**Buffalo County Community Forum on Economic Development**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

**Roger Marten Community Center**

**120 South Franklin Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin**

**Community Input to Visioning Questions Facilitated by Greg Wise**

**Q1:**

**The most important aspect of Buffalo County to preserve as we grow and develop is?**

* Local businesses: grocery, hardware – that are open, cost effective and have a selection
* The ability to attract business to the county.
* Environment
* The people have great musical talents, they need venues to demonstrate these talents
* Broadband for people living here; Can work out of their homes in Buffalo County
* Protect the bluffs and GRR National Scenic Byway
* Good work ethic of people
* Driftless area habitat
* Sparse population
* Small community lifestyle
* Agriculture
* Natural resources
* Agriculture scenarios that are important for economic development
* Peacefulness
* Agriculture
* Bluffs
* Beauty
* Agriculture
* Scenic beauty
* Peace
* Beauty
* Nature
* Preserve agriculture land
* Local jobs to keep people living and working in the same communities
* School quality
* Many of the natural resources may have been squandered, so they need to be restored
* River
* Rural settings
* Hunting land
* Work ethic
* Keep schools going
* Farmland
* Natural resources
* The history is so rich that it needs to be preserved; Each community is unique

**Q2:**

**The most important opportunity for Buffalo County to take advantage of as we grow and develop is?**

* Develop the people that already live here
* Tourism
* Controlled industrial development
* The culture could transform outside this community
* Expand cell coverage to 100% with multiple providers
* Agriculture tourism
* Find a way to keep the kids that grew up here to stay and be employed here
* Develop workforce
* Dairy opportunities for expansion and sustainability
* Beauty of the bluffs, river, and area to attract silent sports – hunting, fishing, kayaking, tourism related to enterprise and business
* Expand fiber broadband from 50% to 100% coverage by area
* Tourism: river/hunting/fishing
* Diverse population
* Attract new business
* Tourism
* Mississippi River
* Sand mines
* Nature
* Educate, inform, young people about benefits in B.C.
* People’s talent
* Bike trail
* The people speak well, are intelligent and have a good work ethic; they need to be developed
* Create jobs to retain youth
* Educated old adults
* Spotty cell coverage
* 50% of county without fiber broadband

**Q3:**

**How would you describe Buffalo County in 20 years if it turned out better than you had even hope for?**

* I never thought they would have their natural resources like that!
* The residents of the county would be thoughtful and would make good decisions about making the area a better society
* Bluffs, river, farms, scenic roads, quaint villages and towns; Peace and quiet; Wow! Still here
* Life is great since we converted to renewable energy sources
* They developed small industry and technological progress attracting a wonderful workforce
* No major changes; Preserve what we have because it will become very rare
* Wow, the population is growing and environmentally sensitive businesses are becoming
* An active community retaining the small town agricultural history with related businesses
* Adverse, balanced population – young to old
* Everyone living in Buffalo County is able to work in Buffalo County and shop close to home
* Vibrant
* People enjoying nature; Jobs supporting a lifestyle that keeps or brings young people here
* A place to visit like no other
* In 20 years Buffalo County would be a fantastic tourist attraction unifying the river, bike trails, hiking paths; With very scenic family farms and a fair number of wineries for tourists to sample
* People can’t wait to move back
* All M.F.L. land goes into public hunting
* Economy is diverse and growing
* A place where young families want to live
* Natural setting + amazing information resources/amenities provide/form a core for work and community
* New businesses while maintaining great schools, small town community feel, and great look of natural beauty