

## Sidney Recorded Notes November 20, 2013

**Attendance:** Linda Roelle, Jo Caskey, Tim Lindahl, Pat Maher, Gary Person, Wilson Bowling, Karen Kollars, Wendall Gaston, Paula Abbott, Mike Leininger, Cheryl Jones, Geralyn Konruff, Eric Parsons, BJ Willinson, Wanda Brogren, Emily Haakenson, Bob Olsen, Megan McGown, Connie Hancock, Glenna Phelps-Aurich, Jeff Kelly, Daniel Bennett (facilitator)

### **Focus areas:**

Tourism, Housing, History, Social, Higher education, Work Force Development, Vocational Workforce development, Encourage entrepreneurship , partnering with Communities, Connecting People, Cultural Opportunities, Education (K-6), Retail Shopping, Creative Healthcare, Aesthetics,

**Mindsets:** Foster a reused rather than a disposable “tear down” philosophy, Perception of Rural America is damaging to growing vibrant rural communities, develop regional pride

### **Connecting People:**

Assets:

High Plains Compass, Adv. Broadband, Regional Development Organizations

Gaps:

Not aware of all the organizations and resources, don't share resources, getting connected, don't utilize all the resources and connections

Grow:

We have regular meetings but getting all the players at the table is a challenge, territorial mindset is a barrier, Some people go to the meetings but don't show up with thoughts/ideas- Engage more people, empower people to be leaders, our leaders need to teach people to teach

Partnerships:

-Central committee/position: PADD

-Build on Events

-Newspapers, radio, etc. / other websites to promote each other.

-Welcome wagon to actually visit new people not just receive a packet (cause anxiety?)

-Weekly email from different businesses to give soft message to newcomers

-PADD as an umbrella organization to gather and put out info from regional groups, regional groups gain info from chambers and civic organizations

### **-Education:**

New HS, Elementary School, Desire for K-6 education, involve comm. College in ongoing workplace training, and new employees, People with skills in technical trades leave and may not come back.

### **-Retail Shopping-**

Develop local, don't get overlooked by franchises, find a way to plug into new opportunities, change hours to create a vibrant scene, be more open when people can shop

New Hospital-Satellite Doctors: Creative health care,

-WNCC small business classes (or classes by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs), certificate in entrepreneurship

-Business and skill mentoring, spread mentoring opportunities and knowledge

-Community investments focused

-Getting on-line

-\$50/ 3 businesses

-Sheridan, WY Downtown as an example

### **-Cultural**

-Museum and tourism

-History-Boothill Outlook

-Igloos-north of Sidney

-Ways to get young people excited

### **-Hospital**

Grow our own professionals, nurturing an employee from the start, Roots to lay down

### **-General Assets**

Growth is an opportunity for education, health, business entrepreneurship

-Young= Education opportunities

-Middle Age = Family draw

- Older People = retirement draw

Cottage industries = develop retail industry

Housing

Plan to grow housing 800 homes in 3-5 years: Land secured, utility hubs, \$160,000-\$700k, One apartment complex, potential downsizing for older adults, -Space: Room for growth is an asset

Bike path- developed area will have connectivity to new area (connect with other towns along HWY 30?)

Downtown- "Small town romance", sell the quaint aesthetics, making retail more enticing,

New HS, new elem., WNCC, gap: No 4 year college

Good test scores, generally pleased with education, low dropout rate,

Recreation: Golf course, tracks, community center

Chamber: Strong, active -7 affiliates for keep America beautiful

-Clean community, park, memorial gardens, sports

-Soccer complex

-Open to new people, Cabela's, different ethnicities

-Increasing population

-Town doubles in size M-F

-Commute

**-Tourism**-POW camp, WNTC, Museum hours aren't capitalized, better marketing, Regional Pride

**-Housing**-critical issue: availability, diversity of selection

**-Social:** activities and social aspect for young people, enhancing entrances to communities,  
**-Higher education and Workforce Development:** Better access/use of WNCC, access while in high school (40+ miles from a campus) ,

**-Develop workforce in Tech fields**

-HVAC, Contractors/Construction, Electricians, Mechanics

Imported workforce changes the dynamics of a community

## Workforce

**Assets:**

Number of opportunities for a wide range of careers, enhanced vision

**Opportunities:**

Vocational training thru WNCC

### Housing

**Assets:**

Community partner investing in housing (or anything else, someone with a vision and someone who has money that can benefit from it, finding who wants to benefit off of someone else's passion) , existing housing stock to use

**Opportunity:**

Senior, rentals---townhomes, upper quality rentals, Diversity of selection and price

**Barriers:**

Funding for infrastructure, manpower (vocation jobs), Trades People, Availability

## Social

**Assets:**

Adult leagues, Rec Center, Active, Civic Minded people, Growing Younger Generation

**Opportunities:**

Young Professional group

new or expanded rec. opportunities

-Swimming pool, tennis courts, trail system

-Retail and Restaurants, etc. (Pop-up, trial opportunities?)

Increased Digital Presence

Increase vocational training, getting more interested in vocational jobs and attracting quality vocation staff

Entrepreneurship partnering with communities

-Connecting students from school and colleges to business i.e (SIFE: Students in Free Enterprise

-Social events that encourage people to stay for the weekend -OR- create a group from within

the town that goes for the weekend, so they're going with each other and bring that capital back after the weekend

Internship programs