



Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Meeting Notes
June 13, 2012 1:00p.m.
Pleasant Valley Community Center
3586 Glover Lake Road
Arcadia, MI

News: Springdale Township, represented by Dick Hitchingham, and Lake Township, represented by Bill Robinson, have now joined the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative. Lake Township, of which two thirds of land area is National Park land, has a master plan and zoning ordinance. The Initiative now extends to the Leelanau County border. It would be great if Benzonia Township would come on board.

Rob Carson, the Manistee County planner, was present and introduced. He has been working with Marilla and Stronach Township in developing their master plans. Carson is encouraging townships in Manistee County to participate in this Initiative. He is looking forward to collaborative planning across multiple counties.

John Iacoangeli clarified that Marilla and Stronach Township could sign the resolutions and appoint one or two representatives to the Leadership Team meetings. The benefit of joining the Leadership Team meetings is to help them understand their role at the end of the collaborative planning process, be put on the website and use it as part of their planning process, and have access to the same resources.

John went on to explain that when B&R proposed the Area of Influence during the bidding process they selected communities along M-22 and US31. After hearing from other communities the interest has grown, they are now looking at Benzie and Manistee County to define the general context and look at both Manistee and Benzie Counties in terms of transportation, recreation, open space and prime agriculture. The July 1st deadline is still applicable. Additional funding is being solicited.

ACTION ITEMS: The steps necessary to opt-in, the resolution and agreement, will be posted on the website. A link to AES will be added to the website.

a. Update on Web Site – An interactive map at www.lakestoland.org/yourplaces/ has been added to the website. Photographs, icons for businesses and information can be added.

b. Results of Information Meeting – Great participation and questions resulted from the Information Meetings. The first Visioning Session in Arcadia had 115 participants. Results and Executive Summaries will be posted within two weeks of each session.

Other Business



a. **Planning Commission Schedules** – The dates of the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings for communities participating in the Initiative are posted on the Lakes to Land website. John and Tamara are dividing up the communities to begin to work on their respective master plans. Planning Commissions that don't meet once a month will need to schedule work sessions. B&R consultants will work with the Planning Commissions to draft the master plan; the Planning Commissions will be the primary entity involved in the preparation of the master plan. The first step is to brief the Planning Commission members about the process to date and present the results of the Community Visioning Sessions for the key priorities. Based on the timeline, master plans should be ready for public review by November.

At the Informational Meetings, people liked the idea of collaboration but were concerned about the implementation being done. Benchmarks and results will need to be established, such as ordinance updates, watershed plans or projects/improvements, such as harbor dredging.

Leadership Team (LT) members were asked to *participate* in their community's Visioning Sessions and *volunteer* at other Visioning Sessions. Representation was discussed - seasonal vs. full time residents, farmers, the business community, etc. The LT will be asked if there is anything that needs to be done to engage different segments in the July session. There may be additional sessions added as new groups sign on.

b. **MDNR Placemaking Inventory** – The DNR has officially selected L2L as one of the pilot projects for their internal Placemaking effort. Iacoangeli will be meeting with division heads to get them up to speed as they begin their Asset Mapping. The DNR will bring a lot of technical advice to the process and getting them engaged could open up funding tracks for each of the communities.

c. **Steering Committee** - For administrative purposes, it was suggested that a steering committee be formed for administrative, logistics, and housekeeping purposes and to help with implementation, continuity and building capacity in the communities to carry it forward. The proposed steering committee could communicate back and forth with the LT, with a clear job description of each committee. Comments included: this would be another task for the same core group of people, a natural evolution but not imminent; that it might be helpful for getting details about where additional grant monies come from or for a collaborative project like dredging; that it would be useful for making quick decisions - too large of a group can actually slow the process down; that subcommittees could be formed to get things done; that one member from each township could be on the Steering committee while the larger LT group includes more stakeholders. The big effort of the LT was to get the word out and get the community engaged. Now L2L moves on to the stage of Master Plan document creation, which is more of a Planning Commission function. Beckett & Raeder emphasized the need for continuity and capacity building as L2L moves to the implementation phase.



ACTION ITEM: Start thinking about having one representative from each community to form a steering committee.

d. The 5 Year Recreation Plan - Manistee Township wants to be part of this Initiative to get help with developing their master plan and 5-year Recreation Plan. Iacoangeli proposed that a non-controversial advanced planning option resulting as a collaborative implementation strategy would be a 5-year DNR Recreation Plan that could be done in a consolidated fashion for all the communities that don't have one. A lot of the data generated from the Master Plan and general description of the region can fall right into the DNR 5 year planning guidelines. Each township would have to describe what its own park and recreation projects would be. If enough communities want to prepare a consolidated recreation plan, it would put us in a more competitive environment for DNR funding for the communities that don't have one. Most people don't have an issue with recreation.

John was happy with the amount of engagement in the Visioning Sessions. The exercises were time limited and people wanted to keep going and filled up their entire page with ideas.

The calendar is being left open in July for additional visioning sessions. July visioning sessions are meant for any townships who have recently joined the Initiative or for residents that had scheduling conflicts. Additional visioning sessions will be added if needed. An invitation was extended to the County Planning Commissions. This is a great opportunity to have all levels of government involved in the process.

At the next LT meeting, a summary of each community's top priorities will be provided. The DNR will probably start showing up at the LT meetings. An Asset Inventory map of LT respective township, with a legend, will be mailed to all LT members. The directions are to identify township assets such as commercial areas, cultural resources, public facilities, township parks, operable farms, historic properties, orchards, vineyards, etc (a list will be provided) and pin point them on the Asset Inventory map. Bring the map to the Planning Commission meetings to get township input and additional assets pin pointed. The DNR will be providing a map to the LT which will show State assets, resources, trails, etc.

As the meeting concluded, Kurt Schindler announced some upcoming training opportunities. NMCOG and MSUE are going to have an Intergovernmental Cooperation training in July. MSUE in Beulah will have a training for Ethics and Conflicts of Interest on June 21st at the Beulah Courthouse. A Placemaking training curriculum will be rolled out in late fall. A proposal is being considered to give communities with certification in Placemaking a higher score for grant applications. The next Citizen Planner Program will be in October at the Michigan Association of Planners Conference.