

City of Forsyth

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CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The 2018 CEDS community meeting was held on Monday, November 26 at City Hall. The meeting was designed to allow community members to provide feedback as to what the current state of the community is, how things have changed from last year and what projects are priorities to be completed in the next several years.

The meeting was facilitated by Jim Atchison and Julie Emmons of SouthEast Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC). SEMDC is based in Colstrip and conducts CEDS meetings in communities in and Rosebud, Treasure, Custer and Powder River counties. Jerry Grebenz, Great West Engineering, also helped with the meeting. Mr. Grebenz will be working with the county on the update of the county's growth plan.

Representatives from the city, county, EMS, union, and a variety of local businesses attended the meeting.

A discussion associated with the city's strengths and weaknesses was held. There was a review of 2017 strengths and weaknesses. Items were added to a list or removed as appropriate. The 2017 CEDS report is available at city hall.

The most important part of the presentation was the establishment of important projects that the city should try to accomplish in the coming several years. The top six projects, listed in order of importance, were:

1. Market job and workforce opportunities in Forsyth and Rosebud County
 - a. Use job fairs
 - b. Apprenticeship programs
 - c. Work with Forsyth Public Schools, Miles Community College and Dawson Community College to promote workforce opportunities
2. Develop opportunities for pulse crop processing and marketing
 - a. Create a pulse crop processing facility
3. Develop/create more commercial property opportunities
4. Continue to maintain the dike and guarantee re-certification
5. Work with MDOT on plans for Front Street renovation
 - a. Create a focus group that will prepare a "vision" for Front Street and work with MDOT to encourage implementation of the groups proposed plan
6. There is a need for a re-build of the EMS facility located on Front Street

Other important projects include: expansion of broadband internet service, establish a DUI/drug court system, market recreation opportunities, expand tourism, promote workforce re-training, support efforts to improve leadership (Leadership29).

The final 2018 CEDS report will be prepared by SEMDC and should be available sometime after the first of year.