

**COMMUNITY WEALTH COLLECTIVE STATEMENT
BAKER CITY, OREGON
March 26, 2010**

What is Community Wealth?

Basic needs are met coupled with a surplus of production. There is a balance of quality of life and economic resources. We find happiness, stability and a sense of security – financially and emotionally. Human capital is realized, we have a healthy environment, and there is room for growth in various ways (not just population). The way people interact and the creation of leaders builds community wealth. There are plentiful natural resources, infrastructure like buildings, parks, educational facilities, and a cultural and arts community. Community wealth means you are staying warm, dry and fed and feeling secure in that. It is the totality of goods, services, and social capital. It is a multi-generational community and the real dollars those people earn and keep in the community. Community wealth doesn't mean big bucks – it means the wealth of the people in the community.

What is the Current Situation?

There is a lacking due to dependence on government programs when we have untapped answers ourselves. Security is dwindling. There is a lack vision and leadership to implement vision. We need improvement in order to avoid deterioration. We are lacking in quality of life and economic resources. So much of our investments are out of the county. People are not spending as much locally and this is hard on local businesses. There is a perception is that we are struggling but not sure we are. This perception is beating us up. The current wealth is not sustainable. People are working more and not getting involved in the community. There is a dichotomy – a split of beautiful space and poor space. This is evident in the schools and events. Yet, most of the people who want jobs are working. We are premier living experience. In many respects we are living the dream.

How Do We Feel About It?

We generally feel isolated, discouraged, and worried about the current state but hopeful that people are starting to realize where we are and want to change. We are fearful of a decline of wealth if steps are not taken to improve wealth. We feel somewhat frustrated because there's a lot of potential but people don't seem to be able to work together but we can persevere. We are heartbroken but engaged because we want future generations to enjoy the wealth like the past. Yet, some of us feel good, even terrific about the current situation and the potential for improvement. We are still off the mark on where we could be, but gatherings like this make us optimistic. We believe that everyone needs to be heard and that now there is a small group running the show and they are not listening nor giving credence to all opinions. There is just too much conflict at all levels. The situation is precarious. We have a strong volunteer base, a healthy natural environment, financial resources but they all seem to be declining. We're not fully utilizing the assets we have. We need to continue turning the light on and bring awareness so not to get discouraged.

What is the Worst Possible Outcome of Building Community Wealth?

Growing too fast causing problems in planning – water, waste, streets, power.

Erosion of lifestyle, crime, destruction of heritage and culture.

Too many people would flock here and the explosive growth would ruin the culture (slums, crime, drugs, poverty, sense of not caring for others).

Uncontrolled growth resulting in inadequate infrastructure, crowded schools, inadequate health care facilities, and loss of heritage.

Growth beyond our resources.

Lose sense of our past and historic feel.

Rapid and top heavy population growth, mixed with greed and self serving interests creating an environment begging for heavy taxation.

Overbuilding and destroying liveability and our rural place. Lack of farm land to feed us. Stresses on infrastructure and our quality of life. Loose friendly atmosphere. Crime increases with gangs. Traffic congestion. Ruined views. Loss of volunteers.

We could lose our sense of community, our identity with people competing for power and a piece of the pie.

The accumulation of wealth will be uneven, resulting in class disparity, envy, jealousy, selfishness and a potential for violence .

We could loose the close-knit community ties and the feeling of safety among our children.

Loose the vision of living the dream.

What is the Best Possible Outcome of Building Community Wealth

Ability to give of our excesses and uplifting others.

Preservation of culture and heritage and the expansion of the arts.

End of the attitude of lack.

We would get to show off our beautiful community to everyone and encourage our loved ones to move here so we can be closer to family.

Jobs, healthy schools with expanded programs, improved infrastructure, healthy commercial district, great healthcare facilities, community college or university, more amenities, more recognition of our heritage.

Set the style for an environment wherein peace and liberty thrives for our families and neighbors.

To build and work together in creating a constant, slow rate of steady growth.

A family oriented community that keeps the dollars in our community.

Cohesive, happy community with a sense of wellbeing and opportunity for a bright future.

We come together as a community to grow, honor our heritage and natural resources, and share the wealth.

Even the poorest have what they need and some of what they deserve.

We will have more jobs, security, stronger programs in schools, and hospitals.

There will be the ability for younger generations to return to Baker with families and earn a decent income.

A solid foundation with stability and room for growth.

Utilize the fullest human resources to create, sustain, and reach the future.

Strong, vibrant, healthy lifestyles. More diverse wealth in the community.

Beautiful city, greenbelts, water, recreation, and culture.

Increased population with children playing in the park, stores full, schools thriving.

Health, happiness and security for all.

Maintaining and protecting our natural environment.

Prosperous cities where people gather to shape and celebrate life.

Improved and increased educational opportunities.

Opportunities abound. Prosperity for all.

Thriving community, relationships, organizations, and businesses.

Happiness, joy and security. A community with a vibrant diversity of people.

Being able to direct our community ourselves and be in control of our community's future.

Growth, wealth, health, safety, stability, fun, enjoyment.

Wonderful family living conditions.

We unite TA DA!

What is the Worst Possible Outcome of Not Building Community Wealth?

Loss of businesses (both private and government) population, and community.

Hungry, destitute, violent, and ignorant people.

Unbalanced wealth in community.

Increased poverty.

Deteriorating infrastructure.

Declining population resulting in loss of schools.

Stagnation, disintegration, depression, alienation, regression, loss of what we have.

We will continue to decline.

We will fail to recognize and utilize all assets.

Our vision of 2030 will be lost.

Abandoned buildings, yards in disrepair, no hope, more crime, abuse and family violence.

Environmental degradation.

Being forced to react.

When we are not wealthy as a community, we are dependent on others. We lose the ability to be proactive decision makers.

Will the last person to leave please turn off the lights!

What Evidence of Richness Do We Have in Our Community?

Prosperity, healthy families, education, business experience, and community involvement.

Appreciation of the physical beauty around us, the arts.

Willingness and desire to help one another when help is needed. Ability to accept help from one another.

Security and safety.

Volunteers accept responsibility and leadership.

Willingness to come together.

Deep heritage.

Natural resources abound.

Timber, land, recreation, mining, wind power, water, people, history of past, churches, schools.

People's love for community.

Land and infrastructure including our beautiful buildings.

Peace and order.

Quality of municipal support and infrastructure.

A warmth of community, a community of artists, a heritage to celebrate, and a cultural environment.

A beautiful physical environment to experience.

Richness in our community, vistas, clean air, land to roam on.

Transportation that is quick and relatively economical.

Fruit for the picking.

Strong education system, diversity of businesses, dedicated volunteer base, abundance of resources.

Turnout for workshops like this. Caring people in community with vision for improvement. A clean and beautiful place.

Friendly people, Heritage museum, Arts, performing and painting, dance, beautiful, historic buildings.

Recognition and pride in successes of community members. Willingness to volunteer and participate.

Many good, kind, caring people. Beautiful natural surroundings. Preserved historic architecture in city core. Health care availability. Agricultural diversity from ranching to farmers' market.

Leo Adler Parkway and museum, HBC strong Main Street and Downtown, Carnegie Library Restoration, YMCA for Youth, Safe Schools and Programs, sports center. Interpretive Center, shopping.

A place where the "I can do it" attitude abounds. Where an accomplishment of great stuff is the norm. A place where you can walk hand in hand without seeing eye to eye.

Pride of our heritage. Core of our treasures (parks and old buildings). Everyone willing to lend a helping hand. Respect for each other.

Young people with children, jobs, community events, thriving town with no empty buildings.

Active arts and culture scene, including the beautiful exhibits and preservation of heritage at the museum. Committed individuals who believe in our community and strive to make it prosperous and beautiful.

Low crime rate. Many amenities such as parks, art projects, concerts, etc. Good streets and sidewalks. Young families.

What Evidence of Richness Do You Have in Your Life?

Happy Loving Family. Happy home Life. Successful business life.

Lack of fear and worry. Contentment. Hope in the future.

Sense of joy of being. I am really grateful for my sense of place, health, love of family, friends and my job. Living with an attitude of gratitude.

The feeling/results of being able to help others accomplish their positive goals.

Food in our tummies, roof over our heads, love in our family, care in our hearts.

Family have helped in volunteer efforts to make things better for those future generations by community involvement.

Friendships and family relationships. Opportunities for pursuing many interests. Rewarding work. Health. Daring to live outloud. Financial security. Living in this community.

Wonderful family, kids, friends.

Close family relationship based on mutual respect. Trust, support.

Health, home, good family, 52 yrs married, pets, enough heat food water, love, friends.

Family, friends, business (successful for the most part). Able to continue living in Baker County.

Healthy family, home in a strong community, career.

Long relaxed sighs.

Happiness, reduced stress. I treat myself and others with respect.

Love, hope, joy, relationships, rewarding work, positive outlook, comfortable home.

People's commitment to success.

Health, happiness excess for others.

Ability to learn new things and experiences, travel.

Children's growth ability to come to agreement as a family.

Security, freedom, and mobility.

Abundance of friends, a sense of celebration and wonder.

My family because I lost one and this makes me treasure the rest even more.

Time to write, too much food, comforts that allow me to get too soft.

Economical house.

Loving Family

Attitudes, Behaviors and Strategies to Achieve Best Possible Outcome

Need to incorporate people not in power.

There is a perception that you can buy everything cheaper elsewhere or online. People get in the habit of thinking that. We all need to spend our money here when we can to build community wealth. It's an opportunity.

We hate rather than utilize people coming from California. I've been to a lot of meetings where input from outsiders is not accepted. This meeting is so diversified. We all want to say something.

County needs a new kind of public relations program – someone who goes out to recruit businesses and services. This might be being done to a certain extent, but not enough. It needs a group that's approved, has leeway within boundaries to get people to come here and look.

We need education and training.

Job opportunities.

Communication – open minded for outside ideas and taking action on those. Inviting participation.

Get everyone going the same direction. Agree with a plan and get going and do it.

Community awareness/vision – implement with dedicated people to form a group.

Those dedicated people need to be a sound voice for the community as a whole and open to compromise – willing to give and take.

Foundation is conflict resolution – we need to bring people together with more respect and work out the conflicts.

We need to look at things in a positive light and not get caught in negativity.

Have clear and small goals – take baby steps.

Just do it!

Sustain inspiration.

Reinforce progress and celebrate.

Continue to work towards changing beliefs and behaviors.

Publish a public annual report by city and have an economic summit.

Inclusion – each one of us inviting someone from the fringe (people who wouldn't normally want to be involved).

Each of us bring this process to our own networks/groups and continue having this conversation and recreate this experience.

Build on what we have – arts community, historic aspects, natural resources.

Create an organized, educated, and informed voice.

Develop a program to produce all the food and energy the community needs.

Develop a community economic vision. Create a plan to implement the vision. Develop leadership that will allow us to implement the plan. Assess our current inventory (assets, resources, etc.).