

Chadron Notes Meeting 12-10-13

Attendance: Mark Betson, Myrna Betson, Lindy Coleman, John Dagen, Webb Johnson, Roger Wess, Janet Johnson, Don Mandellis, Terri Haynes, Heather Crofutt, Sandy Roes, Deb Cottier, Daniel Bennett (Facilitator)

Part I

Focus Areas:

- 1) Education in community about the plans
 - Who it affects
 - What does it cover
- 2) Education connection and opportunity awareness to the outside world
- 3) Infrastructure of technology needs to be upgraded
- 4) Improve and Enhance tourism opportunities
- 5) Tourist Infrastructure
 - Increase our amenity offerings
 - Restaurants
 - Hotels
 - Signage
- 6) Industry
 - Utilize existing resources
 - Federal/State lands such as:
 - o Wind generation
 - o Utilize home business "shop at home"
- 7) Roads/Infrastructure
- 8) Tax Efficiency, policies to promote growth
- 9) Roads plan/ prioritization of transportation investments
- 10) Healthy Living
- 11) Energy Industries (Shale, Wind, Solar)
- 12) Heartland Expressway
- 13) Value Added Agriculture
- 14) Inter-government communication
- 15) On-going collaboration
- 16) Connecting business and local workforce
- 17) Promoting and improving livability

Mind Sets:

- Can do attitude- thinking outside the box, embrace opportunity
- Dispelling Apathy-
 - o Engagement of community (Ask, don't assume apathy)
 - o Cheerleading- reinforce good behavior
- Shine Mindset: I don't shine if you don't shine
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- Taking initiative and community pride
- Being positive about our assets and what's happening in our community

- Being unapologetic about our home

What can we do to make the panhandle a smarter, happier, and more competitive place to live and do business?

Smarter:

- Greater communication with state government
- Efficiency with tax money
- Collaboratives
- DELTA

Happier:

- Build pride in our community, especially in lesser developed areas
- Healthy living promotion county wide (region wide too)

Competitive:

- Build up infrastructure
- Road improvements
- IT skills and jobs

Part II

Tourism

Natural Assets:

Forest, grassland, hunting, fishing, hiking, atv/biking opportunities, camping, fort Rob, Chadron State Park, Fur Trade Museum, Black Hills, Geological- Toadstool, Bird watching, equestrian, cross country skiing

Things to grow:

- 1) ATV, Motorcycle trails
Winter: skiing, hunting, prairie dogs, coyote, mountain lion, antelope
- 2) Grow amenities, Develop tax increment financing and other tax break incentives
- 3) Summer- Rattlesnake Roundup, bird watching, equestrian, Janet's Dude Ranches, Festival of locally grown brewed and distilled beverages and products: steaks, beef, pig n pit.
Tie in with Crazy Horse ride

Other assets: Railroad, uranium, state parks

Grow:

Job opportunities

- 1) Microbrewery
- 2) Wind Industry
- 3) Dude ranch, Infrastructure

- 4) Promote shop @home including home-based cottage industry markets
- 5) Add tax to internet shopping, origin fee

Infrastructure

- 1) Plan for a comprehensive road plan, park equipment in yards, to better grade and maintain roads, less time with blades off the road, prioritization plan
- 2) Useable broadband access by every household, business, government agency, etc.

General Assets:

Wind, solar, hunting, fishing, historical, museum, recreational ranches, post graduate education, workforce supported by college, uranium, people communicate and help each other, oil shale close by, good work ethic and good ideas