

Community Revitalization

Housing Washington Conference

October 6, 2015

- What is the Idaho Rural Partnership?
- What are community reviews and why are Idaho communities requesting them?
- What are we learning about community revitalization?

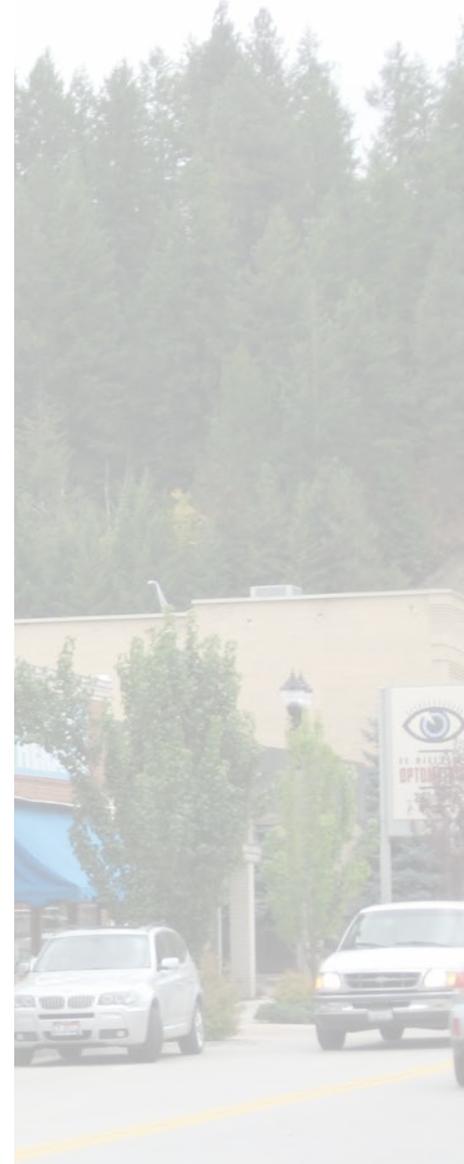
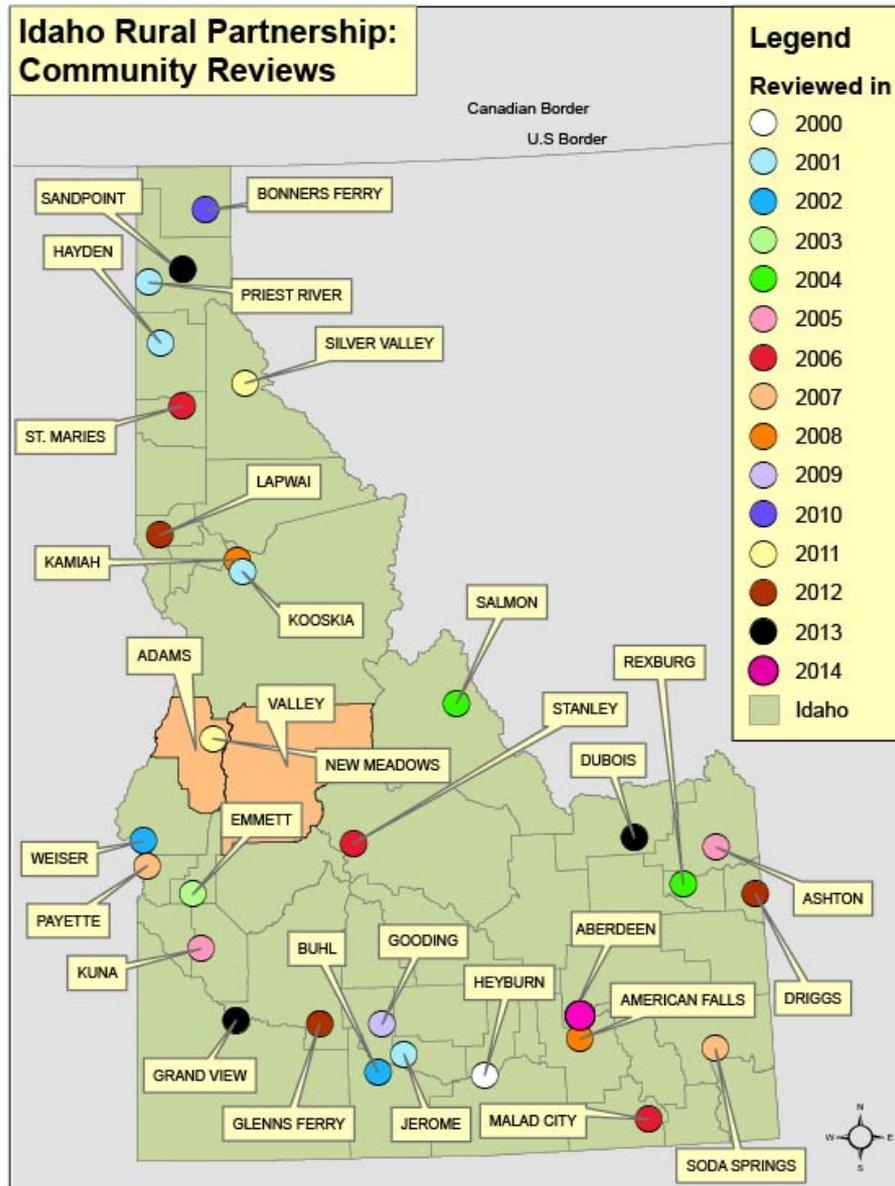
Idaho Rural Partnership mission

“The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.”

- 36 member board comprised of state and federal agency representatives, legislators, nonprofit and academic leaders, and private sector partners
- Nonpartisan
- Key words: facilitate, coordinate, collaborate

IRP's community review program

- 36 community reviews conducted since 2000.
- Revolve around 3 focus areas
- Conducting three community reviews per year. Applications accepted each spring.
- Requires courage and significant community commitment.
- Forum for open communication
- Communities use value of community as third-party validation and local match
- Relationship and momentum-building opportunities
- Identify challenges and solutions around which a large number of people agree
- Resource matching



Map by Christine Schuette
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major partners

- Idaho Department of Commerce
- Idaho Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- USDA Rural Development
- University of Idaho Extension
- Idaho Housing and Finance Association
- U.S. Federal Highway Administration
- Idaho Transportation Department
- Association of Idaho Cities
- Region IV Development Association
- Idaho National Laboratory
- Monsanto
- Elwood Staffing
- Idaho Chapter of American Planning Association

community review elements

Role and importance of home and visiting teams



community review elements

- Survey
- Home team training
- Orientation and background information



community review elements

Meals



community review elements

Community meetings



community review elements

Community listening sessions



community review elements

Focus area meetings and site visits



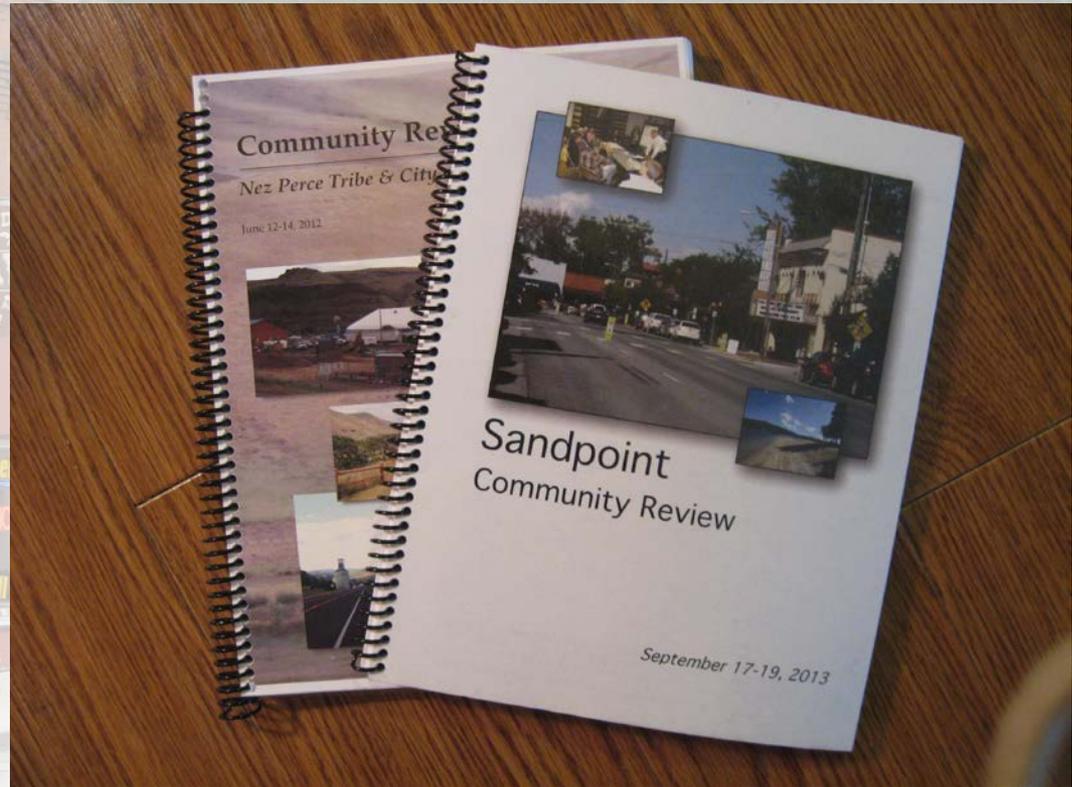
community review elements

Presentation development



community review elements

- Written report
- Follow-up



“We’re teaching young people how to get a job. We need to reach them how to create a job.”

—Glenns Ferry business owner



What are the factors that allow some communities to celebrate more success than others?

1. Focus on creating the civic infrastructure needed to build physical infrastructure and new economic opportunities.
2. Start now. Stop hoping someone or something will come to save your community.

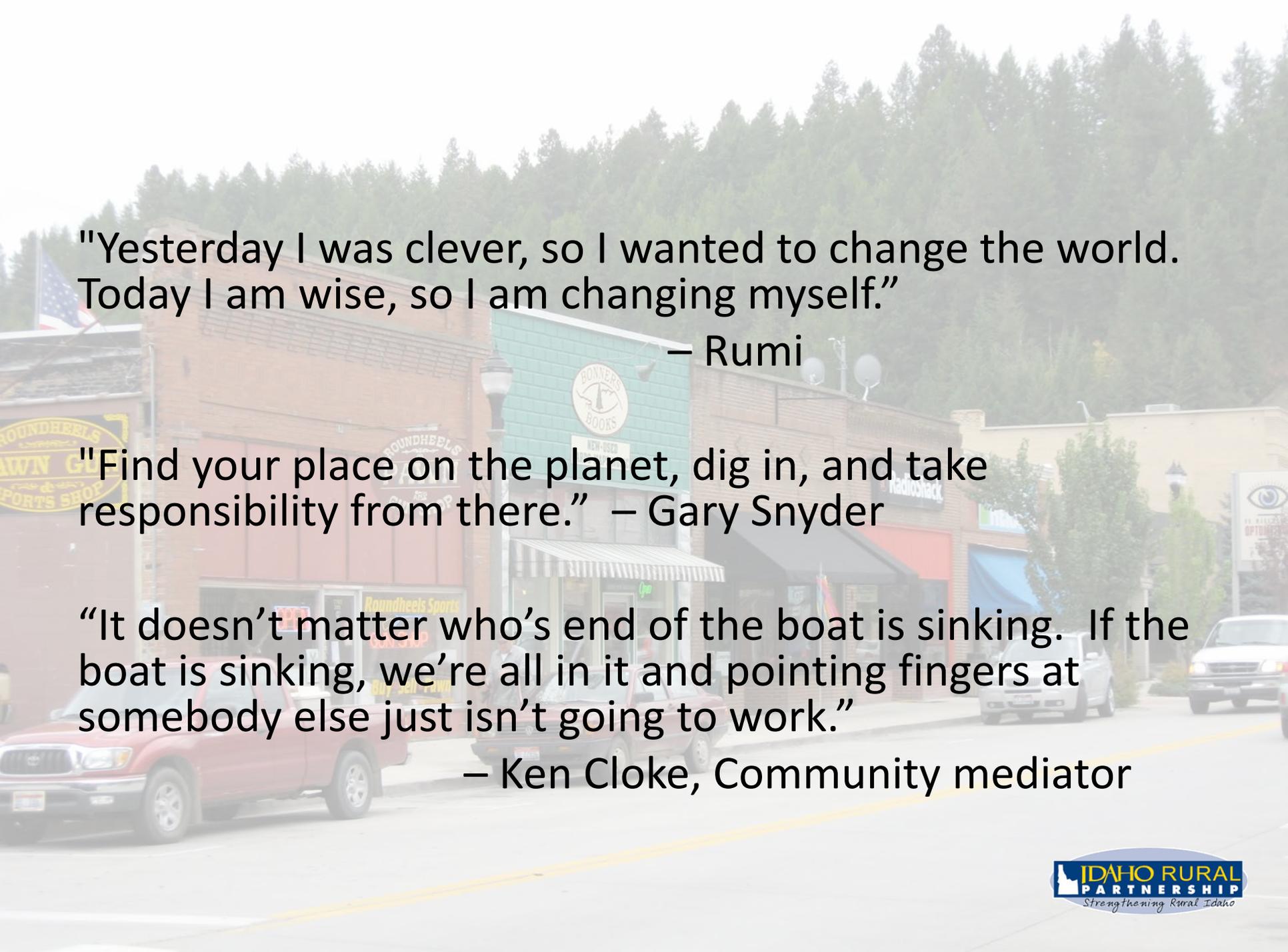
3. Be welcoming, inclusive, and participatory

“They’re not really interested in listening to what we have to say. I mean, people could be home washing dishes or something.”

– Julia in Moscow, ID

Can I get a volunteer?

- Ask for a specific time commitment
- Give them opportunities to lead and be creative
- Ask them if they need support
- Appreciate them
- Feed them



"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

– Rumi

"Find your place on the planet, dig in, and take
responsibility from there." – Gary Snyder

"It doesn't matter who's end of the boat is sinking. If the
boat is sinking, we're all in it and pointing fingers at
somebody else just isn't going to work."

– Ken Cloke, Community mediator

Thank you!

Jon Barrett

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Idaho Rural Partnership

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