

**Economic Development  
Strategic Planning**

**Wind River  
Native Advocacy Center**

# Wind River Native Advocacy Center

**Vision: A community engaged in self-determination for education, health, economic development and equality for the Wind River Reservation.**

## **Kick-Off Event**

**Empowering Native Americans in Wyoming**

**Saturday, November 14, 2015**

# Planning Process

## 1. Background review

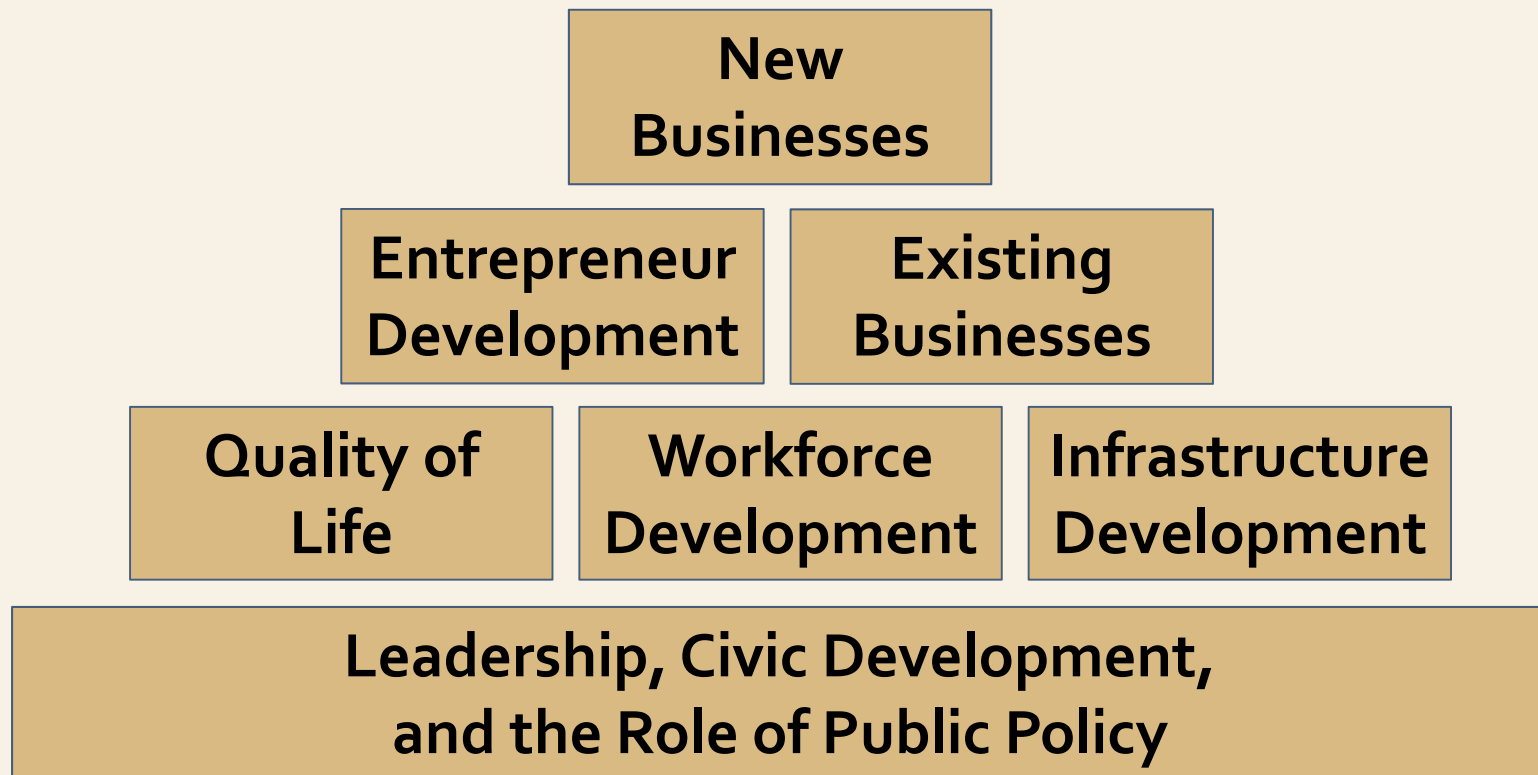
- Met with WRNAC Board
- Consider “best practices” of economic development
- Research local economics and demographics
- Learn more about Native Americans, especially Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho

# Planning Process

## 2. Present initial findings

- Economic Development “building blocks”
- Local demographics and economics
- Difficulty in re-building Native Nations

# Economic Development Building Blocks



# Planning Process

## 3. Listen, learn, and discuss

- About 20 people participated in 2-day planning session
- Reactions to initial findings
- SWOT analysis
- Core values
- Brainstorm projects and action steps

# Planning Process

## 4. Develop Action Plan

- CBI created an economic development action plan for WRNAC
- Feedback was provided by WRNAC
- Focus directed to the foundational building block: Leadership, Civic Development, and the Role of Public Policy

# Leadership, Civic Development, and the Role of Public Policy

- Economic development depends on the desire of local people to improve their economic conditions
- Dissatisfaction with “the way things are” becomes the catalyst for change
- If people agree on the problem, it is easier to gain their long-term support and investment toward a solution
- This is THE core building block of economic development



# Nation Re-building Approach

- Native nations succeed by asserting decision-making power
- Successful nations back up that power with effective governance
- Governing institutions should be culturally appropriate to Tribe
- Decision making must be strategic
- Leadership focus is on building foundations, sustaining development, and enhancing community welfare

# Consensus Direction

- The Tribes' greatest need is the foundational building block
- Must think of economic development as part of a larger effort to rebuild each Tribe as a sovereign nation
- Key focus is to regain and sustain traditional Native American culture and spiritual emphasis

# Solutions

## 1. Strengthen Sovereignty and Tribal Governance

- Provide more opportunities for leadership development
- Modify policies, regulations, and codes
- Seek autonomy from US government (Section 638 and 1115 waivers)
- Encourage civic development among the young people (Gen 8)

# Solutions

## 2. Cultural Relevancy & Community Involvement

- Focus on spirituality, including traditional values and respect
- Preserve language and culture
- Teach young people the Tribal history

# Solutions

## 3. Social Capital

- Create roundtable of leaders to improve communication, leadership and education
- Health Care (Section 638 initiative and Section 1115 waiver)

# Solutions

## 4. Communication

- Develop a positive messaging & marketing plan for WRR
- Create a central data gathering and storage location
- Obtain and provide accurate information on the economy
- Improve communication and transparency with general public

# Solutions

## 5. Economic Development Policy

- Nation re-building
- Conduct target industry study
- Update economic impact analysis
- Create CEDS for each Tribe
- Build support for economic development and growth
- Engage WEDA and WBC
- Enable and support Econ. Dev.

# Key Principles Moving Forward

- Seek projects and programs that help the Tribes move towards increased sovereignty, independence, and self-sufficiency
- Seek projects and programs that lead the Tribes towards strong, responsible, united government
- Seek projects and programs that lead the Tribes toward a strong, healthy tribal community



# Taking Action Now

## Specific Example: Recycling Program

- \$10,000 awarded for staffing
- 12-month program
- Provides a specific project that illustrates how to strengthen the foundational building block
- Inclusive effort that benefits all
- Collaborative effort with other organizations and many people

# Taking Action: Recycling

- Using organizing, advocacy and community education, establish a culture and empower for the means to develop recycling programs by the Wind River Native Advocacy Center on the Wind River Indian Reservation for the benefit of current and future generations.

# Recycling Program Goals

1. Educate members of the Wind River Indian Reservation on "Why it is important to Recycle"
2. Establish a recycling program on the WRIR.
3. Reduce the amount of waste that is recyclable on the WRIR
4. Collaborate with the Northern Arapaho Solid Waste Program

# Recycling Program Goals

5. Collaborate with the Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing and the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Housing Authority, to create a recycling program
6. Eliminate the "junk vehicles" on the reservation
7. Obtain adequate resources that will increase sustainability,

# Recycling Program Goals

8. Increase the economic incentive for disposing of the "junk vehicles" that may cause a hazard to the environment by the fluids that leak.
9. Plant trees that will add balance to nature.

# Other Current Efforts

- Healthcare (Section 638)
- Continue shifting economic development planning from “white man” approach to plan that is more consistent with Tribal values & culture
- Gathering demographic information
- Identification of pro-business policies that strengthen Tribal sovereignty
- Youth leadership (Gen 8)

# All Solutions Need You!

- Continue the discussion with others on WRR
- Support WRNAC's efforts, including Recycling Program
- Learn and educate as much as possible to strengthen Tribal values and culture
- **GET INVOLVED NOW!**

# Questions & Discussion

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