

MINUTES

LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MONTHLY MEETING

November 6, 2013 1:30PM
Pleasant Valley Community Center

Present: Ted Wood (Joyfield) Monica Schultz, Sharron May (Crystal Lake), Bob Delanoy (Gilmore), Bob Peterson (Pleasanton), Al Taylor, Susan Barnard (Onkama); Bruce Ogilvie (Frankfort); Connie Barnes (Gilmore), Deanna Pattison, Janette May (Bear Lake); Tim Ervin (Islamorada), Denise Blakeslee (City of Manistee)

Recognition of Visitors: Dan Masek, Arcadia Parks and Recreation; Sharon Goble, Pleasanton Twp. Watershed Association

I. UPDATES

Update on Citizen Planner scholarships

Names have been submitted. It will take about a month to collate information and cut a check. Monica will follow up. Please finish up with online makeup sessions.

Update on Master Plans, major impediments or gaps:

Ted Wood, Joyfield Twp. - board approved distribution in October; waiting for release of document to everyone. A copy is in township, library and online; asking for input in writing. Issue: reconciling Visioning Session results with the MP. **Monica Schultz** reminded everyone that the Visioning Session summary documents are on L2L website. Ted suggested putting the link to the Visioning Session in the drop down tab of the Master Plan.

Action Item: Mary Carroll of the Benzie Chamber of Commerce would like a copy of the CDRom.

Jeanette May, Bear Lake Township is in the process of their second attempt to incorporate changes; 1/2 was overlooked or incomplete the first time around. They will not meet the Nov. 16th deadline but don't want to hold up the group. They are still making progress, but want to be comfortable with it. May originally submitted what would have been the joint MP. There was a lot of good material that went into it that she didn't want to lose that is not reflected in the document. Deanna Pattison said she was told they couldn't make changes.

Action Item: There is language that needs to be changed in Tab 1. It says "Bear Lake with the Village of Bear Lake". "With the Village of Bear Lake" needs to be taken out.

Tim Ervin – Deadlines are important but it's more important that you have a plan that reflects your community. It is good to document the issues. This hasn't been done before and it's a learning experience for all of us.

Denise Blakeslee, City of Manistee – A Visioning Session will be held on Nov. 21st. They will follow up with a survey that will be online for a month and a half.

Tim Ervin suggested meeting community by community in a round robin to resolve issues. The next meeting should include a process for how to handle comments and track changes.

Bob Delanoy, Gilmore Township – was surprised at the lack of comments on their MP. He is concerned about tracking changes and modifications with future drafts - it's not a working document that can be changed easily. He suggested giving it a draft number; and that Leah should make a bold point on the website that this is the most up-to-date draft. He would like to see every paragraph numbered like a legal document. He anticipates that we will get ideas from reading each other's Master Plans.

Monica Schultz – Maybe we need to meet in Dec. or Jan. about how we file our comments, how we handle them, track changes, and responsibilities. We need the whole process lined out.

Bruce Ogilvie, Frankfort – A committee of three will review all of the MPs and send comments. They are in the process of revising their Zoning Ordinance. He suggested that the Master Plan process is a great time to start reviewing what you want your zoning to look like.

Elberta - Tim Ervin asked if there was someone who could open the door to discussing what was happening in Elberta. He has had some discussion with people with resources who might be able to help.

Susan Barnard, Onkama – The Planning Commission is just starting to review the MP. A lot of the concerns expressed were very familiar from 3.5 years ago. **Al Taylor** added that there is still a bad taste from that. They need the introductory chapter on the demographics as a starting point. **Ervin** will be talking to Al and Susan to figure out a path. There is a high interest in the scenic highway and maybe that's a starting point.

Bob Peterson, Pleasanton – The Planning Commission is reviewing the MP page-by-page and editing. It is going to the council on Monday. They are going to have it in the township, library and Internet. M-22 is important but need to utilize the tangent roads that connect M-22 to US31 and are perfect for bike paths and fall tours, etc. He felt there was a little too much B&R advertising in their document.

Sharron May – The township board approved the MP for release to the public - they were very ready. The Planning Commission labored over it a lot. She thinks that's why it went through so easily. It took multiple attempts and persistence to incorporate all the changes. But it's done now and they're happy with it.

Monica Schultz – Leah needs names and titles for an acknowledgement section. They are hoping to release to agencies before Thanksgiving.

Discussion about handling comments. **Sharon Goble** shared how the state would collect comments and respond with a justification for the position compared with the comment. **Ogilvie** and **Ervin** shared similar advice.

Ervin- the December meeting needs to be about a detailed process. It's the appropriate subject to close out the calendar year and end the December meeting with everyone feeling like they are on the correct path. What have we done? What are we in the process of doing? What are the logical next steps? If it's an organization, what does it do? That discussion needs to be facilitated with all of you. But that is a whole meeting in and of itself. We have to talk about some really big things, on a totally opportunistic basis. We need to take advantage of opportunities.

Al Taylor – We also need to know what items are legislative that we don't have a choice about.

Monica Schultz – Was that what Deanna Pattison was saying earlier? Why couldn't they make changes? Was it a statutory requirement?

Denise Blakeslee – It sounds to me like Bear Lake and some other communities need time with B&R with a facilitator, on a one-on-one basis.

Discussion: **Bob Delanoy** suggested a "road show". **Tim Ervin** responded that we're not ready; we need a couple

of hours to discuss the implementation architecture and bring in the non-profit people to guide us into doing it right. Let's identify the 4 or 5 things that are the low hanging fruit. Al Taylor thought it was important to sit down and talk to Onekama Township and village about where this is going and the next steps. He's found that if you get them on board, they can work their councils.

Monica – For the next meeting we need a timeline, methodology, track changes, ground rules, etc.

Sharron May – I'm wondering why this is such a circular conversation. Perhaps because B&R hasn't been in the room to defend or explain things. For the benefit of the visitors here, this conversation is about the issues that have come up. By no means does this reflect our feelings about the project as a whole.

Discussion about how these issues are common when working with any consultants. Frankfort had the same issues. It's an urban vs. rural/ Michigan dilemma.

Tim Ervin – On a positive note, we are leveraging the L2L story with grantors and working on 6 grants: an agricultural grant for training teachers to integrate agriculture into science and math curricula; watershed implementation grants for Onekama and Bear Lake Watershed; Arcadia, Onekama and Blaine Herring Lake Watershed plans. Where we've got low hanging fruit like the scenic corridor, we need to get it done.

Sharron May – Notice how the energy has changed in the room? Let's have the one-on-meetings be focused on projects and solutions vs. problems.

Scenic Highway Project Meeting Nov. 20th 10AM at the Lighthouse Café in Elberta.

Next L2L meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 1:30PM at the Pleasant Valley Community Center. Monica will confirm that the room is available.

11/15 Follow Up Postscript from Tim Ervin:

John Iacoangeli says that they can highlight in color or "x" out text changes. (The track change option is simply not available with the format they're using). They will be following up directly with those that need help. John will be at the Dec. 4 meeting for a detailed discussion of the steps, process, roles & responsibilities from now through plan adoption.

II. DISCUSSION – Capacity Building – Tabled.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

Master Plan – Acknowledgements Page Assignment

Email directly to Leah (ldumouchel@bria2.com):

- A complete list of L2L team members (the two per community you wish to be acknowledged) as you wish them to appear on the acknowledgements page
- A complete list from each community of your planning commissioners and elected officials, also as they would like them to appear on the acknowledgements page. (Honor, Arcadia, and Joyfield already have this completed). Can send via email, if you wish to Leah DuMouchel (ldumouchel@bria2.com)

Implementation Committee Assignment:

- Confirm the priority (or priorities) on which you personally would like to focus;
- Contact other potential committee members who have expertise/knowledge in the given priority area(s) of your interest. Ascertain their interest and recruit, if possible.
- Get their email and contact info so Leah can add them to our committee database.