

Fairbanks CEDS Community Forum, November 2, 2016

In attendance:

Steve Lundgren

Robert McCoy, UAF

Garry Hutchison

Ryan Binkley

Sabrina Binkley

Cathy Cahill, UAF

Bill Bailey

John Burns

Col. Sean Williams,

Tim Cerney, Fountainhead Development

Tony Johanson

Jim Dodson, FEDC

Kristen Gagne, FEDC

Jeff Stepp, FNSB

Jack Hebert, CCHRC

What are the opportunities? Strengths?

University:

- People
- Training
- Research

Military:

- Growth, construction, aerospace, F-35
- Strategic global position: Arctic, Europe, Asia

- LRDR
- Unmanned aircraft
- Rocket ranges
- Satellite downlinks

Geography:

- Hub for interior
- Transit
- Military
- Intertie with Prudhoe Bay
- Mining
- Tourism
- Ground zero for climate change, lead world in addressing

Tourism

- Winter/aurora
- International
- Outdoor/adventure
- Far inland, but still a "shore excursion" for cruise ships, major cruise destination
- Setting record for cruise boat arrivals
- Capital investment, new ships added
- Talk of Disney cruises coming to AK
- Assets in Denali, benefits Fairbanks
- Kaktovik Polar Bears, driven by fear of bears disappearing
- International airport
- Infrastructure between Anchorage and Fairbanks all benefits Fairbanks

Mining

- Pogo
- Ft. Knox

Oil/gas

- Doyon exploration in Minto flats
- University research role
- Unmanned aircraft role in exploration

Goal 1: Business Retention and Development

Oil and gas

- Value added, use of AK labor
- Foundational for pursuing other opportunities

Cold Climate

- Ice track by Ft. Greeley
- Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)
- Develop technologies in state, not just testing imports
- Culture that is committed to place and finding solutions "commitment to place" --Jack Hebert
- Creation of new materials and techniques for housing
- Developing capacity in-state, so as not to rely on outsiders doing it "for" us
- Department of Energy, Sandia National Lab has Oliktok Point. If you want to come here, work with us
- Outsiders (in oil, research, etc) unaware that talent exists in state
- Village example: outsiders bring "solutions" without consulting the locals who understand region best

In-state innovation: Equipment Source, Inc:

- Custom equipment company, hard to do business with military who needs lowest cost even though products are more reliable and adapted

to AK conditions

- Oil and gas sector uses
- Flameless heater example, room in Seattle simulating -20 conditions
- Expensive place to do business because of labor costs, etc
- Low bid vs. reliable for AK, constant struggle to communicate
- AK businesses to support AK businesses

Growing a business plan for cold-climate tech:

- Creating infrastructure for continuity for cold weather testing. Create conditions for facilitating cold climate testing
- Need for marketing, lack of shared resources and economies of scale to effectively communicate value

Shared marketing of AK Assets

- -Cooperative marketing is the model in tourism, it works. Colorado example of eliminating shared marketing, loss of visits
- -ASMI as other example for fisheries
- -Arctic infrastructure, Navy thinks does not exist, ports, icebreakers

Import substitution

- Fairbanks businesses spending 150M on IT services, 70M outside of Borough
- Buying local results in greater economic impacts

Goal 2: Infrastructure

- Transportation and rail assets
- State financing for big infrastructure

Tech infrastructure:

- Data centers opportunity
- Quintillion, Arctic Fiber

Goal 3: Energy

Fairbanks energy supply

- Need for small LNG pipeline
- Require state financing to make happen
- Refining fuel in state
- Core infrastructure issue for AK and Fairbanks
- Affordable energy infrastructure is always subsidized in state, as in Cook Inlet
- Competition will not solve problem, market is too small, requires policy intervention

Goal 4: Workforce

Early childhood

- Engage kids in STEM early
- Need for the jobs to retain talent
- Train in research, as in use of UAV's in local communities for wildlife monitoring, etc
- Teacher education is big issue, hiring out of state, need to cultivate in-state teachers

Identifying gaps in workforce—where are they?

Workforce link to entrepreneurship:

- Bozeman, MT incubator example—taking university talent into startups

Native Corporations? How to bring into process?

- ASRC collaboration with ACUASI

Goal 5: Community Development

Housing:

- Major need, affordability, quality
- Affordable cost of living overall
- Shortage of housing in Fairbanks
- 4,000 new individuals moving to Fairbanks as part of F-35 squadron

Arts, amenities, cultural:

- How to fund?
- Downtown revitalization, trends of moving to urban centers
- Factor in attracting workers, military families

Overall prosperity:

- Fairbanks needs stronger middle class, higher quality jobs (i.e. mining, oil, construction)
- Regulation is hurting projects, hurts middle class
- Getting parts of state to understand interconnection between regions, economic linkages
- Energy is connecting thread, high costs inhibit business expansion, new retail, new community facilities

Goal Tally:

Business Retention and Development: 6

Infrastructure/Energy combined: 42

Workforce Development: 1
Community Development: 2