

Community Economic Impact Study Discussion

Meeting 2

May 21, 2012

Notes from the World Café Activity

(7 small groups that were all asked to comment on the same three questions)

Question #1

Buffalo County has a declining tax base and population, what are characteristics of the “ideal” business for Buffalo County?

Question #2

People desire to maintain the natural beauty and environment of Buffalo County, how can sand mining fit into that vision?

Question #3

If sand mining is not the economic development business of choice, what business/businesses “fit” into economic development in Buffalo County?

Table 1

Question #1

- Diverse Skills
- “Green” Eco friendly
- Fair # of employees
- Community Friendly
- Supports other local businesses
- Support for the elderly
- Flexibility of changing demographics
- Long Term succession
- Skill “Exchange” programs

Question #2

- Reclamation
- It Can't – Detrimental effects on neighbors
- Green Berms – To obscure vision
- No idea – Need to see what it actually will be like
- It Can't – Need assurance about water effects

Question #3

- Fish Factory
- Community Supported Ag
- Home based business internet (high speed)

Table 2

Question #1

- Grocery Store – Hardware Store
- Provide needed goods & services
- Provide services for local need
- Agri-business need – changes
- *Need good paying jobs – Keep young people here
- Value Added production – don't just buy & selling products – create value added

Questions #2

- Traffic – manage to accept the fact that mining can take place
- Regulations from onset for mining
- Continue conditional use permit – Bonding for reclamation
- We hope to see the finished product (mine) looking OK

Question #3

- Wineries, Wine tasting, Breweries
- Ag production plants (cheese, cereal, poultry, meat, vegetables)
- Light Manufacturing – eg. Electronics, NANO Tech, forestry and wood processing
- Tourism – Recreation, Bait Shop, Canoe/Kayak, Wildlife
- *Health Care

Table 3

Question #1

- Stability
- Stay here long term
- Provide services/products needed in our county not currently available
- Tourist Services
- Higher paying jobs
- Recreational Businesses

Question #2

- *Reroute truck traffic - Alternate routes
- Limit # of mines at one time
- Limit # of trucks
- *Stricter local reclamation requirements

Question #3

- Lower County – Utilize Rail System
- Manufacturing – Ashley Furniture

Table 4

Question #1

- Ag
- Retail – Tourism
- Local Government
- Green Energy
- Higher Pay with benefits
- Chamber at County Level
- Fits Infrastructure & Community Values
- Senior Services

Question #2

- Exceed minimum standards – air & water
- If mining – need strong reclamation plan in place
- If mining – small sites & long term versus large sites & short term
- Stay in Buffalo County
- Try to reduce traffic impact
- Mining companies need to be good neighbors, not just say it
- Continuity of agreements by new companies

Question #3

- Ag (Micro) (Specialty)
- Tourism
- Community Gardens
- Unique Restaurants (Pizza)

Table 5

Question #1

- Ag Based
- Tourism
- Small Business
- Construction
- Internet Based
- Attract Retiring People
- Attract Young People
- Good Child Care
- Business to take advantage of outdoors
- *Green” Business – Stress
- Preservation of historic characteristics
- Fish Processing

Question #2

- Regulations
- *Reclamation (State regulations not strong enough) (Landowners should be reliable for reclamation)
- Replant to original – ie: Trees – shrubs
- Complete process at site

Question #3

- Tourism, Recreation
- Manufacturing

Table 6

Question #1

- Older Population
- Bedroom
- Full-time non seasonal employment
- Environment friendly
- Wage & Benefit Package
- Business to increase tax rate
- Sales Tax

Question #2

- It Can't!
- Strong environmental protection
- Oversight
- Reclamation plans with community involvement and post economic value
- No sand trucking on county roads
- Prioritize permit process
- Limit acres mined, i.e. 25 acres
- Limit number of mines in township too
- May need major changes in **zoning/industrial**
- Good legal advice for county and zoning and landowners

Question #3

- Tourism – Build on land ethic that we have - hunting, cycling, fishing – expand
- Gambling
- Services that cater to retirees – example, resort- restaurants – river tours
(MAKE USE OF THE RIVER)
- Ag – give young people a chance to be involved in Ag
- Internet - Technology

Table 7

Question #1

- Manufacturing - ex: water & sewer lack of
- Eco-type - ex: land
- Tourism

Question #2

- Reclamation – Park and other uses
- More top soil so can continue to Farm
- Zone Frac Mining Areas
- Bike Trails with roads built by sand mines away from main traffic roads

Question #3

- Manufacturing
- Retirement Community/Assisted Living/ Nursing Care
- Sporting Goods
- Organic Foods Coop

Summary statements by each group of what they thought was most important:

- Reclamation of sand mine for park or other uses
- Retirement Community
- Home based internet business
- Need good paying jobs to keep young people
- Tourism – River based
- Look at alternate route for truck traffic
- Strength in Agriculture
- Reclamation – stronger than state, land owner & mining co responsible
- Stress green businesses
- Look at Pepin County plan – limit number of mines & acres
- Services that cater to retirees – River based