

Miles City Town Meeting

November 4, 2009

SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

Economy

- Location
- Regional Retail Hub
- Banking Hub
- Agricultural Area
- Fort Keogh Research Facility
- Data Center
- Three Car Dealerships
- Cultural Area and History
- Accommodations
- Bucking Horse Sale
- Regional Livestock Center
- Health Food Store
- Local Media
- Eastern Montana Fair
- Car Show
- Farmers Market
- Two Home Building Centers
- Pine Hills Center
- Location to Billings
- Low Taxes
- Lower Cost of Living
- Open Minded Ideas
- Stable Population
- Strong K-12 School System
- Active Economic Development Council

Quality of Life

- "Green Attitude"
- Sense of Community
- Desire to live here
- Variety of Religions
- Active Community Organizations
- Friendly Community
- Clean Air
- Library and Library Expansion
- Low Crime Rate
- Wild West Life Style
- Open Spaces
- High Volunteerism Rate
- Fun 2 U Group
- Blue Grass Festival
- Growing Community Interest
- Park System
- Two Fitness Centers

Natural Resources

- Weather
- Hunting / Fishing Area
- Sports Opportunity

Strengths con't:

Natural Resources cont'd

- Outdoor Sports Opportunities
- Wind Energy and Bio-fuel Options
- Spotted Eagle Recreation Area
- Trail System
- River Access

Infrastructure

- Transportation Hub
- WAPA – East /West Electrical Grids
- Airport (Commercial)
- Fiber Optic Installed

Tourism

- Historic Downtown

Services

- Mid Rivers Telephone Coop
- Miles Community College (MCC)
- Government Service Hub
- Hub for Specialty Events
 - o Historic Attractiveness
 - o Sports
- Active Chamber of Commerce
- Elite Fire and EMT / EMS
- National Guard Visits

Health

- Medical Hub
- Elderly Care Facilities
- VA Clinic
- Community Health Center

Weaknesses

Economic

- Additional Lodging for Specific Events
- Downtown Lodging
- Limited Housing Expansion
 - o Landlocked Community
- Housing
 - o Work Force
 - o Rentals
- Lack of Specility Shopping
- Lack of Tax Base
- No Sales Tax
- High Property Tax vs other MT Cities
- Disconnect from State Capitol
- Isolated Community
- Lower Income Area
- Growing Median Age
- Fire Department
 - o Update Facilities & Equipment
- Needed Convention Center

Miles City Town Meeting (Continued)

Weaknesses: (cont'd)

Quality of Life

- Marketing Western Heritage
- Maintaining Community Appearance
- Recreational facility
- Athletic Training Facility

Infrastructure

- Aging Infrastructure
- Floodplain Issues

Services

- Limited Flight Connections

Health Care

- Medical Hub
- Medical / Professional Recruitment

Natural Resources

- Limited Natural Resources Development

Education

- Computer / Playground Equipment

Opportunities

Economics

- Value Added Industries – Ag
- Grocery Store – West End
- Clothing / Shoe Store
- Float Plane Refuel Station
- River Steamboat
- Marketing Miles City
- Ethnic Restaurants
- Multi-Use / Convention Center
- Bed & Breakfast
- Manufacturing Business
 - o Incubator Team

Quality of Life

- New Senior Center
- More Culture Events

Services

- Internet Marketing

Transportation

- Public System

Infrastructure

- Community Communication
 - o Growth Policy
 - o Capitol Improvement Plan
- Historic Buildings
- Renewable Energy Power Plant
 - o Wind / Solar
 - o Algae
- Renewable Energy Legislation

Opportunities Cont'd:

Infrastructure – Cont'd

- Connect Trail System
- Baker Interchange Development
- West End Development
- Restructure Zoning

- Fairground Facilities Usage
- Flood Plain Issues

Recreation

- Outdoor Recreation
 - o Marina
 - o Pleasant Farm
 - o Hunting
- Community Recreational Center / Pool
- Miles City Sports Complex
- Denton Field Upgrade
- Western Riding Trails
- Market Volksmarch
- Fishing Access
 - o Fairground Facilities Usage

Projects:

Economy

- Restrooms – Riverside Park
- River Front Development
- Algae Farm
- Housing Development
- Trail System Improvement
- Manufacturing Business Development Team
 - o Alternative / Renewable Energy
- Retail Business Development Team
- Market Miles City / Western Heritage
- Market Regional Attractions
- Agri-Tourism
 - o Farming
 - o Hunting
 - o Bed and Breakfast

Infrastructure

- BNSF Depot Restoration
- Recreation Center / Fun2U
- Small Power Plant
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Water
- Sewer

Miles City Town Meeting (Continued)

Threats:

- Weather
- Loss of Essential Air Service
- National / State Legislation
- Insurance Costs
- Lower Pay for Comparable Jobs
- Losing Viable Downtown
- Lack of Communication
- Miss-Communication
- Fuel Costs
- Limited Work Force
- Internet
 - o Lack of Adaptability
 - o Loss of Tax Base
- Change
- Billings
- Suicide Rates (High)
- Floodplain Issues
- Lack of Housing