

NEWSLETTER

LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

AUGUST 31, 2012

Good almost-holiday-weekend afternoon!

As the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative heads into fall, we could maybe take a minute to pat ourselves on the back for a truly productive summer. First of all, we welcomed neighboring community after neighboring community to join us until the initiative had tripled in size. We made contact with every citizen in the ten communities writing master plans, and then we held ELEVEN visioning sessions in which we spoke with over 400 of those citizens personally. The Leadership Team has put in dedicated work to develop a never-before-seen organizational structure that can simultaneously accommodate adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions. New partnerships have been forged throughout the region, and attention has been attracted all the way to the governor's office.

Seriously, folks. You rock.

Now we turn our attention to the writing of individual master plans. Blaine, Gilmore, and Crystal Lake Townships have already convened their planning commissions for a Lakes to Land work session, and Arcadia Township joins them right after the holiday. In Crystal Lake Township, the planning commission and interested citizens discussed the overall initiative and the master plan process. They left the meeting with two assignments: to read the Benzie County master plan and decide which goals and policies are valid and transferable to their township, and to begin an existing land use survey. Blaine and Gilmore decided to meet jointly to review their master plans, and they too are going to begin by reading the county plan to see what's appropriate and applicable. So everybody's off to a good start!

Back at the office, we have selected a format for the final report and begun compiling the introductory and regional sections. We are still in need of photos, though!

We have a few pictures for...

- Arcadia
 - Blaine
 - Crystal Lake
 - Gilmore
- ...but could use more.

We have not received any for...

- Lake Township
 - Joyfield
 - Pleasanton
 - Elberta
 - Honor
 - Frankfort
 - Springdale
 - Bear Lake – village or township
 - Manistee Township
- ...help!

And finally, a communication that's come in over the transom. Dendra Best, executive director of Wastewater Education, wrote in saying that she had participated in the Bear Lake Village / Bear Lake Township / Pleasanton Township makeup visioning session and wished to share some information from her own organization: *"I wonder if it would be possible to post information about our upcoming web seminar series on innovative community designs and options? We are part of 2 national initiatives to provide better resources, consensus building and design assessment tools for small community government officials."*

On September 25 we are hosting a distance learning event to showcase the reuse technologies of Worrell Water and <http://www.livingmachines.com>. Would you like me to subscribe you to our e-News? Here's the direct link to our latest e-News - <http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/725757/4b73f81ff4/ARCHIVE>. The Living Machine link is in the right column - and do excuse the poor eyesight that read 92 when I'd typed 72 for the years since the passage of the 19th. Amendment!"

Happy Labor Day!