

## MINUTES

### LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MONTHLY MEETING

**FEBRUARY 12, 2014 @ 1:30 P.M.**  
**PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, ARCADIA**

**Members Present:** Connie Barnes and Bob Delanoy (Gilmore Twp), Al Taylor (Onkama) Bruce Wildie (Honor), John Iacoangeli (B&R), Charles Beale (Blaine), Ted Wood (Joyfield) Sharron May (Crystal Lake Twp) and Monica Schultz (Crystal Lake Township) via conference call.

#### Handling incoming comments

- John Iacoangeli distributed a hand out "Post Intergovernmental Review Process". (Attached)
- B&R will assemble all comments into one PDF. It will be sent to Planning Commission prior to next month's meeting (first week in March) and posted on the L2L website. Suggestion to provide bullet points at the beginning of the PDF as guidance.
- The County's authority is to determine whether the individual plans are consistent or inconsistent with the county plan in an advisory role only.
- If your Planning Commission disagrees with the recommendation of a surrounding community, a rationale should be given
- Public comments do not have to be addressed individually. However, all comments that are not integrated into the plan should be included in the index with an overall response provided.
- A common mistake: confusing the Future Land Use Map (a vision for the future) with the zoning map (a regulatory tool).

#### Suggested Timeline

- March-April – review comments, take action or provide rationale.
- April-May – advertise for Public Hearing.
- B&R will be attending a few of the Public Hearings.
- To save money, if the communities can identify when they are going to have their Public Hearing, B&R can publish a community notice multiple times.
- Communities with **active** websites must also post notices on their websites

#### Approval Process

- The legislative body doesn't have to approve unless they specifically asked for that in the beginning and had been involved throughout the process.

#### Other Topics of Discussion

- Suggestion to add key priorities of those L2L communities that already have a Master Plan.
- As an indirect result of their Master Plan, Arcadia received a Coastal Zone Grant!
- It would be nice to know how many hits each Master Plan is getting on the L2L site.
- Questions regarding how County should be handling comments. Iacoangeli explained that typically the county would overlay the Future Land Use Map with theirs to see if there are any inconsistencies; or look at Future Land Use Map and Master Plan for inconsistencies. Grand Traverse County was used as example: They acknowledged the sovereignty of the townships. They took the key priorities for all the townships and put together broad policy statements. Their Master Plan is only 35 pages long. Instead of a Future Land Use Map they did "Growth and Investment Areas" for Commercial, Residential and Industrial growth. Iacoangeli recommended John Sych, Grand Traverse County Planning Director as a

resource.

- Suggested meeting topic: How do we move forward working with the county? Invite Nina Bondarenko and Don Tanner.

### Food & Farm Network Summit Recap – Sharron May

- See attached report about opportunities, resources and Food Hub progress in the region next door.
- Questions: How do we access or complement what is already available? Is there a role L2L can play to help convene farmers and make them aware of these opportunities? What is happening with the Agriculture subcommittee and grant funding?

### Other Topics: DNR Funding for Projects

- Bob Delanoy commented on the DNR's efforts to 'remake itself': a new website with sidebar for different interests; 5 or more press releases a week; and that they seem to be giving away funding for trails. He gave an example of upgrades to a campground in the Kaleva/Brethren area. "Why not us? We have a wildlife area in Gilmore crying to be enhanced ... if only for a parking lot. " He asked how the L2L region might access some of this funding.
- Al Taylor responded that Tim Ervin has been working on a lot of recreation and access-oriented projects; that Arcadia is putting in a kayak launch.
- Taylor acknowledged that Onekama has 100- acre wetlands and that 'access to water trails is big'. Short grant deadlines were cited as an issue.

### Updates on Projects – Everyone

- **Onekama (Al Taylor)** started the review process. M-22 Project: NWMCOG and MDOT are meeting with the group.
- **Crystal Lake Township** – We are working on some top zoning priorities and discussing how to handle public comments at our next meeting.
- **Frankfort** (read by Monica) – they are working on Zoning Ordinance amendments and now have a Medical Marijuana and Alternative Energy ordinance. They have formed a DDA and are excited about the M-22 Corridor project - "Go Al!" (Taylor)

### Review of Action Items/Suggested Agenda Items for March Meeting

- **Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12 @ 1:30PM same location**
- **Agenda topics:** How to move forward with working with the County. Discussion of whether to ask Pat Storrer to present her capstone project – a spreadsheet for categorizing public comments. It was determined that this may not be an issue. So far, we are not seeing volumes of comments coming in.

Lakes to Land Regional Initiative

**POST INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

**FEBRUARY 2014**

1. The Inter-Governmental review process ends February 23, 2014. Comments should be directed to Leah DuMouchel at Beckett& Raeder for compilation since some of the reviews will not be community specific but encompass all of the communities requesting the review.

**MARCH 2014**

2. Beckett & Raeder will compile all of the reviews, e-mails, and letters received and provide these to the Planning Commissions prior to the March 2014 Lakes to Land leadership team meeting.
3. How should the Planning Commissions handle the review comments?
  - a. Review comments from a County Planning Commission focus on consistency of the community master plan with the County Master Plan. So, the master plan will either be consistent or inconsistent with the County Plan. The County Planning Commission comments are advisory only.

**MARCH and/or APRIL 2014**

- b. Review comments from other agencies and surrounding local units of government.
  - i). The Planning Commission can change the plan as a result of the comment.
  - ii). The Planning Commission can state a reason(s) why the plan should not be changed based on a comment.

*A representative from B&R will attend the PC meeting where the final comments / revisions will be discussed.*

*The comments received and the PC response will be incorporated in the Appendix of the Plan. Revisions to the plan based on PC action will be made in the master plan. The revised master plan will be used as the public review document for the Public Hearing.*

**APRIL and/or MAY 2014**

1. Schedule the public hearing date for late May or June 2014. PC needs to approve a resolution by majority vote establishing the date and time for the public hearing. *A copy of the approved resolution will be incorporated into the appendices of the report.*

**JUNE and/or JULY 2014**

1. Conduct the Public Hearing. *A representative from B&R will attend the public hearing.*
2. Based on the results of the Public Hearing process the Planning Commission can make revisions to the master plan or state their reasons why they are not making revisions.

*The comments received and the PC response will be incorporated in the Appendix of the Plan. Revisions to the plan based on PC action will be made in the master plan.*

**JUNE, JULY and/or AUGUST 2014**

1. The Planning Commission, by resolution, votes to adopt the plan. *A representative from B&R will attend the meeting.*
2. Once adopted, the Planning Commission shall formally submit the plan to their legislative body (Board of Trustees, Village Council, City Commission, etc.)

*Beckett & Raeder will provide templates of the resolution to establish the public hearing and resolution to adopt the plan.*

**Food & Farm Network Summit  
& Small Farm Conference  
By Sharron May**

**Food & Farming Network** - A forum for the region's food and farming interests to link up and advance their work. **Goal:** The region's food and farming systems will provide 20% of our region's food by 2020.

**Projects**

1. **Get Farming/Keep Farming** Workshops, training, networking.
2. **Farm Succession program:** 40% of Michigan farmers are over the age of 65 and less than half intend to pass on the farm as a unit to an heir. Meanwhile new and beginning farmers are challenged by the high cost of agricultural land. Discussions for the development of a FarmLink website to connect these two groups.
3. **Safe Food Risk Assessment** – small farm, scale-appropriate, voluntary food safety education and certification program.
4. **Seeds and Rootstocks** – preserving regional bio-diversity
5. **Scaling Up** – Infrastructure needs and product branding
6. **Farmer Residency** – helping new and young farmers gain experience and access to land and funding.
7. **Farm To School, Double Up Food Bucks, 10 cents a Meal** – programs for increasing access to local food
8. **Regional Food Hub**

**Background Info on Regional Food Hub**

A 2007 plan prepared by the Michigan SBTDC under a MDARD grant to the Traverse Bay EDC. The project has expanded into a regional food hub that would develop, promote and expand direct market and employment opportunities for farmers and agri-food businesses through value-added processing, packaging, refrigerator and freezer storage and specialty food kitchen incubator equipment.

**Objectives:**

1. Help farmers meet increasing consumer demand for direct market produce through farmer's markets, restaurants, institutions and other avenues.
2. Increase availability of local food year round.
3. Increase number of value-added Ag ventures through small scale processing and marketing channels
4. Increase access of fresh food to low income and underserved residents.

Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network: <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/activities/food-hub-network>

**PDF: Zoning Lessons Learned Regarding Food Hubs**

<http://foodsystems.msu.edu/uploads/file/resources/fh-zoning.pdf>

**Food & Farm Network Summit Updates:**

**Marketing Support**

- Taste the Local Difference Smart Phone App; new logo, shelf talkers, in-store marketing and maps of regional farms and products. See Benzie/Manistee county map here: <http://www.mlui.org/userfiles/filemanager/2563/>. Now is the time to get farms listed on the map!

**Food Hub**

- A Food Hub feasibility study was done for TC region: [http://foodsystems.msu.edu/uploads/file/Grand\\_Traverse\\_Regional\\_Market\\_Feasibility\\_Study.pdf](http://foodsystems.msu.edu/uploads/file/Grand_Traverse_Regional_Market_Feasibility_Study.pdf). Based on the results of that study, The Glacier Dome on Barlow was purchased and is under construction. Currently occupied by Cherry Capital Foods, it will have office space for partners.

#### New agri-businesses:

- Roaming Harvest Food Truck, <http://roamingharvest.com/> They are now opening a restaurant in downtown TC.
- Grand Traverse Culinary Oils <http://gtculinaryoils.com/>
- Carter's Compost, <http://carterscompost.com/> a 9-year old gets it!

#### Educational Opportunities:

- Get Farming/Keep Farming Farm Business Viability Programs (NMCOG) <http://www.nwm.org/userfiles/filemanager/2262/> <http://www.foodandfarmingnetwork.org/getfarming>
- Joint NMC Applied Science Assoc. Degree/MSU Plant Science Certification in Viticulture, Landscape Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Turfgrass [http://www.ncmich.edu/2011\\_12\\_catalog/Other\\_Applied\\_Science.pdf](http://www.ncmich.edu/2011_12_catalog/Other_Applied_Science.pdf)
- Baker College, Cadillac: new Agriculture Technology Program <https://www.baker.edu/programs/detail/agriculture-technology-associate-of-applied-science-degree/>
- Continued MSU Student Organic Farm Certification Program/Internships <http://www.msuorganicfarm.com/>

#### New Projects/Programs

- Regional Grass-fed Beef Project/MSU SARE grant – 3 out of 20 participants in L2L region (including yours truly) [http://anrcom.msu.edu/anrcom/news/item/msu\\_extension\\_seeking\\_20\\_farms\\_in\\_northwestern\\_michigan\\_for\\_grass\\_fed\\_beef](http://anrcom.msu.edu/anrcom/news/item/msu_extension_seeking_20_farms_in_northwestern_michigan_for_grass_fed_beef)
- Farm to Freezer Program, collaboration between Calvin Lutz Farms in Manistee and Goodwill Industries providing temporary employment providing local food year round in the school system. <http://www.goodwillnmi.org/programs-services/goodwill-food-services/farm-to-freezer/>
- Farmer Residency program: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's Maple Bay Farm
- FarmRaisers – School fundraisers using local food <http://www.traverseticker.com/story/farmraiser-launches-pilot-program-in-northern-michigan>

#### Business Development and Non-Traditional Funding Resources

- Michigan SBDTC
- SCORE
- MSU Product Center
- Northern Initiatives <http://www.northerninitiatives.com/>
- TC Chamber Sub Micro Loans, Food and Farm 20/20 Fund – 75 loans were given to food and farm businesses. 2 were in Benzie County (including yours truly ☺) <http://www.nwm.org/planning/planning-policy/food-systems-and-food-innovation-districts/food-and-farm-20-20-fund.html>
- See article [www.tcbusinessnews.com/news/new-biz-this-is-where-the-money-is\\_1](http://www.tcbusinessnews.com/news/new-biz-this-is-where-the-money-is_1)

#### Small Farm Conference: Small Farms Are Real Farms

Keynote speaker: John Ikerd, author “Small Farms are Real Farms”; Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at Univ. of Missouri. [www.johnikerd.com](http://www.johnikerd.com)

- Local food is the most dynamic sector of the American Food system.
- By 2011, Local Food sales were 11 billion (1/3 of organic sector).
- Farmers markets quadrupled between 1994 (1800) to 2013 (8000) in 2013
- The # of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms increased from 100 in 1990 to 2700 in 2009
- The USDA reports 12,500 farmers selling thru CSAs or multi-farm CSAs
- The new movement is multi-farm collaboratives or Food Hubs, which offer a wider variety of options. There are more than 235 food hubs in the U.S.

#### L2L Region Applications

- There is very little awareness of opportunities available. There are no Benzie/Manistee organizations involved in the Food & Farm Network.
- Taste the Local Difference Food and Farm Map for Benzie/Manistee features 20 farms, 2 wineries, 11 retailers 5 restaurants and 7 Farmer's Markets. Local products produced in

this market include: eggs, cut flowers, fruit, dairy, herbs, meats, maple syrup, honey, nursery plants, Christmas trees, wine, mead, beer, gourmet mushrooms and other specialty products. Updates are happening now – get your farm listed!

<http://www.mlui.org/userfiles/filemanager/2563/>

- The new Cottage Food Law allows for the production and sale of jams, honey, syrup, baked goods from home kitchens for direct sale only.
- 2 Incubator Kitchens provide facilities and support for developing value-added agricultural products from idea to market, allowing successful Cottage Food businesses to expand their market and products.
- Food For Thought outside of Honor provides custom packaging and labeling for other aspiring agri-entrepreneurs.

### **Summary:**

Much effort has been put into developing local food and farm businesses, including new agricultural programs in surrounding colleges, free to low cost consulting, access to funding.

- How do we tap into/complement existing efforts/resources?
- What do we do really well?
- How much of the local market is currently being served by our local farms?
- How well are we meeting the demand at farmer's markets, restaurants and institutions? Seasonally? Year-round?
- Are low income/under-served residents accessing fresh, local food?
- What are the barriers? Success stories? Gaps? Opportunities?
- What and where are our needs? Market? Existing under-utilized assets and infrastructures? Partner organizations?