

BUTTE-HELENA REGIONAL DIALOGUE SESSION

Discovery

What is your Vision of Cooperative Economy?

- Time banking and skill sharing as an alternative to the money economy
- Begin with “transition movement” gifting circles, organizing skill share opportunities
- Farmer Co-ops enable access to large institutional markets: hospitals, DOC, schools
- Build interest in local food purchasing among institutional buyers
- Build capacity and trust among growers to form co-ops

Define success:

- Supporting the local community by providing innovation and education on vegetable (in the future) fruit production and the supply to local markets with fresh produce and supporting outreach programs in the area to schools, hospitals and institutions, cooperation between individuals not a cooperative as such
- Similar regional centers across the state embracing communities and cutting down on logistical issues
- Distribution working groups, one for our or one for each industry region. One distribution co-op for the state that the working groups report to and exist within

List activities that would move you/yours to that success:

- Target specific sectors with burning need that is not being fulfilled for low hanging fruit
- Housing co-op established for first time homebuyers; select property, find co-ops, develop finance with credit unions
- Groups must not be turf protective – need collaboration
- Success interstate cooperative model
- Need more education on co-op models
- Self-sufficiency models western independence
- Community numbers teaming up to form a co-op to face housing problems
- Butte & Anaconda face similar issues; form team to build the economy on tourism, housing
- Identify stakeholders and various industries
- Collect and organize info – resource, mapping
- Identify overlap
- Graduation rate
- Unemployment rate
- Median income
- Our particular/water contamination levels
- Acres of open space
- Health measurements
- Housing measurements
- Community Co-op; small town planning - \$\$ BSTF
- Businesses supporting businesses but also supporting new businesses; marketing, accounting, legal, community events
- Housing – Workforce; teachers, law enforcement, health care, low to moderate, seniors

Dream

Collective Visioning

- Breweries/distilleries/coordinating now shared resources & knowledge
- Community investment co-ops would be beneficial to further projects especially housing
- Collaboration/sharing funding streams, communication
- Team problem solving especially distribution across every industry
- Producers end user
- Tech Providers/Organizations
- Educational
- All industries serving made in MT region
- Co-op Conception: producers, end users, technical assistance, building on what’s already there
- Community Markets: getting vendors/producers locally (co-ops feed into vendors)
- Develop Cooperation & Communications between agencies & organizations, reduce duplication & share capacity
- Local Food marketing co-op – Brand – (state?)
- Region-wide tourism activities, coordinate & collaborate, movie theatres, hotels, etc. develop packages
- Identify tour packages along corridor between Yellowstone & Glacier
- Historic districts/emotional
- Sub-standard

Design

Community/Coop	Positive Activity	Resources Used	Needs
Anaconda – Team 1	Long-term organizations (LDO) will continue into the future housing rehab	People that are committed – resources continue to sustain organization, superfund (positive)	In a transition – need to maintain new staff – empower from.
Anaconda – Team 2	Building active community training, community garden, active transport plan, trail society, DT master plan, Butte-Anaconda Trail Development, Broadband Project	Beth Shumak FWP (trails), transportation alternatives program, food corps (upcoming), wellness team at school and administration	Better partnership with MDT, more community buy in/engagement, housing – new renovation
Butte/NCAT – Team 1	New business success, long term organizations, young people, new dynamic. Butte people – inter-relationship with center for excellence sift farm, energy corps (weatherize houses)	All available, people (committed & enthusiasm)	Funding for capacity building, funding support, new staff

Butte/NCAT – Team 2	SCBG – expand HOM to hospitals and ECE (recipe cards, poster, newsletters etc.)	HOM (harvest of the month), OPI (grocery/HS), ECE community, Kalispell/Livingston Health care, food & nutrition cart (dietitians)	Awareness of local foods in Montana, changes to health care food service venue, apply F2S to hospitals
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