

# Appendix H: Participant Survey Results

PERFORMED VIA SURVEY MONKEY (22 RESPONSES RECEIVED)

## 1. How did you hear about this event? Please check all that apply.

Email	4
Newspaper	1
Letter of Invitation	9
Other	6

Comments:

*Sara came to us with information and we received invitations. Could not check more than one.*

## 2. What did you hope to get out of the CIRD workshop?

*As a non-profit, I hoped to learn more about being able to move the community forward through the efforts of a community foundation*

## 3. Please rate how well the workshop achieved the following goals:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
A. Educated people about local design issues	0	1	9	12
B. Provided tools, resources, and useful information	0	2	9	11
C. Helped the community develop prioritized ideas for action	1	1	6	14

Comments:

A. *Some of the speakers fit better with much larger communities.*

*Some examples were for larger communities. That could help stretch your vision though.*

*The examples that other towns have done was good. Speaker Ed McMahon was very good.*

B. *Some of the information was for larger populated towns. It might have been advantageous for the speakers to at least drive through the towns represented prior to the workshop.*

*Could have not had the person talking about loans for homeowners. That was not something that was pertinent to our community.*

C. *Each community developed and prioritized specific projects for their town.*

**4. Please rate the quality of the workshop for:**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
A. Interactive Sessions (Small Working Group Activities; Small Group Discussions, etc.)	0	0	9	12
B. Unstructured networking and socializing	1	5	9	7
C. Visual quality of the Speakers' presentations	0	0	10	12
D. Speakers' knowledge of their subject matter	0	0	3	19
E. Familiarity of the presenters and speakers with the design challenges facing the community	1	5	9	7
F. Relevance of the workshop topics to local design challenges	1	3	12	6
G. Usefulness of the tools and approaches presented	0	5	7	10
H. Refreshments and Facilities	0	1	6	15
I. Workshop organization	0	3	4	13
J. How would you rate your overall experience during this workshop? Please check one	0	3	5	14

**Comments:**

A. *The Saturday location was kind of loud. The metal building reverberated the sound. Beautiful location though.*

*There was an intent to mix communities on Saturday. Working with the community members was useful.*

*With a couple of group activities we worked with members of other towns, offering opportunities to share ideas.*

*Other than Saturday. That got very long and not helpful in the afternoon.*

B. *Able to talk with other communities about what has worked in their community and how it worked.*

*Not enough time to speak to other groups.*

C. *The speakers overall were very good. The FmHA speakers could have been better. They pretty much read their slides.*

D. *I think the speakers were very knowledgeable about their subject, but I do not think that some of the speakers were appropriate for small town organizations which I thought was the primary target for the project.*

*Again - some of what was presented did not pertain to very small towns so even though the speakers were knowledgeable about their subject matter some of it was not applicable.*

*All the speakers had a good knowledge of their subject matter.*

*I thought Ed was a very good speaker, the Friday morning session was good, I didn't get much out of the afternoon session. Wasn't able to attend Saturday.*

- E. *Again - Some didn't seem to understand we were dealing with some towns of less than 1,000*

*They could generalize their knowledge to our specific needs.*

*Not sure if all the speakers were familiar with all the towns that were represented (if they had been in all the towns).*

*The goal of the workshop, as I understood it, (and the grant that funded it) was to focus on rural communities surrounding a medium sized metropolitan city. The out-of-state speakers focused primarily on large cities and didn't really address the Lancaster County situation.*

- F. *Some of the things presented were not applicable to towns as small as ours.*

*We can all apply topics to our particular needs.*

*Would have been useful if the speakers had toured all the towns and then offered comments or suggestions for improvements.*

- G. *We came away with some good tools for moving forward.*

*Some economic development is more important to survival more than festival planning.*

*It was a very worthwhile workshop.*

- H. *All three facilities were top notch.*

*Well done. Great variety of venues.*

*All three facilities were good!*

- I. *Very well organized. The food was good and having it available took the stress out of having to figure out meals etc.*

*Friday was a full day for everyone.*

*Sara did a great job!*

*There is a lot of information presented in a very short time period. Sometimes, there was not much time for questions. Maybe extend the workshop by an additional half day for more discussion and questions.*

*It was a grueling pace Friday. It was a lot to ask of volunteers from the community. The mentioned they were tired but enjoyed the overall experience.*

- J. *Great Job!!*

*I hope our community can benefit from our suggestions.*

*The Waverly folks really enjoyed participating in the workshop.*

*I think it would be useful for the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Dept to have an follow-up annual update, only one day in length. it should focus on our rural communities and interaction with county departments and officials that could help us.*

*It identified areas of concentration for our City.*

**5. With regard to the course design do you wish there was more, less or the same amount of:**

	More	Less	Same
Presentations	1	6	15
Questions and Answers	8	0	14
Group Discussions	7	1	14
Team Work Sessions	4	1	17
Practical Exercises	4	1	17
Site Visits	7	1	11

*Comments:*

*I think the national speakers would have been more in tune with what Lancaster County towns are dealing with if they have toured the actual towns.*

*Maybe needed more talk of funding for projects.*

*Time was limited to do much differently.*

*I'm not sure I understand what is meant by "Site Visits".*

*Unsure of site visits and what that means.*

**6. What was the most valuable part of the workshop for you? (Please list one or two and note reasons why.)**

*Listening to the speakers and becoming motivated to try new ideas.*

*Team work sessions - prioritizing Ideas of thinking "outside the box" Networking with other Lancaster County towns.*

*Understanding importance of prioritization, getting others to buy in or being a champion. So that you as a City have a foundation to get these done.*

*Community stories - most instructive, relevant*

*Ed's opening presentation was a great starter. Cynthia's "Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper" was practical considerations rather than more expensive options.*

*Workshops that allowed us to define objectives so we can implement them and examples provided through speakers stimulated the creativity.*

*Examples of what has worked in other communities and the reality that it would work in our town and discussion of how to make it work in our town.*

*Exposure to new ideas and concepts. Getting to know community resources. Getting to know other cities and their people and issues.*

*I learned that you can do little things in the community to make it better. Also, I learned that even towns smaller than Waverly can afford Economic Development directors.*

*The SOAR exercise was good. Wish we had a little more time with it. I was not able to attend on Saturday so maybe the Saturday session built on the SOAR exercise. It generated some ideas. The*

*keynote speaker had some good ideas but it was too long. He needed to use about one-third that he had so that he could focus on the key "take home" points. We didn't need to see pictures of 20 MacDonald restaurants to get the point of uniqueness. The Wilber lady was very entertaining.*

*Working with community and board members*

*SOAR Team Work sessions. They allowed our group to communicate our goals and aspirations and actions.*

*Cynthia's presentations were great. Seeing pictures of before and after jobs was helpful.*

*Discussions of our town's character. We need to know what to brand.*

*Opportunity to hear from well qualified consultants at a very reasonable cost! Facilitated small group discussions to start to develop plans.*

*Ed's presentation was interesting.*

## **7. What was the least valuable part?**

*Short breaks; 15 minute breaks instead of 5 minutes.*

*Presentations using larger towns as examples - ie, franchise restaurants etc. That is never going to happen in our small town.*

*1. Loud room on Saturday. 2. Sandwiches for lunch Saturday. (just my own preference)*

*The loan information from USDA as have heard it before.*

*Friday afternoon need-based grant presentations were for someone other than community volunteers. Group time needed more focus so discussion leaders shaped similar outcomes for all groups.*

*The presentation from the organization on the second day that didn't provide services to Lancaster County.*

*Can't think of anything.*

*Had a presentation from SENDD that does not apply to Lancaster County. Why?*

*None*

*I didn't get much out of Ms. Nikitin or Mr. Nelson - again because they didn't relate to small town Nebraska.*

*the speaker that was there and no one could join his "group" because Lancaster county was not a part of it. Did think we needed to watch utube video either. a link would have been all we needed especially since this was a very long day*

*The abundance of presentations and information.*

*Listening about private house loans. Not sure how I would be able to convey that information to potential residents.*

*presentations that focused on cities with large populations and federally funded projects*

*These workshops really aren't very relevant for a village the size of Denton. We don't have the resources (people or money) to do much zoning &/or planning. The citizens don't want to think about either until their neighbor moves in a goat or wants to live in a motorhome in the driveway.*

### **8. What were the most significant learning outcomes for you from the workshop?**

*The power of 10. Finding ways to expand upon current activities. Collaboration between our communities. Low cost, low risk and high impact ideas to implement immediate results.*

*Several priorities we can work on right away and get the public and local government engaged together.*

*1. The ideas for developing a community center. 2. What other towns do for community betterment.*

*The idea to do things to improve the image of your city, but find those that don't cost a lot of money.*

*Real world solutions are being implemented in Nebraska communities*

*Good interaction between elected, hired, and commission volunteers to learn issues and interests.*

*Learning about possibilities through other presentations and towns.*

*We had a fantastic representation of people from our community and everyone is so excited about our community and wanting to help out. We have some low hanging fruit that we can successfully accomplish.*

*New enthusiasm within the community members that attended. New ideas to take back to our community.*

*There is money available from the Department of Agriculture to fund projects and make the community a better place to live. Pick one or two projects and complete them well and then move on to the next project.*

*The focus on space and thinking about available assets and opportunities.*

*Design standards and asking for different commercial options in design.*

*The simple ways that minor improvements could be made to make an impact.*

*there are resources available to support projects, human and financial*

*Discovery of the common issues in the small communities surrounding Lincoln. We can learn from each other.*

*Regardless of population, most villages & towns have the same challenges. Want to grow & have more business.*

### **9. Are there any topics or issues you wish had been addressed at this time?**

*There was a lot of valuable information provided. I think that if you would try to add anything else you would have needed more time.*

*Issues specific to towns of less than 1,000.*

*Funding options for community development.*

No.

*Preservation and restoration vs. TIF. Not all old structures are suited to historic preservation and restoration.*

*More on funding avenues and grants*

*Funding and resources that are available to help communities with their priority(s)*

No

None

*The idea of collaboration between communities was a good topic but that presentation did not help me in that regard at all. The presentation by the Lancaster Planning Dept was good but it needed to go further with discussion on possible interaction and how the Dept can help our rural communities.*

No

*how to save dollars and still improve the town's quality of life. how to collaborate with others to purchase equipment, services, consultation, etc. waste disposal options instead of burning organics recycling options fund raising for town projects*

*A specific plan to follow up, work together, hold each other accountable to implement some of the good ideas we talked about.*

**10. Were there any topics or issues you wish were not part of the workshop?**

No

*The USDA and SENDD presentations could have been given in brochure form with contact information. It didn't seem necessary to take time to talk about each USDA funding option and SENDD does not service Lancaster County for most things.*

*All topics were pertinent. Again great job. Thank you for all your efforts.*

No

No

No

No

No

None

*The Economic Development session was interesting but our communities are large enough to have an economic development director,*

*SEDD*

**11. Which of the following categories characterize your role(s) in the community? Please check all that apply.**

Local Government	12	
Business/Private Sector	3	
Non-profit	4	
Service Club or organization	1	
Residential	4	
Other	1	(education)