**Outlook 2030 Webinar Series:**

**What We Heard**

**Go To**

**beartoothfront.org**

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**Impacts of Growth**

* Rural growth creates stress on services, therefore taxes.
  + Revenues on per acre basis - More dense, in-town development results in far greater revenue per acre than more spread out, out-of-town development
  + Agricultural lands taken out of production: culture, wildlife habitat, commodity production
  + Water quality and quantity impacted
  + Transportation: active transportation is more difficult the more spread out communities become
* Hallmarks of Successful Communities
  + Common understanding of community challenges and opportunities
  + Meaningful engagement by more residents – results in better plans and outcome
  + Widely shared vision for the future
  + Realistic, practical action plans that have buy-in
* Four Keys to Planning for the Future of Red Lodge
  + Think and plan as a region: conserve open space, rangelands, agricultural land, wildlife habitat. (as an example: Gallatin county growth impacts are spilling into other areas)
  + Decide where you want to grow: city and county need to come together to decide
    - Coordinated planning is key: lots of developable land remaining
  + Make it easier to grow in town vs. rural areas: planning coordination (annexation policies) and incentives
  + Create Great Walkable Places
  + Use a variety of housing tools
    - Update RL housing needs assessment
    - Bring in more partners
    - Fund workforce housing committee
    - Community Land Trust
      * Acquire land and own in perpetuity: homeowners limited to ~3% appreciation
    - Opportunity Zone
    - Graduated Impact Fees: each home pays to support water/waste water system, graduated for lower income
    - Short term rentals
  + Airports facilitate growth
  + Economics of smart growth (corralling sprawl)
    - Creating livable affordable healthy communities
    - Support things that make this a great place to live, embrace smart growth and you’ll attract new businesses and people.

**Taxpayer Supported Infrastructure**

* People moving here not ready for all living here entails (winter life, road plowing, ditches thru property, etc..)
* Housing availability is low
* Property tax provides bulk of funding: want to manage but recognize need some growth to generate revenue
* County roads categorized at priority levels 1 – 3. 1=routine blading, gravel, routine snow plowing, 2=some of level 1 services, 3 = virtually no service
  + Seeing more development in cat 3 areas: have to increase service to these area which mean more cost than in the past
* 638 miles of county road in Carbon County (one way trip RL to Denver)
  + Single family residence building permits 150% growth in address 2017-2021
  + Emergency Services
    - Calls for service increasing ~20% annually
      * Motion sensors, temperature, gas/smoke, etc…send info to home owner so when they go off…homeowners call sheriff department. Also may go directly to dispatch
      * Will be tough to manage expectations and comes at cost
        + Emergency responder fatigue: retention and recruitment impacts
    - Growth away from existing communities
      * i.e., Robertson draw = 2 hour roundtrip for ambulance crew
    - special districts and impact fees will become more common

**Housing**

* Affordable housing = spending no more than 30% of income
* Median home sales price increasing by 12% annually in Carbon County
* Land trust model offers a way to keep homes affordable even after initial purchase
* Funding affordable housing can take creative forms
* We can look to other communities for some ideas on affordable housing models

**Community Hydrology: West Bench Aquifer**

* Readily available ground water: quality and quantity
  + Shallow wells
* 84 wells on east/west bench total in 1980
  + 2005 – 2012 19 wells/year
* More than 40 miles of irrigation ditches
* Seepage from irrigation ditches is main source of water April – October
* Land use changes
  + Well water levels consistent over last decade
  + Irrigation most significant land use change to west bench
    - Key to keeping aquifer sustainable
  + Changes to ditches that could impact aquifer
    - Climate change – drought
    - Residential development displacing agriculture
    - Sale of water rights for other uses
    - Ditch lining
    - Changes in points of diversion
  + Securing water for future
    - Secure rights for groundwater recharge
    - Keep agriculture viable…i.e., not compatible with development
    - Monitoring is important
* Water supply good…..for now
  + Ditches key to recharge
* Septic systems designed to deal with bacteria, not household chemicals/pharmaceuticals

**Who Owns the Water?**

* Water rights are complicated and not well understood by average person
* Different rights based on use/method – household, agriculture, well v ditch, etc.
* Biggest issue facing water related issues in next 10-20 years will be transition from irrigation to more domestic uses, smaller parcels that want fish pond or aesthetic uses.

**Greater Yellowstone Assessment: Present and Future**

**Climate Effects on Snowpack and Stream Flow, Upper Yellowstone**

**Watershed**

* 1950 – 2020
  + 2.3 degree temperature increase
  + Decrease in mean annual snowfall of 24” (25% of annual snow pack)
  + Peak stream flow occurring earlier in year by 8 days
  + Slight increase in precipitation
  + Spring = more liquid precip (more rain vs. snow) summer = less precip June - August
* Highest levels of CO2 (415ppm) than any period in last 3.3 million years
* Growing season ~2weeks longer
* Below 8000 ft snowfall has declined by 24” (25%)
* Spring and fall precip has increased but winter and summer have declined.
  + Future
    - Days over 90 degrees: Red Lodge could see 20 days by 2050
    - Red Lodge avg = 3 days over 90 from 1986-2005
    - Runoff: Increases Jan – May
  + Impacts
    - Agriculture
      * Longer growing season
      * Drier summers
      * Change in seasonal water availability
    - Recreation
      * Less reliable snow conditions
      * Lower streamflow and warmer water temps in summer
    - Ecology
      * Increased fire potential
      * Terrestrial and aquatic changes likely