ScSEED Community Forum - Report  
Town Hall, Center Colorado. December 4, 2013

Guests:
Jeff Owsley, Director SBDC  
Tom McCraken, Green Earth Farms  
Bill McClure, Center resident  
Pat Johnson, VISTA Volunteer from Mountain Valley School  
Robin Lewis, VISTA Volunteer from Southwest Conservation Corps  
ScSeed Board

Agenda:
Arrival & Welcome  
Sign in, Gather ScSEED Information, Complete Community Forum Survey  
Powerpoint Presentation  
Introductions, 2013 Project & Activity Review  
Community Input Activity

Survey Responses:
Community: Saguache (3), La Garita (1), Other (2)  
Age: Under 18 (1), 18-25 (1), 36-50 (1), 51-65 (3)

What economic issues are most pressing in your community?
- Jobs
- Self Sufficient Energy
- Low socio-economic status
- No businesses
- Youth development
- Poverty
- Lack of sustainable industries
- Vacant store-fronts
- Unskilled Labor
- Unwilling labor
- No high-speed internet

What economic development opportunities would be most beneficial to your community?
- More buildings for learning  
- Kids art studio  
- Job training  
- Local Food Development  
- Food Hun  
- Farmers Market  
- Commercial Kitchens  
- New Businesses

How can ScSEED best support the opportunities above?
- More public forums  
- Networking events  
- Mini-grants

Community Input Activity:
Attendees were asked to write down any idea they had for a potential economic development project in Saguache County, each on a separate post-it note. Each attendee then had a few minutes to explain their idea and items were grouped by theme. General topic areas included:

Business Development  
Green Energy  
Local Food/Agriculture  
Outdoor Recreation  
Education/Youth  
Development  
Seniors

An over-arching theme also emerged that primarily incorporated marketing of local resources through signage, social media, websites, etc. The full slate of ideas is included on page two.

ScSEED would like to thank all of the attendees who provided these insightful ideas. The Board will continue to gather input, add to, and refine this list in order to prioritize projects and outline goals for the coming year.
ScSEED Community Forum
12/4/2013 – Center Town Hall

- Solar Energy Garden
- Solar Air Heater (Production/Installation)
- Protect Surface Water
- Recycling Center
- Collective farm stand in each town
- Value-Added Product Development
- Farm to Table
- Community Commercial Kitchen
- GMO-free zone Attract organic seed producers
- Hemp
- Poultry Operation uses local Organic Grain
- Mentorship/internships for HS students
- Link schools & students w/ small businesses for learning & career develop.
- Kids Library
- Kids Art Gallery
- Low-Hanging Fruit > -Signage -Website -Social Media -(cheap, widely-used/seen)
- Business Incubation/Acceleration
- Micro Enterprise Movement
- Intra-local Economic Development
- Leading Edge Microlending
- Trade/Barter Systems
- Downtown Revitalization (in Center)
- Utilize new park in Center - Farmers Market on weekend - Craft shows, etc.
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors Group
- Social/Economic Connectors
- Recreational Businesses, Promotion & Events
- Winter Recreation - XC skiing - Hut system
- Natural Death Cremation Outdoors
- Senior Housing
- High Visibility > -signs -websites -apps