

Growth Policy Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – 10/1/19, 4:00 PM

Attendees: Robin Haidle, John LaBonty, Antoinette Monroe, Daniel Sutley, Kirsten Holland (2nd half), Toby McIntosh

- Recap of Last Meeting
 - Reviewed previous meeting minutes. Generally discussed the primary and secondary employers as well as the business sectors.
- Population
 - Jackola provided a handout of various census data that was reviewed. Data generally followed:
 - population trends for Eureka, Midvale Census Designated Place (CDP), and Lincoln County
 - The Census data is generally level with minor increases and decreases annually since 2010. The group's perception is that North Lincoln County is growing and may not have been counted under Eureka's counts since it was limited to the Town.
 - Committee asked if the Census data accounts for domestic & Canadian visitors? It was asked if the Census counts anyone who owns property? There was a general comment about some property owners with unique living situations where they split their time between Eureka and elsewhere. It was questioned how seasonal versus permanent residents were counted. *Update – See the attached link that discusses how people were counted as part of the last census.*
https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/resid_rules/resid_rules.html
 - Committee pointed out that Lincoln County is over 80% public land and that approximately 75% of the private land is located in North Lincoln County. *Update – According to the Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook, Lincoln County, March 2011, Lincoln County is approximately 3,675 square miles and approximately 90% of the county's total land area is owned and managed by the US Forest Service, the State of Montana, or large private corporations such as Timber Companies.*
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwiyqTC5dHIAhU0HDQIHTy6CHMQFjAAeqQIARAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdnrc.mt.gov%2Fdivisions%2Fcardd%2Fdocs%2Fpublications%2Fruralliving.pdf%2Fat_download%2Ffile&usq=AOvVaw2nU5u4D58y8Ha2LB6Xbqs
 - Committee was curious what the pre-2008 population was. Based on a quick Wikipedia search, the following information was found.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1910	603	—
1920	1,082	79.4%
1930	860	-20.5%
1940	912	6.0%
1950	929	1.9%
1960	1,229	32.3%
1970	1,195	-2.8%
1980	1,119	-6.4%
1990	1,043	-6.8%
2000	1,017	-2.5%
2010	1,037	2.0%
Est. 2016	1,086 ^[3]	4.7%
U.S. Decennial Census ^{[6][7]}		
2015 Estimate ^[8]		

- Committee was curious what the new census data will show. Perception is that the North Lincoln County is growing. Local restaurant indicated that business is up 25% this year and perception based on talking to people is that people are buying, building, growing, etc. Indicated that local bank has more new accounts. This perceived growth is spread across all age groups.
- Committee indicated that Eureka appeals to certain people based on quaint, small town feel.
- Population breakdown by age (Eureka and Midvale CDP)
 - Noted that in Town, the largest percent age ranges were 25-34, 45-54, and 65-71, all at 14% a piece.
- Population breakdown by gender (Eureka and Midvale CDP)
- Population Employment by Industry (Eureka and Midvale CDP)
 - Noted that in 2017 Arts/Entertainment/Recreation/Food Service lead the way at 26%, followed by retail trade at 23%, and Construction at 17%. It was discussed that the sample size was generally small and therefore can be somewhat skewed.
 - It was noted that the data is only as good/comprehensive as what is collected and therefore, this all of the data reviewed is to be used as a general indicator rather than an absolute.
- Income breakdown (Eureka and Midvale CDP)

- Based on 571 total households, the Median income was listed at \$27,042 and the Mean Income \$39,974. Both of which were higher than Midvale, which was \$16,042 and \$20,515 respectively.
 - Poverty Breakdown by Sex, Age (Eureka and Midvale CDP)
 - Reviewed that approximately 35.5% of the Eureka population lives below the poverty line. It was asked what this value equates to?

Update – The census bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who classifies as impoverished. For example, in 2017, the poverty level for a family of 4 was listed as \$25,094 by the Census Bureau.
 - It was discussed that 63% of the Town Population is considered Low to Moderate Income.
 - General discussion items:
 - Curious how the Mountain Trailer Court Annexation impacted population counts. *Update – During the recent wastewater project, it was discussed that 45 service connections were possible in Mountain View. At 2.5 people per household would account for approximately 112 people.*
 - It has been said that Montana’s greatest export is “our children.”
 - Town features/challenges were discussed:
 - If people out of the area want to learn about Eureka, they can find resources through the Chamber of Commerce or Visit MT websites.
 - It was discussed that
- Next Meeting:
 - **Tuesday, November 4th @ 4 PM**