

Kenai Peninsula Community Forum, October 21, 2016

In attendance:

Johnna Beech, KCCVC

Dan Grimes, Central Emergency Services

Shannon Davis, Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Committee

Ricky Geese, Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Tim Dillon, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

Keith Baxter, Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Committee

Paul Ostrander, Kenai Peninsula Borough

Sean Dusek, Kenai Peninsula School District

Pegge Erkeneff Kenai Peninsula School District

Jim Hunt, City of Seward

Stephanie Queen, City of Soldotna

Joseph Thornton, Kenai Peninsula Campus

1. Business Retention, Development, and Diversification

- Impediments—small business and regulation, especially at federal level
- Retention of business,
 - Thanking businesses for their role
 - Buy local campaigns needed
 - Legacy planning for retiring business owners a major need
- Development-what opportunities?
 - Technology and internet
 - Collaboration among retailers,
 - Selling online, threat of amazon
 - Education base for new technology, leverage tech
 - Market place hub concept for local businesses to sell online through Amazon, Ebay or other
 - Disruptive technology, such as energy and nuclear tech, 3D printing
 - Shared services, co-location, coworking spaces

- Tourism
 - Public private partnership for tourism marketing,
 - State working with tourism association,
 - Tourism improvement district, create pool of money to use for marketing —self imposed tax
- Other
 - Economic powerhouses of ANCs and tribal organizations
 - Internships, industry alignment with workforce, entry level—use partnerships
 - Workforce development, education, talk to youth about their interests, align K-12 with job readiness, vocational skills

“We export money, oil, fish, and our kids!”

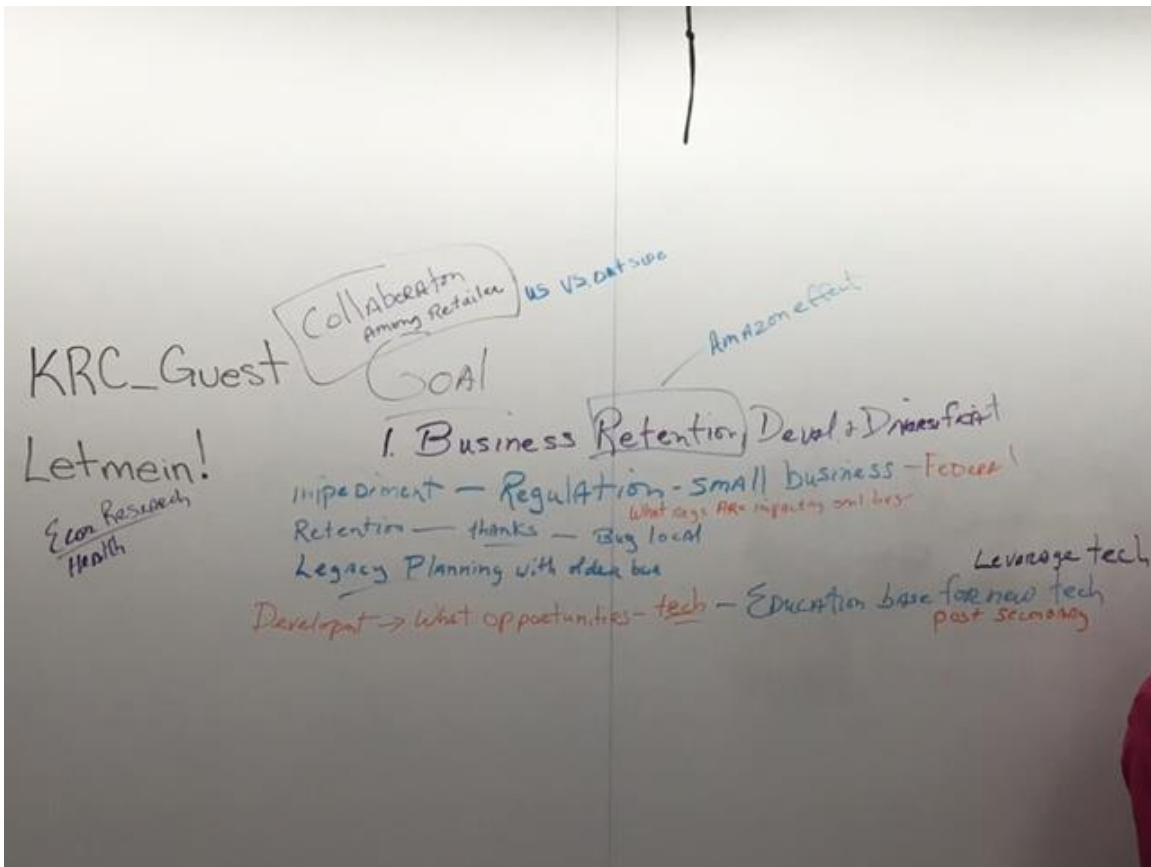


Figure 1: Business Retention and Development

2. Infrastructure/Energy

- Basic Safety
 - Feel safe,
 - Public services,
 - Emergency services
- Outdoor access—fishing, hunting, trails, ski trails. Outdoor amenities are biggest draw
- Statewide need
 - diverse, vast needs in statewide infrastructure, how to address in statewide way?
 - Lack of cell service prevents people from moving to AK
 - Health care costs
- Energy
 - Energy is biggest need in AK,
 - Rural areas and power costs
 - Inhibits commercial development
 - Data centers as opportunity area
- Infrastructure Finance
 - Dependable mechanism for infrastructure financing and maintenance
 - Need to fund a sustainable budget for capital AND operating expenses

3. Workforce Development

- Brain drain
 - Attract our kids back!
 - Focus on success of kids who stayed
 - Can't control whether they come back, but can enhance attractiveness of place

- Skilled trades, apprenticeship programs and skilled trades, apprenticeships under-prescribed
- Education
 - K-12 need to emphasize vocations
 - Unions are keepers of internships, key players
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - hard to meet metrics, disadvantaged communities, etc.
- Aging of population,
 - Utilize the retirement workforce, part time positions
 - Attracting retirees to Kenai Peninsula live to take advantage of quality of life
- Worker attraction
 - retirees, independent worker attraction, millennials—hard to target all of them simultaneously

Problem keeping/attracting millennials, young people want experiences, hard to experience the world without leaving

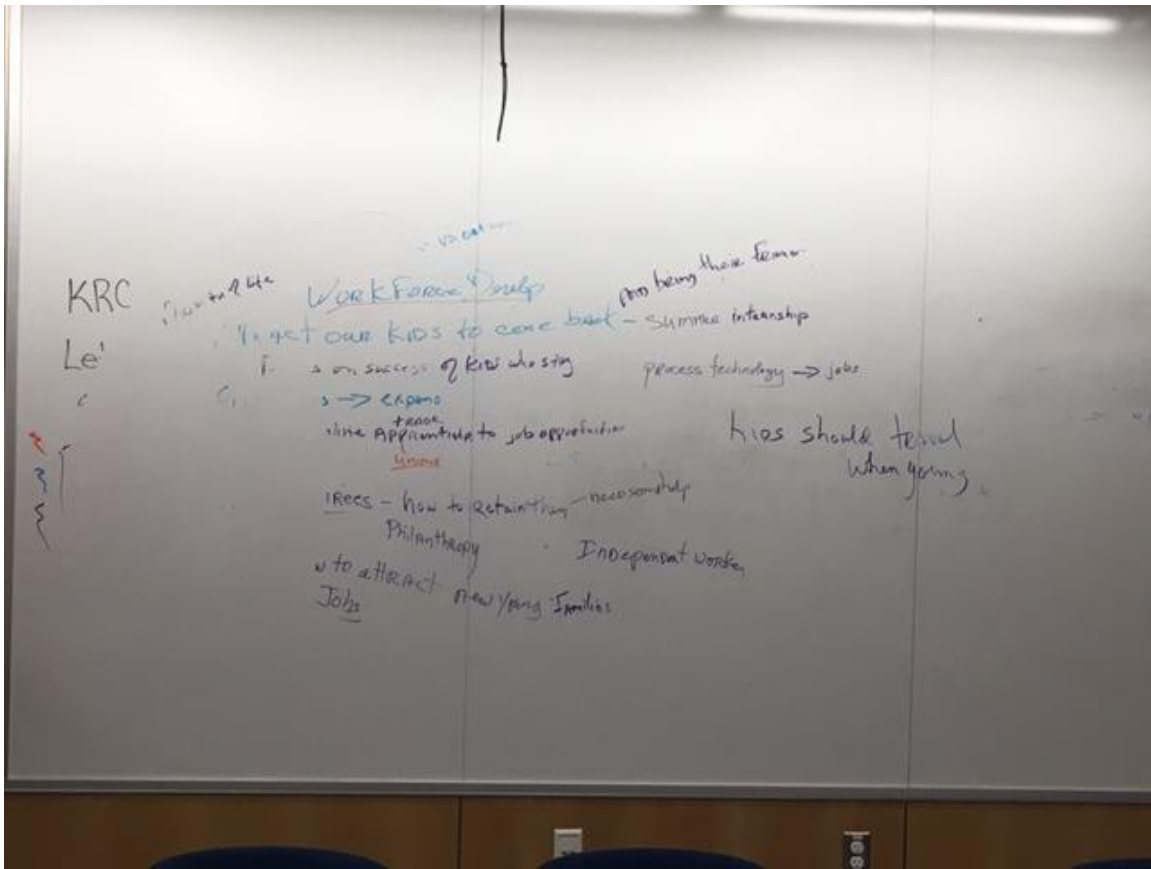


Figure 2: Workforce Development

4. Community development

- Health care access, health care costs
- Quality of life
- Disparity between attracting millennials and retirees

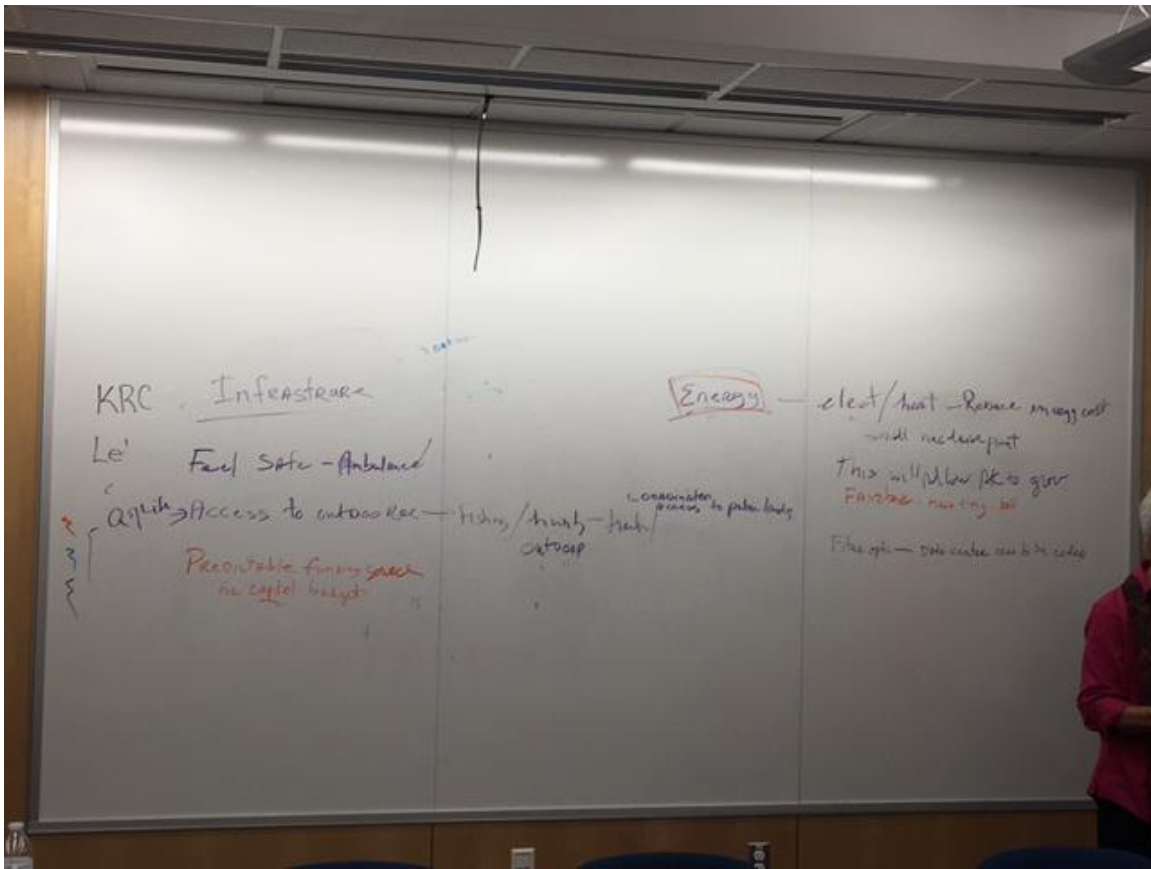


Figure 3: Infrastructure and Energy

Final Tally:
Business Retention and Development: 5
Infrastructure: 8
Energy: 10
Workforce Development: 14
Community Development: 14