

Schultz



**Contact:** Monica

Ph: 231-352-6909

Cell: 651-726-4488

**For Immediate Release**

**LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE GETS LEGS  
THANKS TO C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION**

*(First in a Two-Part Series about Funding Sources for the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative)*

**Manistee and Benzie Counties, Michigan** -- The Lakes to Land (L2L) Regional Initiative, funded by grants from the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Michigan Dept. of Treasury has made big strides toward its goal of helping 9 townships, 4 villages and one city work together to develop blueprints for the future that are as much about their individual qualities as they are about building successful partnerships.

"The results will be threefold," said Monica Schultz who serves on a leadership team for the project representing Crystal Lake Township. "participating local governments are working develop master plans that will be comprehensive guides for their future, covering everything from housing and transportation to recreation and economic development. Most of the communities will also participate in developing a collaborative recreation plan that will ultimately be approved at the state level and serve as a gate opener for funding. All of the local governments will participate in a Convention of Communities that will produce a game plan for intergovernmental partnership – from service sharing to strategies for natural resources, economic development and much more."

All of the work is guided with the support of the firm Beckett & Raeder that was selected by the project leadership team. Funding for the effort from the Mott Foundation and Treasury Department was secured by the Alliance for Economic Success in Manistee.

Schultz said that the effort is unlike any other collaborative project in Michigan and includes the townships of Arcadia, Blaine, Crystal Lake, Gilmore, Bear Lake, Joyfield, Lake, Manistee, and Pleasanton; the Villages of Honor, Bear Lake, and Elberta, the City of Frankfort, and the Onekama community.

“None of this would be possible without the vision and support of the two funders of the effort,” said Brad Hopwood, Chair of the Arcadia Township Planning Commission who also serves on the Leadership Team for the project for Arcadia Township. “It’s important for our communities to understand why a major foundation and the State of Michigan are financially invested in this project. Ultimately, we will be looking to a network of funding sources to support implementation of the priorities and recommendations from all of the participating governments – ensuring that have the capacity to convert plans into results and action, in a sense closing the circle to demonstrate the benefit of partnerships.”

### **An interview with Sam Passmore of Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**

The Lakes to Land (L2L) Regional Initiative received a big boost early in 2012 with a grant of \$65,000 from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. To better understand Mott’s interest in this project, Monica Schultz spoke with Sam Passmore, Director of Environmental Programs at Mott and program officer for this grant.

#### **First of all, what’s a *program officer*?**

A program’s officer’s role is to screen requests for funding that are submitted to the foundation. The program officer provides recommendations to the people who make the final decision on whether to fund or not. Basically, in the case of the grant provided to L2L, your proposal was in line with Mott’s interests.

#### **How did the Lakes to Land Initiative come to your attention?**

It’s not unusual for projects to be brought to our attention by the network of people who we’ve gotten to know through the years. The project was brought to our attention by Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success, whom we know well.

#### **So what are Mott’s interests in this particular project?**

Mott is already involved in funding projects in your geographic area - we helped the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy protect the Arcadia Dunes property. We’re the largest private donor for that project. We’re really very proud of that and pleased to be able to support it. That decision established our interest in that particular landscape.

We view the L2L project as a logical extension of our interest in your area. Due to the community engagement around the wind energy issue last year, there seems to be a broad understanding that it would be helpful for all jurisdictions in the area to have a shared vision of what the future should look like. In this way, when other proposals and ideas come down the pike, the region is less in a reactive mode and more able to express the community's vision for the area.

**What else interested you?**

The Mott Foundation also supports the idea of inter-jurisdictional cooperation and regional collaboration. We think that working across jurisdictional lines is of great value in other areas of our grant making. So here's this great opportunity to support a model project of regional cooperation and collaboration in our own backyard. Of course, we were interested!

So our past interest in your region, the recent involvement and engagement of the community, and the inter-jurisdictional nature of the project made it an easy decision to support the project.

**Do you have a particular outcome you're looking for?**

We really don't have a specific outcome that we're hoping to see, or prescription that we hope the community adopts. We understand that whatever happens needs to be an expression of what the people who live there want. That's the only way it will work in the longrun.

**Are you hoping this becomes a model for other projects?**

This tends to happen organically. If you're successful, word will get out, and other communities will want to learn from your successes.

**Attachments:**

1. Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Community Progress Chart as of 9/26/12
2. Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Leadership Team Members

## Lakes to Land Initiative: Community Progress Table

The table below allows you to track the progress of your community within the Lakes to Land Initiative. Each community that does NOT already have an up-to-date master plan will be guided through community vision sessions and the master plan process (Steps 1-3) by Beckett and Raeder ([www.bria2.com](http://www.bria2.com)). Your local planning commission is responsible for completing master plans. Communities that already have a master plan will join the initiative at the Convention of Communities, where collaborative priorities and projects will be identified. Funding for the Lakes to Land Initiative is made possible by efforts of the Alliance for Economic Success (<http://www.allianceforeconomicsuccess.com/>).

If you have questions regarding your community's progress, contact your leadership team member or attend a planning commission working session. Contact information can be found at [www.lakestoland.org](http://www.lakestoland.org) or by calling **231-933-8400**.

### KEY:

**U** = Task underway;

**X** = task completed;

**NA** = Task already completed prior to joining the L2L Initiative

**Step 1:** Introduction to Collaborative Master Plan process;

**Step 2:** Summary of regional setting including maps, natural resources, transportation, recreations, demographics, cultural resources, etc.;

**Step 3:** Develop community specific master plan.

Community	Conduct Vision Session	Local Community Planning Commission Steps to Develop Master Plan			Master Plan Complete	Conduct Convention of Communities	Develop Collaborative Strategies
		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3			
Arcadia Township	X	X	U	U			
Bear Lake Township	X	X	U				
Bear Lake Village	X	X	U				
Blaine Township	X	X	U	U			
Crystal Lake Township	X	X	U	U			
Village of Elberta	NA	NA	NA	NA	X		
City of Frankfort	NA	NA	NA	NA	X		
Gilmore Township	X	X	U	U			
Village of Honor	X	X	U	U			
Joyfield Township	X	X	U				
Lake Township	NA	NA	NA	NA	X		
Manistee Township	X	X	U				
Onkama Community	NA	NA	NA	NA	X		
Pleasanton Township	X	X	U				

### Lakes to Land Regional Initiative Leadership Team Contacts

<b>Community</b>	<b>Key Contact</b>
Arcadia	Brad Hopwood
Bear Lake	Janette May
Bear Lake Village	Melanie Ware
Blaine	Charles Beale
Crystal Lake	Sharron May
Village of Elberta	Linda Manville
City of Frankfort	Bruce Ogilvie
Gilmore	Dennis Holcombe
Village of Honor	Bruce Wildie
Joyfield	Betsy Evans
Lake Township	Bill Robinson
Manistee	Jack Dinsen
Onekama	Susan Barnard
Pleasanton	Bob Peterson