

Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting Location: Warner	
Date: May 2, 2007	
Start and end time: 6:00 – 9:00	
Number of Attendees from the Public: 11	
Community Features Identified	Recommendations from Community
<p>Social/Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to a small town - closeness, friendships, safety • Appreciation of the farming lifestyle. • Huge community spirit – the community can and has pulled together to successfully take on large projects such as the Warner Hockey School and bid for Hockeyville Canada. • Concerns that the community is losing its young people as a function of tough economics in agriculture • Retention of schools and hospitals is very important to the community • Attract families - the community would like to attract new families to live in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful development in this area requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits for the community; • Opportunities to retain young people in the community; • Partnership with industry – benefits to working with large companies who have the technological expertise – but venture must be for benefit of community. • Community would look for ways to balance the lifestyle with economic opportunities • “Industry should work for the town, not the town working for industry” • Suggestion that the community begin to enhance and market their assets – sell qualities like safety, lifestyle to others • Community would want a collaborative approach with other towns in the county – desire to bring in opportunities which would benefit all regional residents, not just in one town.
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hutterite Colonies – many in the area which may provide market opportunities for Green Growth Development • Good value, experienced labour force. • Natural assets which could be developed to provide economic returns, e.g. Ridge Park • Major highway - Towns are located on a major highway which enters the United States. • Waste products – could be used to generate power. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that community start soon to market potential to others – necessary to sustain community. • Desire for diversified economic base – do not want to be a one-industry town • Consider the potential for home-based businesses • Community needs to support existing local businesses and support potential growth opportunities. • Alternative energy projects should include investment opportunities for local community members i.e. Ownership of power grid/transmission

	<p>assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to have a regional economic development office to provide leadership and become the focal point for potential opportunities.
<p>Environment and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk River Ridge - treasured, unique natural asset. • Water supply - from the St. Mary's River and an underground aquifer on the Milk River • Beautiful natural landscapes in the area. • Landowners do not always have control - recognition that landowners do not always have the right to control development on their land • Hutterite Colonies - Over 50% of land base of Warner County is owned by Hutterite Colonies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be strategic about where wind turbines are located. • Expand the use of existing parks • Balance between preserving beauty and economic development is important • "Appreciate what we have and sell that to others"
<p>Other Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about different "green" technologies such as ethanol – is it really green and is it economic? • Community requires more information on – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green growth processes – how they work, what are the inputs and waste products from each process? What technologies would work best in this area? • Biodiesel – we hear mixed reports about the technology. What is the real status? • Home use of alternative energy sources – are there any funding programs available? Where can we find additional information? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education needed • SAAEP should hold meetings/workshops with county and town councils throughout area. • How does the community get ready, get specific, and move forward?