

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023



### 2023 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Hysham

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

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

Developed by:

Southeastern Montana Development  
Corporation (SEMDC)

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## Hysham CEDS Meeting 2023

### Group Discussion

Rather than perform a typical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats assessment, SEMDC led the group through the exercise by having them first examine the results of last years' meeting and then adding or modifying the information already developed. The lists below are what the group developed through meeting responses.

### Strengths

4th of July Event	Law Enforcement
Access to Rosebud Library	Local Financial Institution
Active Community Foundation	Lodging
Active senior Community	Lower Yellowstone Byway
Area F Coal	Museum/culture
Antique Store	New water tower/improved mains & Hydrants
Available land for expansion/development	Paved runway at the airport
Beautiful historic buildings	Planning Board
Café / Hardware Store / Local Ownership	Playground Equipment
Chamber of Commerce	Pool (Free)
Community Facebook Page	Pool Income
Convenience Store EXP. Increased tax base	Possible Remote Work
Community Foundation	Possible Value-Added Ag
Community Spirit "Holidays in Hysham"	Potential bedroom community (of Billings / Miles City)
Community Support and fundraising for pool	Progressive Local Gout
County Capital Improvement Plan	Professional Property Manager
County Seat	Public Health
Doctor visits once a week	Railroad Spur/2 New Railroad Sidings
Downtown Building – possibilities	Rest Area
Education attainment level in the community	River
Electrical / Co-op	Safe / Quiet Community
EMS (Fire / Ambulance)	School System and Enrollment
Expansion of Fiber Optics	School website
Food Bank	Senate Bill 355 Funding
Four churches	Senior Activities
Fun Run/Splash Dash	Shooting Range
Garbage Canister Site	Street Fest Event
Good irrigation systems	Strong agriculture base
Growth Plan / County	Strong morals/ethics as a working Community
Hardwired Internet for home (small scale)	Street Fest Event
Highway 311 Improvements	Storage Unit Business
Highly educated agriculture workers	Shooting Range
Hunting/Fishing	Strong Volunteerism
Hysham CIP	Town/River Access with facilities
Implement dealer	UPS Service
Interstate close	Vet Clinic

Island Access	Wind Farm
Junque Store	Yucca Theater

## Concerns

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

## Working Groups

In this second activity, the group was asked to discuss projects that would assist in addressing some of the weaknesses or needs in the community. At the end of the identification of meaningful

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

## **Economy**

### ***Community Marketing Strategy***

Develop a community marketing strategy.

## **Proposed Economic Projects receiving votes.**

## **Housing, Quality of Life, Services, and Infrastructure**

### ***Daycare***

Daycare location and provider needed.

### ***Fire Hall***

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

### ***Gibson and Bridges Repairs***

Bridges in need of repair; River Rd and Pump House Rd.

### ***Lagoon Improvements***

Lagoon improvements are needed.

### ***Lift Station (2<sup>nd</sup>) Replacement***

Replace 2<sup>nd</sup> lift station

### ***Main Street Revitalization***

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

### ***Wastewater Improvements***

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

### ***Yucca Theater***

Historic preservation and building repairs needs for theater.

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

Wastewater Improvements – 5 Votes

Main Street – 5 Votes

Bridges – 3 Votes

Daycare – 2 Votes