

## **Workshop 8: Watrous**

*The following notes were taken during the brainstorming session by all the community leaders represented at the workshop.*

### **Session 1: Attitudes**

#### **Positives Identified For the Area**

- ☞ Transportation networks (Highways, rail, etc.)
- ☞ Many recreation facilities
- ☞ Access to employment (mining, other businesses)
- ☞ Land available (rural and urban)
- ☞ Diversified Agriculture industry
- ☞ Tourism amenities
- ☞ Proximity to Essential Services (Education, Health, Fire, Ambulance, etc.)
- ☞ Clean water
- ☞ Strong community minded people
- ☞ Good road infrastructure to expand on
- ☞ Natural clean, safe environment
- ☞ Clean air
- ☞ Hunting, tourism areas
- ☞ Light industry, manufacturing
- ☞ Bed and Breakfasts
- ☞ Proximity to larger urban centers
- ☞ Willingness to cooperate
- ☞ Pride in our infrastructure
- ☞ Tax incentives (housing, businesses, families, etc.)
- ☞ Good country way of life
- ☞ Good friendly people, sense of community
- ☞ Low cost of living
- ☞ Wide open spaces
- ☞ Central location in SK (Access to south, east, west)
- ☞ Natural resources (potash, parks, etc.)
- ☞ Key Infrastructure (water, power, etc.)
- ☞ Community facilities
- ☞ Low cost land/housing
- ☞ Long term industry established (auto industry, potash, etc.)
- ☞ Sewer, waste management
- ☞ High speed internet in some communities
- ☞ Air service in some communities
- ☞ Low crime rate
- ☞ Education available (youth - adult education)
- ☞ Music/Culture
- ☞ Regional parks, hunting, birding, sports programs
- ☞ Potential to build on existing business base
- ☞ Commercial services (autobody, garages, restaurants, etc.)
- ☞ Senior housing
- ☞ Community colleges
- ☞ Manitou Beach, Parks, Golf courses, camping
- ☞ Regional waste management (cooperation - regional)

- ☞ Tourism (lakes, ice fishing, fishing, etc)
- ☞ Wild life Sanctuary (tourist attraction)
- ☞ Grain elevators and other agriculture amenities
- ☞ New developments: feedlots, orchards, mines
- ☞ Reliability of supply of water
- ☞ Cooperation to share water in rural areas
- ☞ Small communities - people look after one another (security)
- ☞ Easy driving (no rush hour)!!!

### **Goals and Challenges Identified:**

- ☞ Think outside the box
- ☞ Standardize regulations, road maintenance agreements, etc.
- ☞ Work more closely with First Nations (Partnerships)
- ☞ Provide learning opportunities for outsiders
- ☞ Assist existing business to grow by improving transportation
- ☞ Need to ensure that people intending to reside in Saskatchewan have access to our land to start businesses over Alberta people who farm/ranch the land in SK but yet they live in Alberta.
- ☞ Support gun and license changes (more tags) (work with province)
- ☞ Urbans and rurals are benefiting from all development in the area
- ☞ Roads (need upgrading to access rural areas)
- ☞ Cooperating where it makes sense to do so.
- ☞ Recreation/Tourism opportunities (just need to be further development)
- ☞ Views are shifting (no longer individuals - working together in an area/region)
- ☞ Compromises are required when cooperating
- ☞ Willingness to recognize the strengths of past council/admin. (plans made in the past wise, costly decisions)

### **Session 2:**

#### **Sectors of Developments To Target In the Area**

- ☞ Agribusiness
  - More livestock production
  - Feedlots, processing
  - Organic products
  - Ag diversification (Niche market products)
  - Energy products (biodiesel, ethanol)
  - slaughter houses
  - Pelleting plants
  - Promote University Research near by to attract or open high tech. businesses
  - hobby farming (combine on the weekends)
- ☞ Tourism
  - Bed and Breakfasts, Camping, Hunting, etc. (RV market)
  - tour packages, sanctuary, boat tours, fishing
  - Small cottage industry
  - Bed and Breakfasts
  - Accommodation for hunters
  - dinner theaters

- seniors tours
- Tours of elevators
- National horseshoe tournaments
- First Nations Cultural Activities
- Farm tours (where do eggs come from)
- Eco-tourism
- Create new tourism attractions, expand or market existing.
- Hunting/outfitting
- Fishing (fishing tours)
- ☞ Expand the industry surrounding “Healing Waters of Manitou Lake”
  - Training facilities for athletes, health/wellness facility seniors
  - Research for health
  - Retirement opportunities
  - Manitou (services, trail rides, other additions)
- ☞ Small fruit orchards, processing, marketing products
- ☞ Mining sector
- ☞ Service businesses for larger industries