

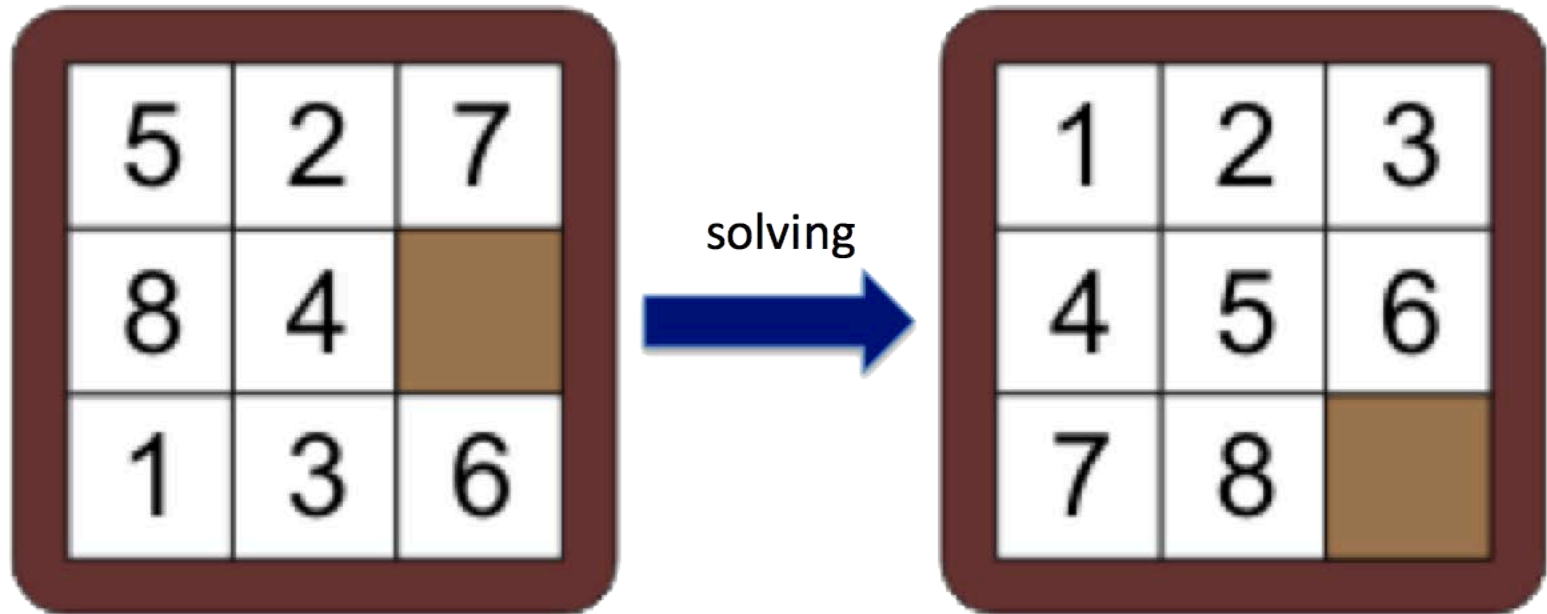
The Role of Elected Officials in Economic Development

Changing from
passive/reactive to proactive

Session Purposes

- To understand how elected officials fit in with economic development;
- Community business people and general community members understand what to expect from their elected members
- Consolidate information for interactive reference

Change one thing...



General Functions of Elected Officials

- Represent
- Regulate
- Allocate
- Sustainicate – no longer just a caretaker

What is Sustainability?

- The most commonly accepted definition of sustainability, as defined by the Brundtland Commission (1987) is: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Your Essential Role - Overseer

- Does not mean you do everything
- You do ensure things get done
- Use the resources given to you...human, financial, organizational, information
- Get the resources you need...
- Be a resource to the Ec Dev program

Knowledge - Your First Responsibility

- Knowledge of your community
- Knowledge of yourself

What do you have to work with?

- Where are you in relation to everything else?
- Demographics
- Labour force characteristics
- Land base
- Planning capacity
- Infrastructure?
- Net member equity

Community Needs

- Community direction
- Demographics
- Infrastructure
- Services

Economic Vision and Goals

- Starting point for drafting economic development plan
- Big fish in a small pond – regional player
- Big fish in a big pond – own the region
- Keep what you have – already balanced

Your place in the marketplace or, your community as a business

- What do you supply to the region?
- What do you supply more broadly?
- What does the region need?
- What does your community need?
- What does your community supply to itself
- Where does your money come from and go?

Your Inventory

Your community profiles:

- Social
- Economic Base
- Environmental Features
- Skills, knowledge, affiliations,
- Your own profile:

Your Policy Framework

- Land use policy
- Land use plan
- Environmental policy
- Waste management – 3Rs?
- Infrastructure plan
- Portfolio Investment policy

Bylaws, regulations, procedures

- Privacy and confidentiality
- Project management
- Use of equipment and staff
- Financial authority levels
- WHMIS, OHS
- Conduct of Band business

Who do you know?

- Government agencies
- NGOs
- Business leaders – local, regional
- Financiers
- Consultants
- Social programmers
- Influential and knowledgeable people

Connectivity – Your second responsibility

- A constant process, not an event or series of events
- Ensures that you and your community are moving in concert
- Keeps business and other partners on-side and interested

Action – Your third responsibility

- Define goals and strategies – resource use
- Define specific info needs – research non-current data, feasibilities, land use, scale, public, private
- Define starting point – start digging, capacity-building, infrastructure
- Implementation– operational planning, staffing, logistics
- Oversight – Feasibility study, Business Plan, Reporting Framework, Balance Sheet

Growing What You Have

- Access to capital
- Advisory services
- Inclusion in community policy framework
- Inclusion in community programming
- Advocacy/boosterism
- Promotion

Treat businesses as businesses

- Ensure enterprises are appropriately staffed
- Ensure enterprise management and support have adequate skillsets
- Donated capital is not operational money
- Support management by being informed
- Do not politicize enterprises