The people of Sanders County received the MEDA Sanders County Resource Team Assessment Report and in two town meetings held on January 21st, one in Noxon and the other in Thompson Falls, the following Main Issues were prioritized. Individuals signed up to serve on working groups to address these issues.

# 1 MAIN ISSUE: COUNTY GROWTH POLICY  19 votes

- Growth Policy which includes a Planning Board
- Educate the public on what it is and what authority it does/does not have
- Educate the public on the necessity of a Growth Policy to obtain grants

Resources and Partners:

- See the Sanders County Resource Team Assessment Report

Timeline: Within two and a half years

# 2 MAIN ISSUE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  15 votes

- Developing sustaining jobs – heavy and light industry, high tech
- Business Attraction
- Diversify industries
- Value added agriculture
- Utilize natural resources but balance responsibly
- Fabricators

Resources and Partners:

- SCCDC
- Private investment
- Entrepreneurs and Mentors
- Form West End Committee

Timeline: Sooner the better

# 3 Tied with Housing and Infrastructure. MAIN ISSUE: HOUSING  13 votes
• All types of housing including
  o Senior
  o Aging in Place
  o Affordable
  o Assisted Living – in every community
  o End of Life

Resources and Partners:

• Sanders County Community Housing (501c3)

Timeline: One – Five Years

# 3 Tied with Housing and Infrastructure. MAIN ISSUE: INFRASTRUCTURE 13 votes

• Water and Sewer – Noxon and Heron, as well as throughout the county
• Broadband
• Roads

Resource and Partners:

• See the Sanders County Resource Team Assessment Report

Timeline: None listed; delay costs more $$$$ 

# 4 MAIN TOPIC: HEALTHCARE – INCLUDES LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE, EMS 10 votes

• Healthcare - Educate on the need to use existing services to sustain what is in place
• Healthcare - Educate on the numbers: in order to expand need to be assured that 16 people per day will use the clinic
• Home healthcare
• Law Enforcement - Response time (40 minutes is too long)
• Law Enforcement – Lack of Availability
• Law Enforcement - Resident Deputy Program
• See Noxon, Heron, Trout Creek below

Resources and Partners:

• Bonner’s General
• See the Sanders County Resource Team Assessment Report
Timeline: yesterday and ongoing

# 5 MAIN TOPIC: TOURISM AND AESTHETIC PRESERVATION  9 votes

- Preserve what we have and yet find a balance to extract natural resources

Resources and Partners:

- Glacier County
- Tour 200
- Chambers
- MDOC Tourism
- Coordinate the entire county
- State preservation office
- Private hospitality

Timeline: None listed

# 6 MAIN ISSUE: EDUCATION  8 votes

- Train High School students so they are trained to enter workforce
- Vocational education opportunities
- Satellite university (i.e., Ravalli County)

Resources and Partners:

- Julie Foster, Ravalli County
- Montana State University

Timeline: Sooner the better

# 7 MAIN ISSUE: WORKFORCE  7 votes

- Retain youth
- Educate on benefits of work to reduce apathy
- Mentorship Program

Resource and Partners:

- Mentors
- See Sanders County Report
- Illinois example (Ken) targets low income counties
- 4-H
Timeline: Start now

NOXON

The people representing Noxon at the town meeting prioritized the projects for Noxon as follows:

1. Economic Development – 7 votes
2. Planning Board to address infrastructure, water and sewer, and broadband – 6 votes
3. Affordable Housing – 5 votes
4. Law Enforcement – Resident Deputy Program – 3 votes

HERON

Residents in Heron voted; three issues tied for first place

1.a Law Enforcement – Resident Deputy
1.b Planning Board (Advisory)
1.c Affordable Senior Housing/Aging in Place

2. Water system

TROUT CREEK

In no particular order, the people of Trout Creek identified the following issues to address:

- Lack of high speed internet service
- Needed improvement to water system

Resources and Partners:

- See the Sanders County Resource Team Assessment Report

Timeline: None listed