

**We are excited to let you know about the progress of the North Fork Vision 2020 project.**

Whether you are young or old, a businessperson, a farmer, a coal miner or a nonprofit organizer, the Heart & Soul process is about you and the place where you live. You probably heard that the North Fork Valley received a \$100,000 grant to continue to work on a project to help position the North Fork Valley for a future that inspires the best in our community.

Since the beginning of this year, we have been building a good foundation for a 2-year process intended to unlock the potential of our Valley. We wanted to let you know what has been going on behind the scenes.

- An essential part of working in our community will be forming a Community Advisory Team that represents all facets of the North Fork Valley community. Team members provide leadership, legitimacy, skills, energy, sweat, and time. They put the “local” in a local project, and as teammates they pull in the same direction toward concrete accomplishments. If you are interested in joining the Team, please respond to this email. On March 5th at 6:30PM at Memorial Hall, we will have our first Community Advisory Team gathering.
- We are excited about partnering with Delta County Economic Development, the three North Fork towns, and the Chambers of Commerce and the Orton Family Foundation and to share the tools and resources from the project.
- After a search of the North Fork area, a selection team representing the Valley hired a part-time Project Coordinator to keep us on track. We welcome Alexis Halbert who has been in the North Fork Valley for several years, is the President of the Paonia Chamber of Commerce and brings us expertise in project management, organizing and community development. Alexis will be working with Sally Kane and Elaine Brett. Sally is a well-known Crawford resident who grew up in Paonia and is an expert in leading organizations and in community facilitation. Elaine is a Hotchkiss “newcomer” of 8 years who has worked on promoting Food and Ag projects in the Valley and is business consultant and facilitator in organizations all over the world.
- At the end of February, Alexis, Sally and Elaine will meet with representatives from other Heart & Soul communities (including Essex Junction VT, Gardiner ME, Polson, MT and Cortez, CO) at a training meeting where we will begin to learn from each other.
- Together we will be designing a plan that will help guide us for the next 2 years and involve all facets of our community.

So please work with us as we build. Stay tuned, we are also planning a community “kick-off” in April.

In the meantime, please let us know: “What are the best ways we can get information out to you and all others in the North Fork Valley?” Tell us at [northforkvision2020@gmail.com](mailto:northforkvision2020@gmail.com).

Thanks in advance for your interest in building a stronger community.  
Alexis, Sally & Elaine