

**Community Economy & Preparing for the Next Boom**  
**Tuesday, August 29, 2006**  
**7:00 am at FEDC office**

Attendees: Brian Rogers, Cassie Pinkel, Jim Dodson, Amy Cook, Damian Thomas, Dan Hoffman, Bernard Gatewood, Jack Wilbur, Pam Throop, Doug Isaacson, Mike Lamb

I. Commenced at 7am by Michael Lamb  
II. A. Reasons for community desirability, places to live, according to Money Magazine:

- Jobs
- Good Schools
- Low crime
- Arts
  - Goods
  - Leisure Scene
- Weather
- Health Care
- No Congestion

B. Q- How does our list jive with Money magazines list?

Jim Dodson – Is this a list of how to get there?

Brian – Arts and Leisure, meaning the recreation here, not some much lower energy cost.

Doug – Employers are having a hard time attracting people. People have to be willing to work.

Brian – We have more openings than available employees.

Jim – TOTE goods diminished into Alaska

Amy – TOTE is usually a good predictor, where there was a 3% increase expected, the TOTE estimate remained flat over 2005.

Brain – Perhaps fuel and gas prices reduced cash flow in the economy.

C. Our List:

1. Low Crime
2. Workforce Development / Good Schools and Voc. Tech.

Jim – Government and the Service industry have been long standing economic bases.

Doug – We need to expand to technology and look at raw material and manufacturing.

Brian – Add tourism and construction

Jim – Costs and exploration

Doug – We need to co-mingle entrepreneurship and venture capitalism through our researchers. Need a core group that creates a % of long-term investments (easier to make short term).

Jim – What the university needs to understand is that they are going to have to focus more on the quality of research and education as the community begins to look more closely at what they are giving back to our community.

Brian – We need to get more entrepreneurs, we have the capital and the labor can be trained.

Doug – We’ve got boot strappers and need to mature the level of entry.

Bernard – What we meant by Work Force Development?

Jim – Preparing for future demands, eg. Baby Boomers aging, need more medical staff.

Brian – Its supply and demand driven. Demand is where the opportunity may be. Supply is the awareness of opportunity.

Pam/Mike – Healthcare is a stand alone industry, maybe subset of service, but it attracts rural people to utilize other stores and services here.

Jim – We’re competing with free medical at the Anchorage Native Hospital. If we’re going to expand, we need to know why government funds Anchorage more than Chief Andrew Isaac.

Doug – Perhaps we should borrow from cities like Seattle in the 60’s by examining what made them become diversified from their singular economy?

Mike – Sometimes it has more to do with the natural environment (gave example of Olympic Peninsula town that went from logging to retirement mecca.)

Doug – Capital attracts synergies of development, we have capital, its just not invested in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Brian – Perhaps we should examine where were job developments during 1996-2006?

Jim – What builds/creates an economy within the city disagrees with Rick Solie: “Fairbanks is perceived as anti-producers.” Instead, what have the producers left in Fairbanks? We have to have industry/community partnerships, same with UAF. We have to concentrate on community building – we can’t just let our raw materials leave without developing them.

Dan – Lack of cheap energy – perhaps it would be better to let procedures max 80% and keep remainder for cheap energy.

Brian – Our tariff will be cheaper with the gas line than FERC. When downtown energy costs were reduced, the economy flourished.

Jim – It all comes down to capital.

Doug – Exactly. Brian Roger’s question has to look at capital: was the development of jobs inter-related or accidental between 1996-2006?

Mike – Natural.

Doug – A lot happens behind the scenes; zoning, land use planning, etc.

Amy – How can we keep students here?

Roger – A large percent of college grads locate within 100 miles of the university. We need a law & medical school.

Jim – A large percent of jobs in Alaska don't require a college degree.

Roger – But many require post-high school work.

Damian – We need to develop our raw materials in-state and don't export out of state. We need to keep all of our developments in Alaska which will lower costs and pump more money into our economy. The Laborer's Hall can train and send out employees on a short notice.

Brian – Let's explore how to develop raw materials and manufacturing.

Mike – Summarizing: Government and Service Sector – we need to responsibly develop raw material manufacturing.

Pam – One question we should answer is, “why are the backhauls empty?”

Jim – Another sector to examine is Government: We haven't even inventoried our trees (resources) so nobody wants to invest in timber infrastructure development.

Mike – What is available?

Jim – Resources include many opportunities for trees, UAF, Chena River, etc. We need to identify what assets represent opportunities.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 7am at FEDC

Topic to study (using 1996-2006):

- Identify changes and causes, whatever those will be drivers of the next decade
- Ideal assets and possible opportunities