

Miles City Town Meeting

June 20, 2007

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Economy

- Quality of Workforce
- Library
- Energy Center Hub
 - Transmission
 - Pipeline
- Strong Agriculture Base
- Mid Rivers Cooperative – Active
 - Fiber Optics
- Western Heritage
- Strong Financial Hub
- Area History
- Stable Population Base
- Diversified Economic Base
- Economic Development
 - Board Awareness

Quality of Life

- Area History
- Good K-12 Schooling
- Miles Community College
 - Workforce Training
 - Distance Training
- Eastern Montana Fair
- Quality of Life / Safe Community
 - Size and Population
- Positive Morel Ethic – Pride
- Volunteers – Strong Neighborhoods
- Positive Mental Attitude
- Cultural and Art

Natural Resources

- Bucking Horse Sale
- Abate Rally (Bikers)
- Historical Preservation Museum
- Real Estate Prices – good value
- Outdoor Recreation and Sports
- Two Rivers and Spotted Eagle
 - Water Availability

Infrastructure

- Interstate / Highways – Access
- Transportation Hub
- WAPA Grid
- Airport
- Railroad

Services

- Hospital
- Human Services
- Local News
 - Daily Newspaper

Weaknesses

Economy

- Power Transmission
- Day Care Centers
- Bio-fuel Facility
- Value Added Ag
- Marketing Cultured Heritage
- Lack of Community Marketing
- Lack of State Incentives
 - Agricultural
 - Natural Resources
 - Business and Industry
- Stagnant Population Growth
- Senior Housing Options
- Affordable Housing
 - Supply Low
- Power Surges
- Labor Shortages / Low Pay Structure /
 - Healthcare Benefits
- Welcoming of New Business
- Out Migration of Young People
- Need Restaurants
- Large Low / Moderate Income Population
- Clothing Stores / Shoes
- Need Manufacturing Industry
- Fuel Prices

Quality of Life

- Community Unity
- Elected Official Vision and Leadership
- Lack of Coordination
 - Especially for New People
- Fear of Change and Growth
- Need Stronger Chamber
 - Hard to find Chamber Office
- Public Sector Financial Challenges
- Venture Capital
 - Need Leadership to Obtain it

Infrastructure

- No Industrial Park
- Flood Plain Issues
- Failing Infrastructure
 - Sewer / Streets
- Public Facilities
 - Recreation Center
- Public Transportation
- Rentals
- Aging Service Club Memberships
 - Need Young Members
- Complicated Subdivision Procedures

Miles City Town Meeting Cont'd

Weaknesses Cont'd

Services

- Improve Quality of Healthcare
- Fire Protection

Natural Resources

- Natural Resources Undeveloped

Opportunities:

Economy

- Bio Fuels Facility (Fuel Prices)
- Venture Capital
- Restaurants
- Organic Farming / Natural – Foods
- Brainstorm
 - Value Added Ag / Light Industry
 - Implement
- Business Recruitment
- Employee Recruitment
- Workforce Training
 - Miles Community College
- Promote Area History
 - City Wide
 - Marketing Presentation
 - Historic Preservation
 - Focal Point or Hub for SE MT
- Develop Key Community Contacts

Quality of Life

- Multi Purpose Recreation Center
- Day Care Center
- Elected Officials
 - Grass Roots Plan
 - Marketing Plan
 - Visioning
- Convention Center
- Visitor Center
- Expand Local Events
 - Bucking Horse Sale
 - Fair etc.
- Pride and Work Ethic Growth
- Strong Chamber
 - Business Unity
 - Recruiting
 - More Active and Involved
- Retirement / Quality of Life Options

Natural Resources

- Flood Plain / Outdoor Recreation

Infrastructure

- Build Housing / All Types
- Clarify Subdivision Process
- Industrial Park
- Outdoor Recreation Business / Mfg

OPPORTUNITIES: Cont'd

Services

- News Paper Online
- Local News and Weather

Threats

Economy

- Western MT Political Pull
- Too Many Laws
- Isolation / Distance Disadvantage
- Perception of Limited Skills
- Fuel (\$ Prices)
- Energy Development – Boom and Bust
- Retain Young People
- Perception of Cost
- Price Gouging
- Lack of Competition
- Billings Competition

Quality of Life

- Defeatist Attitude
- Weather Extremes
 - Drought Effects
- Lack of Action

Projects:

- Bio Fuels Facility
- Flood Plain Solution
- VA Site Development
- Value Added Ag / Industrial Facilities
- 24 Hour Restaurant
- Day Care Availability
- Data Storage / Tech Service Center
- Community Schedule Program:
 - Coordinated Communication
- Housing:
 - Rentals
 - New Construction – Single Family
- Multi-Purpose Recreational Center
- Community Marketing:
 - City Web Site
 - Historical and Cultural