



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “State of the Community” County-Wide Conference

Thursdays, January 21 (11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)  
 Friday, January 22, (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) 2010  
 St. Matthew’s Parish Center

### Conference Meeting Objectives:

- **Update the County Strategic Plan and Growth Policy.**
- **Set the course for next year with identified action steps.**
- **Assure that the strategic plan and growth policy reflect the current state in Richland County, including all communities in the county.**
- **Begin developing action steps to address the identified issues and identify individuals and groups that are willing to be part of the solution.**

### Thursday, January 21, 2010

**Special Speaker:** Dan Clark, Director, MSU Local Government Center; presentation was on *Creating a Thriving Community* – Stated research has shown communities that are thriving share common attributes. During last year’s conference participants established a “Thriving” baseline by assessing how well the community/region stacks up to each Thriving Community Attribute. Those attributes included:

#### **Attendees were asked to rank how they felt how the communities were doing in each area:**

1. Evidence of community pride 2009 Needs work: 1, Do well: 40 2010 Needs work: 6 , Do well: 43	2. A willingness to invest in future 2009 Needs work: 43, and Do well: 7 2010 Needs work: 30, Do well: 15
3. A participatory approach to community decision making 2009 Needs work: 27, Do well: 23; in the middle: 2 2010 Needs work: 7, Do well: 26	4. Communities are self-reliant 2009 Needs work: 12, Do well: 36, in the middle: 1 2010 Needs work: 11, Do well: 28
5. Creatively build new economic opportunities 2009 Needs work: 44, Do well: 7, in the middle: 1 2010 Needs work: 32, Do well: 1	6. Support local businesses 2009 Needs work: 46, Do well: 4, in the middle: 3 2010 Needs work: 33, Do well: 9
7. Deliberate transition of power to new leaders 2009 Needs work: 43, Do well: 9, in the middle: 1 2010 Needs work: 33, Do well: 1	8. A strong belief in and support of education 2009 Needs work: 34, Do well: 17, in the middle: 1 2010 Needs work: 7 , Do well: 36
9. Traditional institutions that are integral to community life 2009 Needs work: 8, Do well: 44 2010 Needs work: 2, Do well: 29	10. A willingness to seek help from the outside 2009 Needs work: 34, Do well: 12 votes, in the middle: 1 2010 Needs work: 33, Do well: 9

This year’s presentation discovered changes from last year and discussed how to incorporate Thriving Community Attributes into existing community improvement efforts including the action groups and other efforts discussed at the Conference.

**Session #1: Youth Opportunities & Development – Room 1**

**Facilitator:** Judy Johnson

**Note Taker:** Sheila Friedrich

1. **Review completed Action Steps:** *Action Group Reporter:* Greg Ledgerwood, Partnership for Promise Coalition.

The report addressed the following main CSP goals: (Participants ranked these)

- A. “Address the risk factors that promote drop-out rates” – This is a misconception, as the drop-out rate is only 3.5% in Sidney, and the alternative school program has opened county-wide this year to give possible drop-outs a way to remain in school. (16)
  - B. “Create mentoring and educational programs” – WASP (Warrior After School Program) was established in Fairview, sustainability is a concern. Parenting classes have continued in Sidney. (23)
  - C. “Utilize law enforcement, judicial courts, and public assistance to decrease drop-out rate” – Court referrals to attend parenting classes (10)
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives:** The group gave input on the past year’s actions, making suggestions and asking about other programs, including:
    - A. Jobs for Montana Grads (JMG) education programs through Job Service
    - B. Misconception parenting classes are bad for parents
    - C. Fairview program is going well
    - D. The Library Wiki could be used to advertise opportunities
    - E. Youth treatment program
      - a. Communication and coordination is key
    - F. Share successes at P4P
    - G. Input to Life-Long Learning
  3. **Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:** The group brainstormed and gave suggestions for new action steps, including: (Participants ranked these)
    - \*\*partnership school, community- communication (2)
    - \*\*early intervention-change social norms (6)
    - \*\*work on new goals-reassess
    - \*\*young adults-where do they fit in? post high school; positive; what to offer; integration (6)
    - \*\*alternative education
    - \*\*community service thru school (1)
    - \*\*engage youth in Richland County in order to encourage healthy choices (12)
    - \*\*assess effectiveness of current youth programs
    - \*\*create culture to see important of their education and work ethic –education beyond high school (10)
    - \*\*communication/partnership decrease duplication central location for information (28)
    - \*\*positive alternatives for youth awareness-free time (9)
  4. **Identify how the action steps will be completed:**
    - \*\*part in coalition meeting – school involvement
    - \*\* youth coalition fair vs. job fair
    - \*\* WIKI – develop process to initialize (link) & public notifications & access parents.
    - \*\* school guidance counselors – kids – have delegates attend conference.
    - \*\*have youth present
      - \*educate kids why they should be groups

Who should be involved: parents, day cares, MonDak Heritage Center, Library/internet; school ID kids to involve, alt. ed students, youth court kids, students, H.S. clubs, school-to-work, classroom, Youth Probation Officer.

Involve transportation program for rides to programs and ride home.

**Signup sheets:** Mary Jane Anvik, Sean Dodds, and Vernetta Torgerson

**Session #2: Transportation and Public Facilities – Room 2** (approximately 43 participants)

**Facilitator:** Wade Whiteman

**Note Taker:** Ann Ronning

1. **Review completed Action Steps: Facilitated Discussion.** No Report was provided

2. **Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives: Agenda topics:**

(Discussion topics were prioritized by the session participants)

- *Maintain and improve safety on major routes* (46)

Discussion on: \*Safety lights at Miller's Corner \*Passing lanes \*Safe crossing on busy routes and across Central to get from one bike path to the next \*No posted Emergency or snow route (example 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> don't get plowed) \*Make Hwy 200 safer for bicyclist, walkers, joggers, etc... (extending or widening shoulder, signage)

- *Coordinate with Montana Department of Transportation to assess by-pass routes.* (8)
- *Provide for logical, cost effective future extension of city limits and city infrastructure* (43)
- *Areas desirable for residential growth and target capital improvements in the area(s).* (55)

Input provided by Terry Meldahl: \*SW of Sidney has residential growth potential \*N of Sidney will require much \$\$ for sewer, but not so much for water \*Sidney has sewer capacity, but lines are not in place \*Floodplain issues/wetland issues \*No action group at this time \*80% city, 20% county – if true, how will county meet other town needs?

Input provided by Ray Trumpower: Fairview has all the subdivisions available \*Housing potential of 30 lots with sewer and water \*Streets are platted but not in- currently owner (Powder Keg) does not want to sell.

3. **Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:**

*Some suggested Items*

- *Assist in an assessment being completed by Richland County Transportation Service,*

New goal/objective: Discussion/ideas came from conference participants:

- \*Consider designating routes (emergency) –shelters strategically placed for drop off and pick up areas
- \*Possible water and sewer expansions from new Law Enforcement Center east towards Sidney Sugars – needs to be collaborated with many other groups.
- \*Routes for pedestrians/crosswalk across Holly Street.
- \*Transportation out of town to major medical facilities (Williston, Billings, etc..)
- \*Train route from Glendive to Williston
- \*Motorcycle/Bicycle safety awareness.

4. **Identify how the action steps will be completed:**

The participants were asked if it was necessary to form an Action Group; overwhelming response was yes.

**Action Group Signup sheet:** Marcy Hamburg, Jodi Berry, Rob Knotts, Jacklyn Cole, Cindy Eleson, Margot Moinester, Lacy Hutchens, Brenda Eberling, Diane Kalvoda, Idelle Badt, and Butch Renders.

**Session #3: Educational & Cultural Development – Room 1**

**Facilitator:** Sheila Friedrich

**Note Taker:** Judy Johnson

1. **Review completed Action Steps:** Action Group Reporter: Vernetta Torgerson, Sidney Job Service
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives:** Agenda topics: (Participants prioritized these)
  - *Explore a variety of options to expand post-secondary educational opportunities in Richland County (9)*
  - *Improve cultural attractions/opportunities in the area.(12)*
  - *Promote population growth to sustain schools at a rate that can be supported with government services and infrastructure (4)*
  - *Create a Life-long Learning Center (23)*
  - *Develop and maintain a resource which lists all life-long learning opportunities (formal and informal) in Richland County. (11)*
  - *Increase the accessibility of life-long learning opportunities in the county. (10)*
  - *Determine which trainings and other learning opportunities are needed and recruit more members. (6)*
3. **Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:**
  1. Create a Life Long Learning Center
    - a. Support efforts of the life-long learning center (1)
    - b. Library
      1. Extend library hours (9am-9/10pm)
      2. May use volunteer programs or RSVP to staff extended hours
      3. Internet cable at the library so there is a separation of students and those using for recreational use
    - c. Public internet outside the library
      1. Build New Building
      2. Have library inside
      3. Can have trainings and many functions there
      4. Potential shuttle to/from
      5. Get survey for community to see what entities are needed in building
    - d. Assessment for life-long learning center
      1. Public awareness
      2. Feasibility
      3. Community impact of standards strategic plan
  2. Improve Cultural Attractions/Opportunities in the Area
    - a. Street Fair with food (more affordable than Wine and Food Festival)
    - b. More cultural diverse shows, displays, art and show cases at different facilities
    - c. Movie night at library with independent/art house foreign films
    - d. Bring in traveling theatre troops

- e. How to do this
  1. Find out what other communities are doing
  2. Culture awareness
  3. Agency partnering
  4. Defray cost/community promotion
  5. Multiple awareness of identify partners
    - a. Churches
    - b. Media
  6. Community not Specific area
3. Develop and maintain a resource which lists all life-long learning opportunities (formal and informal)
  1. Maintain and publicize the Wiki inc chamber calendar events
  2. Communicating Wiki existence for collaboration

Lifelong Learning (Hand written notes)

- Library has VISTA to redesign library
  - Survey form library/Job Service web sites different parts for different groups on what is needed personally or what is needed for businesses – What’s needed!
  - BEAR – Interview  
Billings assessment team helped businesses improve or let them know how you are doing. Matching money for worker training.
  - Collaborate on who is doing what training
  - WIKI – on library site-others can contribute information “hurry –up quick”  
[www.richlandcountylearningopps.pbworks.com](http://www.richlandcountylearningopps.pbworks.com)
  - 2009 Conference - Community has strong interest in Education
  - Reviewed last year action steps
  - Library works with variety of post secondary names (proxy’s test)
  - Vote for 3- see flip chart
1. Life-long Learning Center –What does that mean?
    1. A place for people to go with equipment and people to help teach.
    2. Compasses birth to death
    3. A Community Center-place for people to go with families
    4. Cover life skills- ex. Balance check book
    5. Skills for employees that employers can use
    6. How to adapt to different habits on the job
    7. List of Individuals or businesses with expertise in areas
    8. Attract people to town
    9. Spoke out to other communities – “satellite learning center”
    10. Comment on cultural events-if we see ideas, bring it home and tell people, implement here
  2. Improve cultural attractions/opportunities
    1. What’s already available? Mondak Heritage Center, 100<sup>th</sup> B-days in communities and County Fairs – August Festival
    2. How to Communicate with what’s going on

3. Develop and maintain a resource.....
  1. On-line resources
  2. Thoughts – Wiki, maintenance, awareness, (Kate wants input)

New Action Steps on those 3 goals (see notes above and the sheets)

1. Joining forces
2. Communication

1<sup>st</sup> – Don’t have 2 separate learning centers – work together for 1 center-school location isn’t good for learning center (turn off for people who struggle)- may have limitation on who can attend

**4. Identify Who Should be involved:**

Who?

1. Schools
2. School boards
3. Job service
4. Mid-Rivers ?
5. Resource people
  - a. Personal finance
  - b. Tax people
  - c. Health information
  - d. Healthy lifestyles education

How? – to move forward

1. Takes time, keep working on it
2. Engage the “free radicals”
3. How to get survey out? – Market
4. Survey helped form Mid-Rivers
5. Word of mouth
6. Visit businesses and speak to employees

**Signup sheets:** Lacy Hutchens, Jacklyn Cole, and Cal Oraw

**Session #4: Natural Resources – Room 2**

**Facilitator:** Ann Ronning

**Note Taker:** Wade Whiteman

1. **Review completed Action Steps: Facilitated Discussion**
  2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives: Agenda topics:** (Participants rated these)
    - *Expand opportunities for improved residential water quality in the county.* (11)
    - *Work to better manage, conserve, protect and utilize the natural resources* (4)
    - *Develop a GIS system to collect and coordinate natural resource and development information.* (2)
  3. **Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:**  
*Some suggestions*
    - *Develop a robust recycling program in Richland County*
1. Develop a robust recycling program in Richland County

2. Expand opportunities for improved residential water quality in the county
  - a. Chemical
  - b. Used oil disposal
  - c. High sulfate levels
  - d. Rural water system needed (Dry Red H2O Project)
  - e. Decreased quantity ( or is it same quantity with more consumers)
  - f. County issue
3. Work better to manage, conserve, protect, and utilize natural resources (1)
  - a. Better Management
    1. Soil
    2. Lessen Erosion
    3. NRCS Programs
    4. Used oil disposal
    5. DEQ
      - a. Air quality
    6. USDA
    7. EPA
    8. County rural traffic
    9. Weed Control
      - a. Plants and animals
4. Develop a GIS system to collect and coordinate natural resources and development information
  - a. Can Richland County assess existing GIS data?

**Identify new Action Steps and/or Objectives**

1. Develop a robust recycling program in Richland County (6)
2. Used- oil disposal/recycling site (6)
3. Expand E-waste recycling, but need to inform/educate people on why it costs “so much.”  
Alternative: E-waste (toxic) ends up in landfill. (3)
4. Create local by-product from newspapers and/or magazines (5)
5. Community composting (City Shop for leaves and grass)
  - a. Educate for individual home composting
6. Community garden (1)
7. Wind Energy (Cost sharing may be needed)
8. Solar Power – Multiple uses (Cost sharing may be needed)
  - a. Electricity
  - b. Heating
9. Geothermal
10. Biomass Energy

***4. Identify how the action steps will be completed:***

1. How can we develop a robust recycling program?
  - a. Research economical advantages of recycling various items and its impact on Richland County

- b. Placement of recycling/collection containers
- c. Recycling education
  - a. What to recycle
  - b. How to prepare it
  - c. Costs involved
2. How can we get a used oil program set up?
  - a. Collection points
  - b. Cleansing station
  - c. Collaborative resources
3. Newspaper and magazine by-products
  - a. Mulch
  - b. Insulation
  - c. Fire starters (wood burning stoves)
  - d. Cattle bedding
4. Expanding E-waste
  - a. Any chance of lowering cost?
  - b. Year-long receiving storage possibilities
    1. Must be manned (Economic Development)

**Signup sheets:** Paula Steinbeisser, Rob Knotts, Rob Nabsel, Ellen Forde, Mary Claire Katz, Cindy Eleson, Nicole Jones, and Tim Fine

## **Friday, January 22, 2010**

7:30 a.m. The Richland Housing Action Group held a meeting; Brent Moore, consultant from CTA, provided the group with his findings on the preliminary draft of the feasibility study for a Land Trust housing project the group is considering. He stated he would take the information he was gathering from the Conference and any other information the group to add to the feasibility study.

### **Session #5: Housing Opportunities & Development – Room 1**

**Facilitator:** Sheila Friedrich

**Note Taker:** Wade Whiteman

1. **Review completed Action Steps:** *Action Group Reporter:* Leif Anderson, Beagle Properties.
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives:** *Agenda topics:*  
(Discussion topics were prioritized by the session participants)
  - *Expand housing stock in good condition to meet community needs (24)*
  - *Encourage new development to include affordable housing options (26)*
  - *Assess need for and develop a housing foundation fund. (4)*
  - *Improve the appearance of Richland County. (2)*

### **3. Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:**

New goal/objective: Discussion/ideas came from conference participants:

- \*Resident home community
- \*Working with DEQ barriers
- \*Research of more lots

- \*Community Land Trust
- \*Developers package: Funding/investors, locations, Builders outside/local
- \*Outside communities
- \*Rezone lots
- \*Taxes
- \*Look at subsidize
- \*Residents
- \*Rep. for tax structure
- \*State government – someone to monitor
- \*Knowledge about subsidies

**4. Identify how the action steps will be completed:**

Those at the table: Housing Authority, Real Estate, Rep, Banker, Insurance, Lambert School, Building Inspector, City Council, Construction, Economic Development, Fairview, Planner  
 Needed: Investors, Employers

**Signup sheets:** Nicole Jones, Linette Miller, Greg Anderson, Paula Steinbeisser,

**Session #6: Physical Health Resources – Room 2**

**Facilitator:** Judy Johnson

**Note Taker:** Anne Ronning

1. **Review completed Action Steps: Action Group Reporter:** Gale Frank, Independent Consultant
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives: Agenda topics:** (Participants ranked these)
  - *Attract and retain volunteers, and provide training and funding for programs* (1)
  - *Assist local communities in identifying recreation needs long-term demand, and cost-benefits of proposed projects* (5)
  - *Identify recreation needs, assess proposed or desired new facilities, long-term project use and cost-benefit and integrate into a capital improvements plan as needed.*(22)
  - *Provide physical activity options for all age groups* (10)
  - *Form sub-committees to address specific needs and undertake projects to serve each age group.* (1)
  - *Create a county-wide Parks and Recreation Department.* (18)
  - *Increase bike and pedestrian safety* (7)
  - *Create a sustainable helmet use incentive program* (2)
  - *Find ways to utilize resources and opportunities for seasonal recreation.* (20)

**Top 3 Goals and Objectives from the previous year**

1. Create a county-wide Parks and Recreation Department - What does this look like?
  - a. Lessons for all sporting activities
  - b. One stop to find out information/dates on activities, sporting/recreational events, lessons, etc.
  - c. Support the efforts that have been done
  - d. Grant writing
  - e. Advocate for policies, preservation of the county’s natural resources
  - f. Coordinator
2. Find ways to utilize resources and opportunities for seasonal recreation

- a. Use facilities in an alternative way in the “off” season. For example: cross country skiing at the golf course
  - b. Publicize winter/alternative options
  - c. Be supportive and involved with Action Group
  - d. More local hikes in the area
3. Identify recreational needs, assess proposed or desired new facilities, long term project use and integrate into a capital improvements plan as needed
    - a. New fair building for sporting events (What buildings can be utilized?)
    - b. Promote walking path in winter, make it longer and safer.

**3. *Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:*** (Participants ranked these)

**New Action Steps and Objectives**

1. Promote Healthy Lifestyles (5)
  - a. Nutrition Coaliton
  - b. Cooking classes
2. Promote Walking
  - a. 100 mile club (7)
  - b. Extended walking path (10)
  - c. Advertise indoor walking options
  - d. Walk rather than drive-improve sidewalks (1)
3. Broaden physical activity opportunity (8)
  - a. Make physical activities a “social” event
  - b. More promotion of existing activities
4. Build a Rec Center (7)
  - a. Indoor Pool, Lap Pool. Leisure Pool,
  - b. Walking Track
  - c. Gymnasiums
  - d. Fitness Areas
  - e. Climbing wall
  - f. Racquetball courts
  - g. Aquatic Facilities
5. Utilize current facilities (7)
6. Continue search/efforts for a Rec Coordinator (9)

**4. *Identify how these action steps will be completed:***

1. Research grants, fundraising, and tax opportunities to fund ideas
2. Avoid duplicating resources and existing opportunities
3. Look at how existing/other cities are set up and financed (Williston, Glendive, Dickinson)
4. Consider creating an Action Group solely to focus on Richland County residents walking
5. Work with the county for funding and cooperation
6. County-wide master plan of all recreational options
7. Engage all communities of Richland County
8. Educate drivers on how to drive safely and be aware of walkers, bicyclists

9. Business/Employer health promotions with employees
10. County to sponsor coordinator

**Signup sheets:** Libby Berndt, Jodi Berry, and Cal Oraw

**Session 7: Public Safety Opportunities – Room 1**

**Facilitator:** Ann Ronnig

**Note Taker:** Judy Johnson

1. **Review completed Action Steps:** Action Group Reporters: Butch Renders, DES; Melissa Larson, Montana Community Change; and Jacklyn Damm, DUI Taskforce.
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives:** Agenda topics: (Participants ranked these)
  - *Maintain and improve safety on state routes.* (1)
  - *Develop a GIS system to collect and coordinate information* (1)
  - *Assess need and cost-benefit of a local building inspector*
  - *Reduce potential for development to be impacted by natural or other hazards*
  - *Implement actions identified in the County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.* (2)
  - *Create a line of communication between the community and law enforcement on how to report and follow-up on suspicious behavior.* (10)
  - *Reduce drug use.* (2)
  - *Implement age-appropriate education in schools addressing domestic violence.* (3)
  - *Create community awareness of domestic violence services available.* (2)
  - *Inform the public about institutional efforts to prepare for emergencies that are already happening.*
  - *Support the LEPC coordinator in creating a website that informs the public about emergency preparedness.*
3. **Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:** (Participants ranked these)  
*Some Suggestions:*
  - *Focus on alcohol use as the underlying cause of most of the identified public safety issues.*
  1. Build community support for consistent enforcement and adjudication. Support efforts of law enforcement and legal system to arrest and convict for DUI. (12)
  2. Focus on alcohol use as the underlying cause of most of the identified public safety issue (14)
  3. Reducing alcohol availability to our youth (12)
    - a. Combine Alcohol and drug/Youth Activities
    - b. Pedestrian Safety
      - a. Clear ice
      - b. Traffic rules-vehicles
      - c. Crosswalk use
      - d. No truck traffic
      - e. Get a designated truck route

## **New Ideas**

1. Combine goals to alcohol and drug
2. Pedestrian Safety (11) –Give to Transportation Committee
  - a. Trucks
  - b. Easier access on and off Holly
  - c. Bike path
  - d. More lights ?
3. Activities for youth
  - a. Central School in PM (2)
4. Increase seat belt use (4)
5. Neighborhood Watch
6. Resource center – Promotion help parents
7. Marking evacuation routes (1)
  - a. EOP evac for special needs

## **New Goals/Objectives**

1. Alcohol use as underlying cause of most i.d. safety issue
  - a. Why are people drinking deeply ingrained in area 11.7 onset age of alcohol use
  - b. What's currently in place?
    1. Mont. Comm. Change
    2. DUI Task Force
    3. Alcohol and Drug
    4. Partner for Promise
    5. Media Literacy
    6. Accessed Programs in School
2. Create line of communication between law enforcement
  - a. Crimestoppers
  - b. Youth Pro
  - c. Neighborhood Watch
3. Domestic violence ed in Schools
  - a. Sidney health enhance
  - b. Character education
  - c. Bullying
  - d. Are they effective? /Science based?
4. Activities for Youth
  - a. Extended hour for Boys and Girls Club
  - b. Reach outside groups/youth
  - c. Keep up/continue what works (after prom party, Friday night lights)
  - d. Coordinate physical activity group
  - e. Low cost
5. Seat Belt Use
  - a. Safety check points
  - b. Recurrent drivers safety education
  - c. Positive reinforcement program

- d. Signs on business driveways
- e. Make it a law-not secondary law
- f. Information on making seat belts more comfortable – lots of precaution /products not tested
- g. Seat belt convincer-MDT seat belt simulator

**4. Identify how the action steps will be completed:**

**Signup sheets:** Jacklyn Damm, Jeff Stedman, and Brenda Eberling

**Session 8: Economy & Agricultural Resources – Room 2**

**Facilitator:** Wade Whiteman

**Note Taker:** Shelia Friedrich

1. **Review previous year Action Steps taken:** Reporter: Lesley Messer, Richland Economic Development.
2. **Review remaining Actions Steps and Goals & Objectives: Agenda topics:**  
Discussion topics were prioritized by the session participants.
  - *Expand the county's production of high value crops and value-added industries (2)*
  - *Coordinate agricultural expansion with consideration of effects to natural resources and residents (1)*
  - *Expand and diversify businesses. (0)*
  - *Attract and retain businesses and support downtown renewal and beautification and young families (11)*
  - *Continue to build county capacity to provide needed infrastructure to support a strong economy (5)*
  - *Include provisions for subdivisions to pay their portion of infrastructure and services (0)*
  - *Provide for logical, cost effective future extension of city limits and city infrastructure (2)*

**3. Identify new Action Steps or Objectives:**

New goal/objective: Discussion/ideas came from conference participants:

- \*Irrigation potential: use of unallocated water, renewable resource grants
- \*Consider natural gas
- \*Ethanol on back burner-working on topping facility
- \*Tax structure to attract businesses: develop tourism information that is online (Chamber website is a current resource)
- \*BEAR (Business Expansion and Retention): maintain and expand on program
- \*Identify assistance for development costs of city services for development
- \*Expand School to work: Job shadowing (Sidney has), Youth apprenticeship to attract/retain
- \* Job Fairs (Action Group is working on this)
- \*Ag part fits with natural resources
- \*Fertilizer production: heavily regulated, economical?
- \*Trees-line Central Ave with: play into personality, beautification will attract businesses (go hand in hand), amusement park (prairie theme),
- \*Already beautiful because of existing resources (work with what is available)
- \*Continue to build county capacity to provide needed infrastructure to support a strong economy
- \*Attract & retain businesses & support downtown renewal beautification & young families.

**4. Identify how the action steps will be implemented:**

Who: Extension Office, School, Youth, Job Service, Employers, other interested in apprenticeship

**Action Group suggestions:** to send action items to appropriate action groups or other organizations. Ag parts fit with Natural Resources,

**We would like to extend a big Thank You to the following MSU Extension agents:**

*Wade Whiteman, Richland County*

*Judy Johnson, Richland County*

*Ann Ronning, Roosevelt County*

*Sheila Friedrich, Sheridan County*