

**Lakes To Land Regional Initiative
Leadership Team Meeting
June 12, 2013 1:00 P.M.
Pleasant Valley Community Center**

Introductions: Brad Hopwood, Arcadia; Tim Ervin, AES; Tamara Buswinka, Beckett & Raeder; Rick Pringle, Blaine; Al Taylor, Onekama Twp.; Susan Barnard, Onekama Village; Sharron May, Crystal Lake Twp.; Janette May, Bear lake Twp.; Barb Farfsing, Village of Bear Lake farfsingb@manistee.org; Jessica Carland, Crystal Lake Twp.; Connie Barnes, Gilmore Twp.; Dennis Holcombe, Gilmore Twp.; Bob Delanoy, Gilmore Twp.; Jim Laarman, Crystal Lake Twp.; Monica Shultz, Crystal Lake Twp.; Betsy Evans, Joyfiled Twp.; Bruce Oglivie, Frankfort; Kurt Schindler, MSU Extension

Announcement: **Tim Ervin** congratulated **Betsy Evans** on her new position with the Small Business Technology and Development Center (SBTDC) program. Betsy will be supporting small business planning and expansion in our two counties.

Update on Master Plans – Tamara explained that most communities are at the same point in the planning process and that B&R is working on completing the master plans. Once the draft master plans are ready for distribution B&R will be distributing them to the respective communities.

Overview of Grant – the state recently developed a new program called the Competitive Grant Assistance Program to be used for Intergovernmental Cooperation. L2L was awarded \$115,000 to be used toward two emerging common priorities:

- 1) Zoning Ordinance Development-Development of consistent zoning ordinance language for common elements of a zoning ordinance and language for unique differences.
- 2) Agricultural Innovation Districts – new product development, new market channels, niches, technical assistance, succession planning; infrastructure. What that looks like is up to the communities. There's more money coming down the pike to support agriculture and this funding can be used to leverage a lot more.

A discussion followed about common language; the possibility of a legal template; and the makeup of the leadership teams to spear head the two new implementation initiatives. In order for L2L to receive the above-mentioned grants all communities who are a part of Lakes to Land will need to sign a resolution of support. If we don't get signed resolutions from all the participating communities, we don't get the grant. The resolution is just a support of the grant, there is no commitment required and no financial obligation. Jami Klomp, AES, sent out an electronic copy of the resolution for Township use. You may use the template as is or modify as you see fit. As the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative is implemented support of grant resolutions will be routinely required so it behooves us to figure out how to best get the resolutions signed by the respective Township Boards in an efficient manner. It will be emphasized at the June 27th meeting. An update on the L2L budget was requested by Dennis Holcomb at the last meeting and he requested it again. Monica cautioned the Leadership Team to look at the end product versus dollars spent per community. This has to be outcome-based.

Action Items:

- 1) Each local unit needs to sign a resolution to accept the grant in support of the project at their July meetings to meet the August deadline.
- 2) Give some thought to people in the jurisdiction who might have a particular interest in the grant areas and be willing to be on a leadership team.
- 3) Tim Ervin will give a progress report on the program and how the money is being spent (and an L2L budget update?)

Citizen Planner Program

A subcommittee was created to work on firming up the dates, times, locations for a Citizen Planner training this fall. The committee includes Bruce Ogilvie and Betsy Evans. Monica Schultz will help w/ Survey Monkey.

Action Items:

- 1) Kurt will bring materials to the June 27th Meeting.
- 2) A Survey Monkey will be used to set a date by the end of this month.

Kurt Schindler recapped a presentation on the Right To Farm Act (RTFA) which can pre-empt local authority. A tool kit (decision tree) is available to establish jurisdiction and whether the particular land use falls under the RTFA (a farm operation, farm product or commercial activity with no minimal threshold). If that jurisdiction exists there are certain things that a local zoning ordinance cannot regulate. If the topic is covered in the RTFA or Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices (GAAMPs) you can't regulate it. The hard part is that the GAAMPs change every year to stay current with best practices. For example the GAAMP on Farmer's Market standardizes how the parking lot is designed and you can't regulate or modify it. There have been two court cases in Michigan where a lady had chickens in a subdivision and the court sided with her. In a more recent case in Marquette, an individual had a lakefront lot and decided to have goats, chickens and sheep and sold products to a local food market and the courts upheld it.

Priority Share Meeting Discussion

Leah sent out email on June 3 asking for priorities and she still needs them from the Village of Elberta, Lake Township and Onekama Township. Monica reviewed the proposed agenda and format for the meeting:

Welcome (B&R/AES/Brad Hopwood) – 5 min.
Introduction to Lakes to Land/Convention of Communities – 10 min
Review of Top 5 Priorities for all communities (B&R)
Summary graphic of how all priorities relate to each other
Group sticker exercise to see where our Collective priorities align
Table discussion regarding priorities/brainstorm of interested leaders
Introduction of Funding possibilities – 10 min
Q & A/ Action Items
Closing

Action Item: Get Priorities from the Village of Elberta, Lake Township and Onekama. Encourage full participation of all township boards and planning officials.

Discussion about what happens if communities who are in the area of influence but not a part of the Initiative want to participate in the collaborative part. We should be inclusive; however, a big part of this model is engaging communities that are unified around a Master plan process. Each situation will have to be assessed.

Announcement: Professional Lake Management in Onekama Saturday, June 29 9:30-10:30 at Farr Center.