

For Immediate Release

7/27/2012



Contact:
Jami Klomp
231-723-4325

Issued as a service to the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative



Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Arrives in Manistee Township, Returns to Bear Lake and Pleasanton, Begins Work on Issues

Manistee and Benzie Counties, Michigan – The most recent additions to the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative, Bear Lake Village and Manistee Township, will provide more opportunities for citizens to share their preferred future for Northwest Michigan.

- A **Community Visioning Session** will be held at **6:30 pm on Thursday, August 16 at Bear Lake School** (in the library). In addition to offering the first chance for Bear Lake Village residents to provide recommendations focused on their community, the session also serves as a makeup opportunity for residents of Pleasanton and Bear Lake Townships who were unable to attend the first round of visioning. Expected topics of conversation at this session include water quality and the Bear Lake watershed, road improvements, blight enforcement, public access, and wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement.
- Manistee Township residents are invited to a **Community Visioning Session at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 22 at Manistee Township Hall**, 410 Holden St. Manistee will begin the process of updating its 2001 master plan as it joins the Initiative.

These are the tenth and eleventh scheduled Visioning Sessions for the Initiative, which has been working since early this year to identify collaborative opportunities among neighboring communities. Seven communities have completed the visioning process, and their results are posted at www.lakestoland.org. As with previous sessions, the format consists of small-group exercises aimed at identifying the communities' assets, weaknesses, obstacles, and allies. This arrangement provides a unique opportunity for citizens to work directly with their neighbors, establishing lines of communication that can become a powerful tool throughout the process.

On **August 8**, members of the Leadership Team will start meeting in small groups to address the themes that have begun to emerge throughout the visioning process, such as harbor dredging, M-22 scenic highway designation, watershed plans, trails, and specialized agriculture. Community members with an interest in participating in these small groups are invited to use the www.lakestoland.org site to contact the Leadership Team member for their municipality to learn more.

Alliance for Economic Success 1361 US 31 South Manistee, MI 49660

www.allianceforeconomicsuccess.com

(231) 723-4325