

FORUM INFORMATION

Economic Development

In the past decade the Bad River tribal economy has grown stronger, most dramatically in the past five years, becoming the largest employer in Ashland County. In creating almost 900 FTE/LTE jobs, the tribe increased the average wage, provided increased health care insurance, an employee 401 K plan and maintained substantial employee benefit package. Despite improvements there remains a significant economic gap in benefits between families within the community. Tribal unemployment rates vary between 35% and 60% annually.

US Census 2000 data: Median Income

State of Wisconsin: \$43,791

Town of Sanborn: \$26,711

Ashland County: \$31,682

Bad River Tribe: \$28,760

US Census 2000 data: Households in Poverty

State of Wisconsin: 5.6%

Town of Sanborn: 23.7%

Ashland County: 7.8%

Bad River Tribe: 27%

A recent survey of existing community conditions reported the following perceptions and attitudes among those responding.

Quality of Community Services

Job Opportunities	47 % of respondents were dissatisfied
Growth of Tribal Economy	32% satisfied / 37% dissatisfied
Private non-tribal business relocation	46% were dissatisfied
Area employers to hire tribal members	50% were dissatisfied
Development of tribal business on-res	27% satisfied / 34% dissatisfied
Tribal Businesses off-reservation	20% satisfied / 43% dissatisfied
Extent of economic development	50% were dissatisfied
Tourism related economic development	37% dissatisfied

Summary Statement: In surveys, community members identified the following priorities for economic development, listed in rank order-

- 1. Increasing Tribal income*
- 2. Jobs for tribal members*
- 3. Education scholarships*
- 4. Tribal member per capita payments*
- 5. Increasing Household incomes*

Community Forum
AP- Economic Development

Top 3 Economic Development Issues

1. Increase job opportunities for tribal members
2. Increase Bad River Tribal Government's incomes
3. Increase education/cognitively for tribal members and leaders, becoming more informed

Action plan #1

Increase job opportunities for tribal members

- Develop a tribal credit union
- Continue to advertise employment opportunities in News from the Sloughs
- Develop a small business association on the reservation
- Set up tribal public utilities
- Develop a business / industrial park on the reservation
- Develop a business incubator on the reservation
- Develop a water park
- Increase casino attendance through new games (bingo, etc) and entertainments
- Develop an RV park

Action plan #2

Increase Bad River Tribal Government's incomes

- Taxing utilities for use of tribal land
- Increase casino attendance through new games and entertainments (bingo, etc)
- Have 10 cents from gas tax discount for tribal members go to tribe
- Develop tribally owned propane gas business
- Expand tribal programs to collect and generate additional revenues
- Hire / contract additional grant writers
- Develop a business / industrial park
- Develop tribal enterprises (e.g., movie theater, laundromat, etc)

Action plan #3

Increase education / cognitively for tribal members and leaders, becoming more informed

- Mandatory participation of tribal Council members in forums like this
- Develop Bad River tribal college
- Develop workshops for Tribal Council members, including orientation for new members

Issues

1. Increasing tribal household incomes
2. No tribal direction or leadership for economic development
3. Increase education / cognitively for tribal members and leaders / become better informed
4. Increase job opportunities for tribal members
5. Increase educational scholarships
6. Tribal development of natural resources on the reservation
7. Develop a tribal credit union on the reservation
8. No fostering of staff and community interests in identifying ideas for business development / businesses
9. No office space and buildings for businesses on reservation
10. Increase Bad River Tribe's income
11. Tribal member per capita payments
12. Start up funding assistance for new businesses and inform people about various available funding sources for business
13. Business / industrial park
14. Taxing utilities for use of tribal lands
15. Set up tribal public utilities

PARKS AND RECREATION

A recent survey of existing community conditions reported the following perceptions and attitudes among those responding.

QUALITY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Parks / Playgrounds - 64% of respondents were dissatisfied
 Recreational activities - 48% of respondents were dissatisfied
 Sidewalks & Walking paths - 53% of respondents were dissatisfied

DEVELOPMENT

When asked "Do you favor of development of parks and other recreational facilities?"

Response: 92% Yes 9% No

When asked, "What kind of development would you like to see encouraged?"

Response;

Sports Fields 52% *	ATV trails 31%
Playgrounds 77% *	Skateboard Park 30%
Picnic areas 68% *	Snowmobile trails 28%
X- C ski trails 15%	Lake & river access 55% *
RV Park 24%	Campgrounds 55% *

Residents were dissatisfied with availability of playground spaces, lack of river and lake accesses, and poor conditions at Madigan area. The only community recreational area receiving high marks were the Bad River Old Pow Wow grounds.

Summary statement:

The community lacks adequate open spaces, neighborhood recreational areas and safe, family-oriented park and picnic areas.

Reservation Population

1990 US Census: 890 individuals.

2000 US Census: 1,411 (37 % increase) *Median age @ 28 years of age*

2000 Population demographics

Ages 14 and under = 33.4 %	Ages 15 to 24 = 14 %
Ages 25 to 54 = 38.8 %	Ages 55 and over = 13.7 %

2002 BIA Labor Force Report	TOTAL RESIDENT / SERVICE POPULATION	<u>1,795</u>
2003 Reservation population	(Estimated)	<u>1,895</u>
2004 BIA Labor Force Report	TOTAL RESIDENT / SERVICE POPULATION	<u>2,343</u>
AGES 16 AND UNDER	485 (21 %)	
AGES 16 TO 64	1,701 (73 %)	
AGE 65 AND OVER	157 (7 %)	

A recent survey asked residents;

"How satisfied are you with the increase in the reservation population?"

VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED
4 %	14 %	33 %	30 %	7 %

Summary statement:

The Bad River community population continues to increase in number with the largest population segment being ages 24 and under. Population growth will increase demand in employment, housing, infrastructure and community services. There is a tension in the community between those who have stayed and those members who are returning.

Public Safety & Emergency & Disaster Preparations

A recent survey of existing community conditions reported the following perceptions and attitudes among those responding:

How willing are you to help the Police / Tribe to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood?

Very Willing	Willing	Neutral	Unwilling	Very Unwilling
34%	53%	13%	0%	0%

Do you know or have your heard of your neighborhood police officer? 56% YES 41% NO

Overall, how do you rate the quality of each of the following community services?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
POLICE	6%	40%	27%	21%	4%
FIRE	6%	31%	42%	15%	4%
AMBULANCE	6%	29%	38%	18%	4%
ANIMAL CONTROL	0%	20%	23%	31%	24%

How safe would you feel walking alone during the day?

	Very Safe	Safe	Neutral	Unsafe	Very Unsafe
In your neighborhood	45%	37%	4%	7%	3%
Other reservation areas	12%	39%	22%	15%	4%

How safe would you feel walking alone at night?

	Very Safe	Safe	Neutral	Unsafe	Very Unsafe
In your neighborhood	31%	33%	12%	16%	5%
Other reservation areas	6%	24%	29%	29%	9%

Are you prepared to sustain yourself for 72 hours after a major disaster? 52% YES 44% NO

If no, do you know what to do to get prepared? 51% YES 49% NO

Are you trained in CPR or First Aid? 57% YES 43% NO If yes, which?

Both CPR & First Aid- 65% CPR only- 16% First Aid only- 19%

How concerned are you about Terrorism and Bio-Terrorism issues impacting the Reservation?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Sure	Unconcerned
20%	36%	30%	16%

EDUCATION

The Bad River Tribe subsidizes the range of educational services beginning with Head Start and libraries to higher education and Ojibwa language classes. The presence of a tribal library and tribal college is a quality of life element for the community. The Bad River Tribe places a high value on higher educational outcomes with yearly subsidies averaging over \$60,000, supplementing other educational grants received. The Tribe has invested \$2,000,000 in alternative education costs since 1995. The Miskiiziibii Alternative Tribal School is fully supported by the Tribe at an average yearly cost of \$175,000. The Tribe recently constructed the present 3,000 sq ft school facility. The Education Department is one of the largest in the tribal organization.

Recent issues include:

- * Continued growth in the tribal economy, service organizations and enterprises will require greater technical skills and educational training in its workforce to maintain quality improvements.
- * In Ashland School District the academic performance of Native American students falls significantly below those of non-minority students while its truancy rate is among the highest in the state.
- * ASD and Bad River Ed. propose the creation of a Charter School for Bad River in the next academic school year.
- * The Bad River tribal youth and young adults, ages 24 and under, constitute almost 40% of the reservation population.
- * The Bad River reservation will provide the majority of the areas local workers & workforce for the regional economy extending into the next decade.

Community workforce characteristics ages 25 and above:

3% no HS diploma	33% High school diploma or GED
31% HS diploma & some college	19% Associate Degree
19% Bachelors Degree	8% Technical College Degree
5% Professional Degree	

A recent survey asked how satisfied were residents with "Job Opportunities"

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
2%	17%	33%	25%	22%

Summary statement

Rising educational costs, organizational training needs, increased demand for critical thinking skills and technical experience and our surging youth population will increase demand for scholarship subsidies and educational funds in the next five years.

HEALTH

Improved health care is both a priority and quality of life element for the Bad River Tribe with the creation of the Health and Wellness Clinic. The Tribe is a self-insured employer offering expanded health benefits to all employees. The Tribe contributes annual subsidies to the health care service providers and projected shortfalls in Contract Health Service funding levels. Other positive outcomes include the addition of a Clinic Physician, recent success securing two preventative health grants, Adult Diabetes grant and Youth Diabetes grant. The proposed development for a Health Business Plan will continue the progress and improvement.

Future Issues include:

- Health care costs rising at four times the rate of inflation.
- Increasing demand and costs for non-emergency medical transportation services for clients and patients.
- Tribal members are experiencing systemic problems related to Diabetes.
- Health care professionals are needed to meet the increasing demands, in particular dental care and clinic laboratory services as well as other preventative disease services.
- Medicare premiums for doctors will rise 17% next year as well as an increase in non-hospital costs.
- Recent studies indicate that significant numbers of our youth are affected by obesity-related problems.
- The annual number of patients and number of patient visits to the Clinic continue to increase.
- A number of community members have minimal if any health insurance coverage.

Summary statement

Health care services need to generate additional revenues to expand capacity and increase services, to expand levels of staff expertise and improve its present system of medical transportation services.

Housing and Residential Growth

A recent survey of existing community conditions reported the following perceptions and attitudes among those responding.

Overall, how do you rate the livability or quality of life in your neighborhood?

Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
13%	51%	15%	13%	1%

Overall, how do you rate the livability or the quality of life in the reservation?

Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
2%	35%	28%	27%	1%

QUALITY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES (IN GENERAL)

Housing availability -52% of respondents were dissatisfied
 Housing Inspections -34% of respondents were dissatisfied
 Housing development -45% of respondents were dissatisfied

However, when asked

"In general, how do you rate your neighborhood in the following categories?"

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
Housing affordability	12%	43%	30%	5%	1%
Physical condition of housing	8%	38%	21%	26%	2%
Closeness of parks or open spaces	3%	27%	19%	32%	12%
Walking distance to Bus stops	11%	43%	28%	16%	3%
Access to shopping and other services	6%	33%	16%	29%	11%

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

When asked, "Do you favor additional growth within the Bad River reservation?"

Response: 87% Yes 11% No

"If yes, what kinds of growth would you like to see encouraged?"

Response:

Single family residential 72 %	Low Income Housing 60%
Multi-Family residential 44 %	Mobile Home Park 28 %
Multi-Family duplexes 21 %	Seasonal / Recreational homes 17 %
Condominiums 16 %	Senior Housing 49 %

Summary statement:

There is a desire and need for additional, affordable housing primarily for single-family residential, low-income families and senior citizens. Also, the tribe has numerous lease requests and received additional inquiries as to available lease sites or land.

Transportation

Bad River Community residents depend on the transportation facilities in their community to connect them to other areas of the community, state, nation and world. There is a significant relationship between transportation, land use planning and economic development.

Transportation planning includes the following elements:

Roads, Tribal Transit System, Vehicle Licensing & Registration, Railroads, Bicycle trails, Pedestrians & walking trails, X-Country ski trails, Snowmobile trails, Trucking, Paratransit, Air transportation, Water transportation

A recent survey of existing community conditions reported the following perceptions and attitudes among those responding:

“Overall, how do you rate the quality of each of the following community services?”

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>
Tribal Transit System	9%	45%	33%	8%	2%
Traffic Management-Safety	1%	30%	46%	12%	4%
Traffic Management- Congestion	2%	31%	51%	8%	2%
Street Conditions	1%	31%	30%	25%	9%
Snow removal	8%	40%	23%	24%	4%
Street Lighting	3%	31%	22%	30%	10%
Sidewalks & Walking paths	0%	19%	18%	31%	22%

Development and implementation of both specialized and employment based transportation services are provided through diverse tribal departments. They include; Head Start, Elderly & Aged, Social Services, Health Department, Tribal Roads, Tribal Transit System and Education departments. (Casino not included)

In 2003, it is estimated that these services combined provided over 70,000 passenger trips per year. Projected ridership in 2005 is estimated at over 75,000 passenger trips. The cost of the tribal fleet inventory estimated value is \$2 million while annual insurance, fuel, operational and maintenance costs, exceed \$600,000 per year.

Recent issues include:

- Mobility and accessibility barriers affect over 7% of community members, primarily the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Increased demand for tribal transportation services and resulting expansion in operational, maintenance and fuel costs of fleet services.
- Agreement for technical assistance to conduct comprehensive Tribal passenger transportation and economic impact study.
- Over 80% of community residents lack access to public (non-tribal) transit.
- Approximately 12% of Bad River households lack any private means of transportation.
- Tribal Transportation Planning Committee, representing local government entities from the Town of Sanborn, Ashland County and Bad River Tribe proposed consolidation of transportation services and transportation administrator.
- Access management (roads & driveways) will be a recurring problem, impacting issues of safety, speed and capacity and more importantly issues of land use management. As the number of access point's rise, traffic mobility decreases.
- The fuel, maintenance and insurance cost necessary for private vehicles remains prohibitive to a significant population of low and very low-income families. Working poverty-level families are similarly constrained but with greater perceived need.

Summary statement:

Transportation is a critical and vital part of the Bad River community service platforms, requiring an improved process to work together to achieve more cost-effective service delivery, increased capacity to meet unmet needs, improve quality of service, and service configurations which are easily understood and accessible to riders.

Environment

The continued protection and utilization of tribal rights of sovereignty and self-determination are key elements to achieve and maintain a high quality of life. Among the tribe's significant assets and resources are its political status, cultural identity, legal rights and unique opportunities for economic development.

Greater demands have been placed on the environment with the community growth in population and expansion of tribal economy may cause difficulty in maintaining a balance between being earth-centered and people-centered philosophies. Traditionally minded tribal settlements are faced with non-traditional problems such as poor water quality systems, ageing housing, rising utility rates, deteriorating private sewer systems, and lack of roads or access to utilities. More traditional problems such as funding shortfalls and resource allocations continue as well as potential conflicts over tribal codes and ordinances, water-borne contaminants, exercise of jurisdictional authority and resource management.

The tribe recently adopted the Integrated Resource Management Plan, which is the first step in comprehensive land use planning. This successful first step was matched with the recovery and acquisition of 23,000 acres within the reservation boundaries, the largest single land purchase in the history of the state of Wisconsin.

Issues include:

- Implementation procedures required by the IRMP.
- Proposed creation of a Tribal Sanitary District within the boundaries of the reservation.
- Township and county desire local zoning controls and local land division controls to be strengthened.
- Wild rice beds are under-utilized and declining.
- Aesthetic quality of drinking water in Diaperville community
- Lack of tribal regulatory control over privately owned waste treatment systems. (POWTS)
- Lack of tribal zoning control & sub-division controls.
- TAS; Treatment As State status for air and water quality codes

Summary statement:

The balance between environmental preservation, traditional culture, available resources, abilities and economic outcomes combines to create a dynamic living entity, subject to changes and opportunities. It requires a comprehensive, organizational process in which the community is empowered and participates fully in the process.