

CER Subcommittee Meeting Notes

March 21, 2023

Summary:

Present: Amy, Kara, Zach, Nate, David, Dan McLendon, Rebecca Jones (Beaverhead County)

Notes:

- **Next steps:**
 - Zach and Kara pulled county growth plans and are going to compare and contrast, this will help develop some sort of community outreach or survey
 - Developing survey questions could be something that we do at the workshop in April and also something the LT can help with
- HE, chambers of commerce → ask these experts what community vitality means!
- Connectivity / community intersection → development and population change v important
- **April workshop:**
 - Short intro/presentation on what we are doing under LCD community umbrella
 - Questions for small group discussion, e.g. shopping, transportation
 - HOMEWORK: think up 1-2 survey questions for the workshop, talk about format next meeting
 - HOMEWORK: does anyone have experience in a rural community who can talk about this? Show up and give a quick presentation?
- 13 Ways to Kill A Community → book recommendation from David
- **LT call**
 - Update from Kara on reframing of community feature
 - Feedback from LT on workshop
 - Update on each feature as it relates to community work

March 7, 2023

Summary:

Reviewed a document that Zach and Kara put together, then talked about what CER could look like as “community vitality” and potentially as just a feature that we consider within all of the other features.

Present: Amy, Kara, Zach, Nate, David Callister

Notes:

CER Subcommittee Meeting Notes

- Frame shift = land managers and decision makers will often be using this model, so this feature doesn't have to stand on its own necessarily, but we do need to consider communities' input on it
- Reviewed [document](#) that Kara and Zach put together
- What is the relationship between community vibrance and restoration?
- Next steps/defining the role of this group:
 - Group identifies 3-5 datasets that would fit into each other feature
 - **Group needs to talk to community folks**
 - Check in with other groups about where economic stuff is showing up
- Salmon April HDC workshop can be an opportunity to work on this in person, maybe asking survey questions to the group or doing some sort of activity
- Connectivity is inherently in conflict with community vitality
- CE and maintaining ag land and development tension
 - Planning capacity and thoughtful development
 - Population flux in and out
- Land trust partners?? Can we invite some more of them to be a part of this group?

Next LT meeting: review language change of this group and ask about potentially incorporating community vitality into the other subcommittees. Potentially shift the role of this group towards involving/surveying local community needs and problems.

February 21, 2023

Summary:

Basically, we need to figure out why we need this tool and how this process is going to help us.
Present: Amy, Kara, Zach, Nate Owens

Notes:

- Reviewed [CER sheet](#) from Kara
 - Initial takeaways: distances - how do we measure those? Distance to hospitals, public lands, airports, colleges; also X number of X per community - parks, churches, etc.
 - Diversity of demographics (age breakdown) and diversity of industry
- This stuff is confusing. What Amy needs from the group is to understand A. uses for this data (aka on the ground conservation work, funding, advocacy) and B. how you see CER in this specific region
- Next steps:
 - Articulate the statement of CER/LCD of what we are doing

CER Subcommittee Meeting Notes

- What is the end goal of this product/what will it add? Should we invite community leaders to get input as a next step?

ACTION ITEMS:

- Homework for next week! Zach and Kara will chat about
- [SECAS examples](#)

February 7, 2023

Summary:

Amy gave an overview of LCD, then we discussed the purpose of the CER data and where we should go from here. Ultimately the group decided on a handful of threats and conditions to begin with, and we made a plan to collect some data/do some research before our next call. Present: Megan Lawson (HE), Zach Owen, Rob Thornberry, Kara, Amy and Emily from HRI.

Resources/data:

- <https://headwaterseconomics.org/economic-development/montana-home-construction/>
- <https://www.desegregatect.org/atlas>
- <https://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/wui-development-and-wildfire-costs/>

ACTION ITEMS:

- Kara and Zach will look through some county dev. Plans and figure out which counties have a planner and which counties have growth policies and/or plans
- Amy will dig into other data that can help us understand housing/population dynamics

Discussion Items:

- What does it take for a community to “boom”? Megan → often it is two of the three: airport within 60 minutes, National Park proximity and/or other public lands or wilderness (though protected lands keep people in a place more than less protected public lands), and a college.
- Can we incorporate the “opportunity” component of communities that are already prepared to/are doing some planning and other resilience work?

CER Subcommittee Meeting Notes

- Look at migration of people in and out → communities that are growing, then looking at whether they have a planner or not (could do this on a county level)
- Tensions between development and geographic constraints → how can we spatially quantify this?
- Need to get zoning information on our maps!
- Threats = people and housing (affordability is key piece of this), could look at per capita income and affordable housing, or # of houses built/section (density)

January 24, 2023

Summary:

Amy gave the group a quick refresher on the LCD process, specifically the process of collecting, scoring and creating models out of data layers. Then the group reviewed the CER conceptual model and discussed some data that might be useful moving forward.

[Slides linked here.](#)

ACTION ITEMS:

- This group will meet every other week. Next meeting is **Feb 7th at 10 am.**
- Before our next meeting, **please review this data sheet and add any layers you might have** where they fit. There is also a definition column that we can start to play with.
- **Please reach out to anyone that you have connections to that might be interested in coming to a meeting or providing feedback on our work.**

Comments and big takeaways:

- Headwaters Economics - these guys likely have some overlap with our group. Could we invite one of them to one of our next calls? Amy will work on this
- We should think about historic versus current trends on housing, etc. and how people are moving both in and out
- Ecological Integrity - where does this fit in here? Need to remember to consider this
- Big themes moving forward:
 - Sense of community/quality of life
 - Affordable housing/thoughtful development
 - Diversity of industry

Relevant Resources:

- [Rural Placemaking Toolkit](#)
- [MOU Rural Development and USDA](#)
- [Park County Housing Needs Assessment](#) and [We Will Initiative](#)