Negotiating Community Benefits Agreements
Lessons learned from a rural mining community

Jackson Rose
Earth Sciences Department
Montana State University
December 4, 2023
Quick Roadmap

What role do CBAs play in the context of mining projects?

What challenges do communities face in pursuing a CBA?

Takeaways and lessons learned from Meagher County
Community Benefits Agreements & Mining Projects

- Similar to other industrial developments, CBAs are employed in the context of mining developments to ensure host communities recognize both short- and long-term benefits from new projects.

- Given the well-chronicled risks that face mining communities, i.e., the classic ‘boom-bust’ mining town, CBAs are an increasingly popular mechanism to support communities and help developers secure a Social License to Operate.
Challenges

• Capacity mismatch
• Varying priorities
• Uncertain project timelines
Lessons learned from Meagher County
Establishing an Advisory Board

Meagher County Stewardship Council

OUR MISSION

The Meagher County Stewardship Council shepherds efforts to safeguard and enhance the natural resources, culture, and economic interests of Meagher County for the benefit of current and future generations.
Building Capacity

- Educate
  - About the project
- Engage
  - With peer communities
- Support
  - Technical assistance and training
Engagement and Education
Peer-to-peer Learning
Providing Technical Assistance
CBA Negotiations

- Have a shared understanding of the regulatory landscape
- Rely on best practices seen in other agreements
1. Community Benefit Agreements and Funds: A Summary of Key Literature and Case Studies

2. Peer-to-peer workshop in White Sulphur Springs, MT