

Lakes To Land Leadership Team Meeting Notes
Wednesday, August 14th 1-3 pm
Pleasant Valley Community Center

Attendees:

Brad Hopwood, Dennis Holcombe, Ted Wood, Al Taylor, Denise Blakeslee, Barb Farfsin, Bob Delanoy, Monica Schultz, Bruce Ogilvie, Rick Pringle, Connie Barnes,

Guests: Kurt Schindler, Deb Lindgren, Susan Zenker

Updates:

1. **Convention of Communities Update** – the proposed tentative date is Saturday, October 19. Discussion of what is the process and schedule added to agenda.
2. **Citizen Planner Class** – a handout was distributed. The group discount is \$275. L2L has scholarships after the following steps are taken: 1) Check with your municipal insurance carrier about scholarships. 2) Check with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority 3) Check with Michigan Township Partnership Plan. (See handout for details). 4) Submit written denials to see if you may be eligible for reimbursement by L2L. Pay attention to the September 9th deadline for registration. Payment can come later. You can register online or mail it in. If you register online you can print an invoice. Click on L2L participation button. You can miss one or two sessions that can be made up online. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact MSU directly to explain if you need to miss more than two classes. Exceptions may be made.
3. **Grant Resolution** – still waiting for Village of Onekama, Village of Honor, Lake Township, Manistee Township, and Pleasanton Township. Discussion about thinking regionally, acting locally. There could be grants coming in that may offer nothing specific to your particular community but supports the project as a whole.

A discussion followed about outcomes including zoning structure; how money will be spent for zoning. The suggestion of a higher-level legal review by those with zoning backgrounds was met with concerns about agreeing on a common attorney.

4. **Priority Committee Meeting (Aug 19th)** – 16 RSVP's have been received. There were objections to the scheduling and timing of this meeting: there is work to do between sessions; people don't want to be force-fed; the Master Plan is our main project; these committees should come post Convention of Communities. The goal is to get some of these priorities moving before the Convention of Communities so an

implementation partner can ask questions and to begin determining who is on the committee, who else has expertise and who these potential implementation partners are. (NOTE: decision made to postpone this meeting to a later date)

Master plan process check-in – the goal is to have approved draft for 63-day public comment period by the last week in September. Kurt Schindler clarified the process:

1. Create MP draft
2. PC approves to forward to legislative body (e.g., Township or Village Board)
3. Legislative body approves for distribution – or sends back to PC
4. Once Legislative body approves, public review – 63 days
5. Comments return to PC for review
6. PC says approves
7. Hearing
8. PC Review
9. PC says ok
10. Adopt by PC (and if required, adopt by Legislative Body)
11. Start working on Zoning Ordinance

Process in General:

What didn't work:

- Feels rushed at the end
- Some local township boards weren't interested.
- Checklist of process as outlined above would be helpful. (See www.lu.msue.msu.edu).
- In master plan drafts, required sections/compulsory sections and language was not differentiated from that which was not. Checklist/guideline would be helpful.
- Tables/data and maps lacked of sources and date of sources – include sources in drafts
- One master plan had intermingling Village and Township demographics.
- Demographic descriptors were offensive to some (this is where data source might be helpful – or rewording of labels).
- Mapping graphics were marginal; corrections inaccurate.
- Need time with Matt to share visual image, hard to go through changes on a map in an email. (Note: Might be helpful to better understand basic challenges of GIS mapping.)
- Cumbersome to check for accuracy. Need mark ups so we know

where changes occurred.

- Some data provided wrong; source of data questioned
- Need to see original source documents
- Give more options; for example, a various options/ scenario towards best practices. Communities may not be ready for what consultant feels is five year plan – we need to understand acceptable intermediate options that are statutorily acceptable that still meet community vision & goals.
- Incorporate references to the best of the old Master Plan documents (such as Outdoor Natural Resources and Protection Program) in appendix.

What's worked:

- Sitting down with other townships (Blaine & Gilmore with Tamara)
- Good basic structure
- Marvelous educational experience. Learned so much about zoning, agriculture, infrastructure and terminology.
- We've come a long way and have done a remarkable job.
- The master plan template
- Hard working consultants – both Tamara & John.
- The efficient and effective group prioritizing processes.
- Asking for this feedback

Sharron May noted that the L2L leadership team needs to be sensitive how public audience members interpret leaders commenting on the process by our tone, attitude, and wording. (One audience member commented she felt the process was “falling apart” when she heard all comments regarding what in the process might be improved, while the leadership team felt it was a helpful exercise that should periodically repeated as a “check-in”.)

Bruce Ogilvie noted that some of the items in the “what didn't work” category was similar to Frankfort's experience with Wade Trim and Associates. There's no substitute for local knowledge.

Announcements:

Sept 2-4: MAP Conference and 3-Day Citizen Planner training

October 9: Citizen Planner Parliamentary Procedures, 6PM Manistee City Hall also being held in TC on October

October 24: Elaine Bush Fire-wise Training Program, Manistee.

Next Agenda:

Financial Report; Follow up on any action items resulting from the What Worked/Didn't Work discussion.