

South Lincoln County  
CEDS Meeting Notes  
March 13, 2007 - Libby

Vision for Lincoln County 5 years from now:

- Good understanding of where growth will take us
- A healthy forest
- A flourishing diverse economy and a viable retail community
- Temporary housing for veterans
- Adequate health care facilities
- Reduced fire hazard in WUI

Social Issues:

- Affordable housing
- Need to address middle class community issues (jobs, housing, population, demographics, employment issues, crime and drug issues)
- Lacks positive image inside & outside community (asbestos contamination)
- Promote positive image aspects outside of the county.
- Lack of support for cultural events
- Does Lincoln County value education?

Education Issues:

- Community college FVCC not being fully utilized
- Promote FVCC at high school as jumping off point for further education or trade school.

Environmental:

- Infrastructure for new housing
- County housing needs to meet codes
- Assessment for impact on county development
- Can waste treatment plants handle bigger load?
- Dump – how long can it sustain itself? Current capacity for 30 years out.
- County wide fire plan
- Air quality
- Asbestos
- Higher building standards for energy efficiency?
- Weed control

County Growth Plan:

- Structure in place to manage the forest. Lack of funding is leading to outsourcing of Forest Service jobs.

- Dust Abatement – clean streets quicker, maintaining alleys and sidewalks.

Top 5 goals of Lincoln County for next 5 years:

- Fix city streets, sidewalks and alleys.
- Encourage use of natural resources.
- Creation of middle-income jobs: mine, education, and logging.
- Value added wood products – biomass, small diameter wood.
- Full development of industrial parks. (Troy, Libby, Eureka)
- Capacity to provide health care grows with the community.
- Infrastructure growth needs to match rate of county growth.
- Broadband to meet technology and medical needs
- Establish broad based economy.
- Make Libby first choice to live, play, learn
- Meet air quality standards.
- Wood products, mining, manufacturing jobs to support tax base and rejuvenate working middle class.
- Get one or two anchor type employers back in the area: mining, forestry.
- Foster smaller niche businesses
- Improve telecommunications with broadband.
- Utilize small diameter wood.
- Get a clean bill of health from EPA on asbestos cleanup.
- Change perception of Libby to outside world: recreation, natural resources.
- Clean up Hwy 2 outside of town.
- Expanded health care system with integrated electronic health care records.
- Gather and disseminate information on asbestos statistical information.
- Reduce wildfire hazard in WUI.
- Good relationship with legislators to make sure they create a friendly tax environment to stimulate business growth.
- Stable source of funding for schools and roads.
- Get infrastructure in place for industrial park.
- Growth plan in place.
- Develop work force training center.
- Expand health care facility.
- Find out what retirees want: healthcare, lower taxes, recreation, safety, affordable housing, educational opportunities.

Public Services issues to address in the next 5 years:

- Sewer treatment facilities need to be able to support growth
- Water system expansion capabilities
- Cost of water system replacement: valves, mains & pipes in town.

Fire protection, ambulance and police services:

Possible committee members: Tom Wood, Marc McGill, Wally McElmurry  
Jerry Rust, Clay Coker, Tony Berget, water company rep, Robert Pival

- Volunteer ambulance services vs. paid due to lack of volunteers.
- Need funding for public services.
- Ground water capacity?

#### Transportation: Roads and community transportation:

Possible committee members: George Wood, Ron Downey, Dale Byrer, someone from railroad, Keli McQuiston, Van Swearingen, someone from Msla re: Hwy 2.

- Railroad, airport and interstate authorities, bridges.
- Access to forest service roads.
- Lincoln County Transportation System: Lee Ludin

#### Education and workforce training:

Possible committee members: Pat Pezzelle, Johnette Watkins, teacher, parent, KC Hoyer or someone from the hospital, workforce training, Glen Hermann, Steve Garrett, Brady Selle, Rodney Smith.

#### Health Care:

Committee members: KC Hoyer, Bill Patten.

Possible committee members: CARD, CHC, home health care, Libby Clinic, Libby Care Center, Mental Health, Lincoln County Public Health, VA mobile clinic.

- Aging population and retiree emergency angioplasty unit
- Own helicopter and flight crew cuts transport time in half.
- Dentists, pharmacists and optometrists.
- Electronic records system through broadband.
- Ambulance services: Bob Parker
- Mental Health Therapy

#### Ag, Forestry:

Possible committee members: NRCS, Forest service, stakeholders coalition, Corps of Engineers, DNRC, FWP, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bruce Vincent, Charlie Croucher, Fred Sturgis, Yaak Valley Forest Council, RC&D, Rocky Schauer,

#### Housing:

Committee members: Gary Spencer

Possible committee members: Kathy Kinsey, realtor, NW Montana Human Resources, landlord (Gary Huntsberger?), power company rep, low income housing, Susie Rice from Habitat for Humanity, Renee Schad, real estate developer, Plum Creek, Kerry Beasley, environmental planning board.

#### Tourism:

Committee members: Tourism Coalition, Donna snowmobiler's group, forest service, ATV group, outfitters, Turner Mountain, Kootenai Winter Sports, Mark Mason, Jerry Wandler, Robbie Bowe, STOKR – Susie Rice, Cabinet View Golf Course.

Arts/Culture: to be discussed at tourism coalition meeting next morning

Environment:

Infrastructure committee members: Paul Rumelhart, Ron Higgins, Clint Taylor, Flathead Electric rep, Northern Lights, Telecommunications

Road Blocks to accomplish tasks:

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- Poor transportation access
- Poor telecommunications
- Environmental roadblocks to timber access and mining
- Controls over implementation of projects.
- Community dependence on government, no public buy-in.
- Resistance to change throughout the community
- Know how to navigate the bureaucracy
- Negative image inside and outside the community
- Adequate workforce availability

If you have any further comments or concerns, you may contact Greg Larson at [greg@frontiernet.net](mailto:greg@frontiernet.net)