these things are not a dream if we work at it
- where get extra brochures?
- got a grant will distribute around and will be on website
- put brochure in paper...pharmaceuticals a problem pleased to see it in there...Sidney Herald running health page...put this in paper...toot your horn this is a great brochure

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Julie Goss, Josh Johnson, Bob Evans

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

Research

Help with geothermal?

Funding?

- Eastern Plains RCD

Need clean coal research

Bio-mass

- methane
- wood

Have (good or goal?) local facilities

Road blocks to coal development

Lawsuits

Infrastructure

State regulations

Natural Resources

Marketing

- local being competitive

Value-added

Bio-mass

Wind

Expand Irrigation

Intake

Costs

Sprinklers

Aquifer

- Quantity
- Good quality

Dry Redwater Project 485-2744 x100 in Circle

Monitor impact of drilling on air & water

Air monitor

Crop dusting? (ag)

- Chemical exposure
- What regulations are there on amounts and types of chemicals?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS:

- Native Range health and feedlots near rural residents
- Natural Resource Development as it pertains to “quality of life” regarding recreation such as fishing, swimming, boating, etc.

Concurrent Session #3

Room 1 – Youth Opportunities & Development

Facilitator: Loren Dunk

Action Group Report: School Representatives

Note Taker: Ray Trumpower

PARTICIPANTS: Thom Barnhart, Rita Steinbeisser, Vernetta Torgerson, Amber Ellis, Melissa Larson, Ronda Welnel, Stanley Lindblom, Raedelle Aspenlieder, Michelle Frank, Kathy Helmuth, Wade Whiteman, Bob Burnison, Roger Byer, Jordan Hall, Tim Anderson, Debra Anderson, Rita Jacobson, Idelle Badt, Annie Kleinsasser, George Biebl, Karen Olson-Beenken, Paula Anderson, Tina Rehbein, Helen B. Schmitt, Donna Goff, Leonard Odenbach, Shelee Warner, Angie Thiessen-Idoate, Rebecca Miller, Holly Salsbury, Jay Frank

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Decrease the high school drop-out rate in Richland County – *Community Strategic Plan*
- Address and reduce rates of youth substance abuse - *CSP*
- Meet needs of youth for recreational facilities – *CSP/GP Public Services Goal 4A*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. What should be areas of top priority for the High School Drop-out Rate Action Group?
2. What other types of projects are being worked on? (Including who is doing the work and what the timelines are)
3. Do these projects require assistance in terms of support or funding (on the private, public, local, state or federal levels)?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Do the Growth Policy or CSP need any revisions to reflect recent changes in the community?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

- What is priority?
- DFC grant
- P4p
- Preserved harm increasing
- Perceived parental disapproval increasing
- Age onset increasing
- Community norms an issue
- Mt change project
- Clerk education
- Youth treatment court
- Mentoring, boys and girls club

- Media literacy
- FNL
- Tri county dui task force

Needs

- Arts programs
- Compliance checks
- MHSAs statewide policy on eligibility and substance abuse, out of hands of local people a good thing, but trend is away from this
- Delay initial use
- Alcohol and HS sports, bar owner promote local sports
- 20% or student in HS drunk in last 6 mos
- parents need to take bigger role, and community
- communication w law enforcement and schools (against the law)

Sidney action report

- 3 ½ to 4 ½ % drop out rate
- declining enrollment
- drop out the same, no gender gap
- started PLATO
- tutorial study hall
- sustained silent reading program

Lambert Action report

- 15 minute reading program
- Odyssey program
- Laptop program
- 5/6 grade robotics kits
- lions den/ big bro big sis
- video streaming education
- class travel

Input

- Sidney above county drop out rate, but below state rate
- Need mentoring program
- Community norm not HS degree
- Child readiness program at HD
- Need prevention, early intervention programs
- Reading early and often to young children needed
- Drop outs concentrated in “arts” interested students
- Could use technology to offer arts education
- Need to ask drop outs why “formally”
- Need a non college track
- Could include WIRED program
- Funding and mandates are limiting issue
- SEA? Funding? Yet to be seen

- Education not 1st priority any more
- School is seen by students as a place to get together with friends, not education
- Explore alternate education
- Explore odyssey
- Are the expenditures sustainable?
- Sidney odyssey cost \$20,000 plus yearly subscription
- Could this be shared by all county schools
- Sidney has summer credit recovery program
- Could this be shared by other schools?
- Line of communication between schools does not exist, needed!
- Schools afraid to expand programs too large too fast
- Service programs need to be in communication loop (job service)
- Need organization to efforts for them to be proactive
- P4P exists and targets this, just need school participation
- Alt education programs help, but may actually encourage drop outs

Savage

- Drop out rate too small to warrant a program
- Individual response
- Truancy laws need to be clarified and addressed
- In Lambert, absent 10 days must appear before board and explain

More input

- P4p TARGETING OUTSIDE SIDNEY
- CMT-one stop-job service has programs CBG?
- Schools moving away from substance abuse enforcement

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Tina Rehbein, Kathy Helmuth, Vernetta Torgerson

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

Youth Substance abuse

- Community norms
- MHSA – Statewide rules
- Relationship between high school sports and alcohol

Be proactive to prevent drop-out

- Truancy laws
 - o State-wide
- Partnership for Promise meets the 2nd Thursday of the month and works on these issues
- Community Management Team (CMT)
 - o Connects services including education
- Mentor program for older students
- Prevention and early intervention programs
- Have presentations from students who lived it in assembly format

Top Priority

1. Recovery – Student

2. Credit Options
3. Sustaining programs
4. Expansion
 - a. County
 - b. All Schools
5. Line of communication with schools and local agencies

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS:

- What can groups like CMT do to be more responsive to schools? (Vernette Torgerson)
- Where can we start a Head Start program?
- Increase parents/community involvement by partnering with other organizations i.e. adults telling bar they don't like the ads, i.e. adults NOT supporting a fundraiser held in a bar parking lot, i.e. adults joining the DUI Task Force

Concurrent Session #3

Room 2 – Transportation

Facilitator: Stacey Schmitt

Action Group Report: Russ Huotari

Note Taker: Chris Veits

PARTICIPANTS: Randy Olson, Josh Johnson, Jerry Nypen, Julie Brodhead, Leif Anderson, Cindy Eleson, Graycie Sharbono, Troy Jensen, Linda Simonsen, Terry Meldahl, Nicole Jones, Marcy Hamburg, Shelly Rosaaen, Marvelle J. Fink, Kay Fulkerson, Gale Frank, Leslie Messer, Diane Kalvoda, Butch Renders, Steve Olson, Don Stepler, Tod Kasten, Bob Evans

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Work to maintain and improve safety on all major routes in Richland County, for drivers and pedestrians – *GP Public Facilities Goal 1C (Sidney)*
- Future and placement of Sidney truck route - *GP Public Facilities Goal 1C(Sidney):2*
- Ensure that transportation infrastructure meets agricultural needs – *GP Agriculture*
- Support and expand current public transportation options, such as the Richland County Transportation Service

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. What should be areas of top priority in addressing transportation issues?
2. What other types of projects are being worked on? (Including who is doing the work and what the timelines are)
3. Do these projects require assistance in terms of support or funding (on the private, public, local, state or federal levels)?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Do the Growth Policy or CSP need any revisions to reflect recent changes in the community?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Russ Huotari gave an over view of transportation in the County addressing what is being done on the Discussion topics then Staci Schmitt asked input from the audience about the goals and Objectives that are printed in the program.

Russ stressed just as the state and federal departments of transportation rank roads as to priorities, so does the county. They are given priority according to if they are on a buss route, the population living in the area and the amount of use the road gets.

During the oil boom in the 80's most of that was in the valley where the basic road structures are built for more traffic and very good gravel is used. The current oil boom took place over a large swath of the county on roads known as farm to market roads. These roads were built for much less use and the

people that used them did not need to use them in conditions that would hurt the road. Oil rigs move according to the calendar and not the weather or road conditions. We have 1,200 miles of roads in Rich. County 5 belly dump trucks, 10 motor graders. Each grader is responsible for about 120 miles of roads. Gravel has been hard to find and the scoria that we have available is not very good quality.

One of the priorities of the department right now is reviewing the signage for reflectivity and we try to keep the signs in good conditions for liability sake.

Our Road department is the 3rd largest in the state and has the best equipment. It is comparable in size to Yellowstone County.

The projects that have been going on lately is working on eliminating blind spots, bad intersections, and building proper curves. All of these contribute to maintaining and improving safety.

Russ assured us the major focus of the road department has always been and will always be to keep the roads usable to Agriculture.

Addressing the truck route or by-pass issue he gave history of the project starting 25 years ago. In the past year they have held stakeholder and public meetings, the MDT did an origin and destination study on truck traffic and they generated a computer generated

Map of possible routes. They are working on the drawings of what the actual road will look like. The next meeting is in February.

Everything is in the planning stage still and nothing has been passed by any governing body.

Goals and Objectives

1. Audience input-
Revitalizing downtown roads
Visual effect of so many trucks on Central
We need more Public Transportation
Expanding our multi use path through town

Terry explained they are expanding the bike path and have plans to keep doing this. They will continue to cover irrigation laterals in town and put path along those.

2. What other projects are being worked on.
Continuing work on truck route
Work on central tied to decisions made about the truck route
City and interstate are working on the area around the courthouse for
Renewal.

Terry M. said they paved hilltop estates and part of the industrial park this year. They will be resurfacing 22Ave.

3. Funding - not addressed
4. Areas not being addressed
 - a. Timing of cross walks is too short for seniors.

- b. Need for taxi service
- c. Parking in downtown area.

5. Any revisions needed to reflect recent changes?

No comments

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: It was noted no signatures were on the sheets located in the rooms.

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

Current Projects

Downtown

- go ahead for county
- planning financial assistance

Central Ave 4 Lane

- working w/ truck route

Rural

- identify needs to pave
- re (something??) road in Lambert & Savage

PARKING

Top Priority

Revitalize downtown

Safety of crossing Central

- trucks and visual

Mass transportation

Multi-use path

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS: It was noted no note cards were submitted.

Concurrent Session #4

Room 1 – Public Safety

Facilitator: Butch Renders

Action Group Report: Bob Burnison

Note Taker: Ray Trumpower

PARTICIPANTS: Ronda Welnel, Libby Berndt, Donna Goff, Helen B Schmitt, Paula Anderson, Josh King, George Biebl, Idelle Badt, Rita Jacobson, Marvelee Fink, Brenda Eberling, Tim Anderson, Stanley Lindbloom, Melissa Larson, Julie Brodhead, Amber Ellis, Steve Schwartz, Jeff Mead, Hirschell Van Luven, Renee Goss

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Reduce crime and drug use in Richland County – *Community Strategic Plan*
- Decrease rates of domestic violence - *Community Strategic Plan*
- Support and develop emergency medical service and fire response throughout Richland County – *GP Public Services Goal 2A*
- Identify and prioritize specific needs and measures that can be taken to address overall community health and safety – *GP Public Services Goal 1A:1*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. Are there any projects being worked on that were not covered in the action report?
 - a. If so, who is working on these projects?
 - b. What type of assistance do they need? (Funding or support on the private, local, state or federal levels)
 - c. What sort of timeline do these projects have?
2. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
 - a. Possibilities which the group have discussed include: dating violence, need for updated curriculum to teach children about personal safety, cyber bullying and the sharing of inappropriate pictures or information through electronic means (cell phones, internet)
3. What should be areas of top priority for the Public Safety Action Group?
 - a. Would Crimestoppers meet the community need for a line of communication between community members and law enforcement to report suspicious behavior?
 - b. Are there programs in other communities the group could use as a model for Richland County?
4. What types of funding (private, local, state and federal) and other support (developed curriculum or PSAs, for example) are available to decrease the crime and drug use and domestic violence rates in Richland County?
5. Are public safety service needs being met in the community? Are there ways in which the community can support public safety service providers (law enforcement, EMS, etc.)?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Last conference discussion-

- Need to link community and law enforcement
- Talked about Neighbor hood watch- no community interest
- Crime Stoppers- no \$ for it
- Internet, text crime reporting possible solution will be up July 09
- Drugs underage drinking survey as big issues
- Dom violence ;
- Ed programs in schools foe 2 weeks
- Posters
- Victim notification of rights
- Shelter may go away
- Crime report form in phonebook?

PO/SO report

- Community change project
- Domestic violence watch program
- Treatment court
- Cit training in Glendive
- Meth use down
- Responsible servers training
- Tobacco in hookahs doesn't seem to be problem here
- Dui perception is changing
- Prescription drug abuse rising
- Date rape drug increasing, embarrassed to report rape, danger of being charged as mip if report rape
- "don't leave drink unattended" campaign
- Emergency preparedness seen as need
- Don't know what's in place for EP
- Support for EMT, Fireman recruitment needs to be goal
- Volunteerism is dropping
- Ems is working on it, but becoming critical

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Marvelee J. Fink, Paula Anderson, Julie Brodhead, Brenda Eberling

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES: The usage of posters in this session was VERY limited. There is only one sheet.

www.crimestoppers

Crime report form in phone book – SPD, FPD, RCSO
Domestic Violence class at high school

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS:

- Teenage dating abuse, verbal/sexual and physical

- Can Action Group identify what prevention programs are currently within schools in Richland County? Can we get Fairview involved for updates? Can we get substance abuse professionals involved that can present what efforts are being done in the county? NO report given by group?

Concurrent Session #4

Room 2 – Economy & Community Development

Facilitator: Ben Larson

Action Group Report: Leslie Messer

Note Taker: Melissa Boyer

PARTICIPANTS: Diane Kalvoda, Cindy L. Eleson, Karen Olson-Beeken, Randy Olson, Leif Anderson, Troy Jensen, Leonard Odenbach, Raedelle Aspenlieder, Tod Kasten, Angie Thiessen Idoate, Rebecca Miller, Jason Elletson, Greg Anderson, Vernetta Torgerson, Nicole Jones, Steve Olson, Rita Steinbeisser, Marcy Hamburg, Wade Whiteman, Jerry Nypen, Gene Buxcel, Bob Evans, Lonnie Cross

CONFERENCE AGENDA *Discussion Topics:*

- Develop the area's agricultural resources – *GP Agriculture Goal A:1*
- Continue to build a sustainable and diversified economic base – *GP Economy Goal A*
- Expand the county's production of high-value crops and potential for value-added business – *GP Agriculture Goal A*
- Maintain and improve community character through beautification projects and improvements to structural appearance – *CSP/GP Natural & Cultural Resources Goal 3A*
- Prioritize and implement the preservation and restoration of historic structures – *GP Natural & Cultural Resources Goal 3A:4*

FACILITATOR QUESTIONS FOR ATTENDEES:

Conference Committee Goals & Objectives:

1. What should be areas of top priority for in addressing economic and community development issues?
2. What other types of projects are being worked on? (Including who is doing the work and what the timelines are)
3. Do these projects require assistance in terms of support or funding (on the private, public, local, state or federal levels)?
4. Are there any areas of need or concern that are not addressed in the Growth Policy or CSP?
5. Do the Growth Policy or CSP need any revisions to reflect recent changes in the community?

SESSION DISCUSSION NOTES AS TAKEN:

Leslie reported:

Explained Richland Economic Development and its purpose and duties.

Business development

Agricultural development Knowledge exchange

Anheiser Busch

Pulse on infrastructure

Dairy development

West Crane Sprinkler Project

Tourism board

Air transportation

MDU

Telecommunications

REA

Bring new services to the community

Assist to develop small businesses

Working on cultural assets-movie store

Answer to inquires

Develop the area's agricultural resources: Leslie stated *Sidney Sugars, irrigation, new crop development*

Potato growth is a good option for the area, but not in Sidney. Need sandy soil. Sidney could grow seed potatoes, but has not been investigated High input, high yield, high risk crop

Irrigation-pivots

Bio-Diesel not viable

Agri Tourism- People pay big money to ride a tractor, dig a post hole. We should have cabins to rent out for visitors

Open Spaces

Off Road Recreation parks

Publicize housing resources in the wilderness

Continue to build a sustainable and diversified economic base: Leslie stated RED has helped *oil companies to off-load oil here, Revolving loan fund*

Hunting opportunities-develop housing options for travelers

Bed and Breakfast

Outdoor Supply store

Recruit technology based companies

Need action so there is sustainability after boom and bust cycle

Support business that are already here with new businesses

Lifelong learning

Early childhood learning

Developers package

Need Franchises-Pizza Hut, UBD, McDonald's-actually help mom and pop shops

Recruit higher learning institutions

Expand the county's production of high-value crops and potential for value-added business: Leslie stated RED has assisted with *Alternative energy ie. oil refinery, safflower technology, shredding old tires for walking trails, playground pads, use to cover landfill, Yellowstone Ethanol Project between here and Trenton.*

Increase recycling-create manufacturing opportunities to supply existing businesses

Straw bale housing options

Develop IPESCO (steel recycling plant in Canada)

Maintain and improve community character through beautification projects and improvements to structural appearance: Leslie stated RED is involved with the *Downtown renewal project, Yellowstone Mercantile inspection for potential buyer*

Clean up frontage road by bowling alley

Create nice welcome gateway in all county communities

Repair sidewalks-Lambert and Savage will be getting them in the spring

Signage on the outsides of businesses to make them more attractive
Open café
Unsafe and unattractive buildings, unkept empty buildings businesses, and houses
New playground equipment-parks and recreation signage to identify park names and on bike path
Visitors Guide with Herald Round up publishes a museum guide

Prioritize and implement the preservation and restoration of historic structures:

Leslie stated RED is working on Enhance the town entrances

The Fairview Bridge and tunnel

Centre Theatre-get funds to restore it-Angie Idoate

Need to be a Preserve America Community in order to get grants for building reservation

Yellowstone Mercantile-Check into preservation as a historical building

Get a group of historians together to direct the community to preserve buildings

Tap into personal oil funds to help preserve our history

RED nominated Sidney for awards for business growth.

Leslie had a survey for attendees to take about ED priorities

Other things

Priority Ranking

- 1.Historic Preservation
- 2.Economic Base
- 3.Beutification
- 4.Ag Resources

ACTION GROUP SIGNUP SHEETS: Vernette Torgerson

POSTIT EASEL POSTER NOTES:

At the end of the session, participants were given two dots and asked to vote on which two projects they think can and should be completed in the next year.

Economic Base

Revolving Loan Fund

Recreational Housing – 5 votes

- Hunting
- Bed & Breakfast

Technology Companies

Supportive Businesses (spin-offs) – 2 votes

Life-long Learning Center

Developer's Package – 4 votes

Franchises – 1 vote

Recycling to create new products

Straw houses

Beautification Projects

North Central frontage road

Gateways
Safe sidewalks
Signage – downtown storefronts
Downtown renewal
Open café (different places to eat) – 1 vote
Empty buildings
Parks – Playground

- Signage
- Recreation guides

Historic Preservation

Centre Theater – 11 votes
Signage
How-to list

- MT Department of Commerce

Preserve America Program – 2 votes
Historians – Local history

Agricultural Resources

Potato 1500a
Irrigation
Biofuels?
Agri-tourism

- open space

Off-road sports

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDEX CARDS: No note cards were collected

Conference Logistics Evaluation:

109 registered, 106 attendees

46 Evaluations were turned in

Listed below is the tabulation of those evaluations.

Scale of 1-2-3-4-5, 1 being low end of the scale/not very good and 5 being the high end of the scale/excellent.

Questions asked were:

1. *How well did the conference meet its goals and objectives?* **83 % rating of 5 to 4**

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- need to push people to put name on area of importance to show interest.
- at times, repeat of last year's concerns continue to be brought up-variety of them need to focus on only a few.
- Great info-Good sharing & networking
- All went well, each year build on the next, sharing progress is Key! (of each action group)
- Some sessions (ie Transportation) had little "action" smaller groups might generate more input.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, A day well spent for me, the organization was incredible, loved the lunch speaker, I gained much knowledge.
- very good information
- possibly send out questionnaires in advance, use response to drive on fill discussions, Would allow topics to be shared that are being left on note cards after the fact.

2. *Was the facility appropriate for this type of conference?* **67 % rating of 5 to 4.**

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- Too Cold; poor acoustics
- get sound system to amplify speakers in gym, also temperature in gym was too cold
- very cold, chairs were very hard for such long periods of sitting
- very cold in gym area, but that's ok
- stairs and cold temps
- gym was chilly & hard to hear in this area, lots of room was good
- maybe move Room 1 to another room like Room 2, the gym is hard to hear, and also back round noise in gym.
- cold temperature in gym
- gym area hard to hear too much echoing, need a table to write on.
- hotter chairs, heat in gym would have been nice.
- not all of us are coffee drinkers, hot water would be nice. Gym was cold.
- yes, but cold
- much better than last year for space.
- gym was a bit chilly, but all was wonderful, Thank you for all your hard work!
- it was appropriate=, but no heat is not good when it's -20 degrees.
- gym too cold, hard to hear in gym.
- class Room 1 cold & noisy
- Gym very cold

- It's very cold, and when a session was in Room 1 & people would come through the Registration area the back round noise was disruptive.
- Gym was cold, and hard to hear, classroom was great.
- Didn't prefer last year's location.
- a little cold in gym, that maybe could have been moved to a classroom.
- although gym was a bit chilly.
- The gym was cold, noisy, and too big for discussion type meetings.
- gym was a little chilly, I was dressed out that I was comfortable, hearing the presenters was not always easy in the gym, depended on the speaker, upstairs that was another way to there, (
- temp was too cold in Room 1
- Signage could be improved a bit
- Rather stated in the main room

3. *How well did each of the facilitators guide the discussions?*

<i>Session</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Housing	Ben Larson	Overall rating was 4 to 5
Housing	Leif Anderson	Overall rating was 4 to 5
Physical Health	Wade Whiteman	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Physical Health	Judy Johnson	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Education & Culture	Lisa Aisenbrey	Over all rating was 3 to 5
Education & Culture	Renee Goss	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Natural Resources	Wade VanEvery	Over all rating was 3 to 5
Natural Resources	Josh Johnson	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Youth Opportunities	Loren Dunk	Over all rating was 3 to 5
Youth Opportunities	School Reps.	Over all rating was 3 to 5,
Transportation	Stacey Schmitt	Over all rating was 3 to 5
Transportation	Russ Huotari	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Public Safety	Butch Renders	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Public Safety	Bob Burnison	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Economy	Ben Larson	Over all rating was 4 to 5
Economy	Leslie Messer	Over all rating was 4 to 5

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- Better explanation of stickers before session starts, facilitators need to have meeting guidelines to use/follow/procedures, was someone assigned to take notes, no ill, say name before comment, explain cards before starting.
- Let's to this again next year.
- Youth opportunities Action group did a wonderful job explaining high school drop out rates and programs to retain students, but also bringing HS drop out back to finish school, which was great. Needed explanation of substance abuse programs & Action groups had no report possibly involve group to work on that can report on.
- Youth did not really have a report, I do think that is an issue with so many entities involved. not sure this couldn't be done better in a different setting, with youth & parents.
- 2 sessions overlapped on their topics, underage drinking.
- provide microphones for those who need it.

Were the action reports at the start of each session helpful to the discussion? 91 % rating of 5 to 4

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- there weren't any for some sessions, but for the ones that had it, it was helpful.
- inconsistent-very hard to follow unless topics titled same as breakfast session, shaded was great to see what last years priorities were that had been worked on

4. *Did the action reports provide you with new and useful information? 54 % rating of 5 to 4*

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- This was my first conference attended, I'm new to the area and it is nice to see the support of the community.
- updated information in on what has been discussed throughout the year.
- But I came from having no knowledge.
- Same as above

5. *Based on the action report and discussion, do you feel like you understand what is being done to improve our community? 85 % rating of 5 to 4.*

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- other than the water quality brochure where was there any concrete evidence of action.
- really did not understand the flow of the sessions every session was done differently – zero consistent.

6. *How confident are you that the community will continue to take further action on the growth policy and strategic plan? 67 % rating of 5 to 4*

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- The groups were certainly given some thoughts, ideas, & direction.
- action toward goals is most difficult challenge
- Would be nice to put the individuality of our community into this planning.

7. *How did you learn about the conference?*

Invitation: 33, Newspaper: 15, Radio: 1, Television: 1, County website: 6, Other Source: 11

8. *Would you like to see another conference similar to this one in the future?*

Yes: 41 No: 1 no response: 4

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- I think it important to continue to regroup and take a look at the past years & look to the future
- not very year
- It was a good way to hear that progress was being made & hard to see in meeting to meeting.
- Focus on just a couple issues, not so many.
- Annually – see below please.
- Maybe not next year, but yes
- A rural water system in the valley & in the Sidney area.
- nice job! Solicit more agency/encourage more program displays.
- It would be nice to have a section at the end that lets some of the communities – ie, Lambert, Savage, Fairview, and Sidney, to meet and discuss actions that they can work on.

- Is great to hear all the ideas & is important to narrow down goals concentrate on them & then go to next.
 - Maybe Bi-Annual
9. *Do you have any additional comments or thoughts about the conference, Community Strategic Plan or County Growth Policy?*
- Every agency representative should bring a guest-citizen to bring diversity to the group
 - Beginning time-visit conducive to ag families to attend morning session
 - I was involved in project '80' which was similar effort-that seemed to just fade away, I am encouraged that so far this appears to be sustainable, good luck.
 - I hope next time there are even more people who attend!!!
 - Thanks for keeping the forward push.
 - Communication
 - Thanks for all the hard work.
 - Emergency services-contacted Josh to get facilitator and was told get Butch it has been over a year no contact or information sent.
 - we need to keep reviewing this regularly to make sure progress is being made and that we are still going in the direction best for our county.
 - would like to say that most speakers & facilitators were pretty good. Dunk kind of acted like he didn't know what he was doing & I almost wonder what he was doing here anyway, it appeared to me nothing bad happens in his school or maybe not even Savage.
 - Lunch was very good.
 - Public Safety group did a great job! online crime stopper would be a wonderful idea!!! anxious to learn more about.
 - Padded Chairs.
 - Thank You
 - Most of the sessions covered situations and or problem and what could be done to change or alleviate some of them. And recommendations to help and make things, better locally and county-wide for the whole community.
 - as a citizen there's too much confusion on what various resources are offered-we view a lot of overlap as a waste of resources various groups should pool together-educate the public move on what they're about. A combined county-website, Health, Human Services, Education, recreation, just to name a few.
 - I believe at there needs to be a definition or clarification of "Community", some people use the word "community" and are just speaking about Sidney & vice versa. If people are talking about the County as a whole the word 'County' need to be used not "Community".
 - County-wide really need to focus on County-much to do with Sidney. How can the outlining, county communities be involved?
 - Have the special groups follow up with attendees for "their" session-invitations to participants, emails on meetings, etc...
 - I am terribly impaired.
 - Individualize these plans/policy for the community-general topics are great but each community is unique of its own uniqueness