

## MINUTES

### LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MONTHLY MEETING

PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
3586 GLOVERS LAKE ROAD, ARCADIA

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

#### Call to Order

Request to Appear: Sarah Lucas for Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and Patty Cantrell, Regional Food Systems presenting on Food Innovation Districts: Sarah Lucas described NWMCOG's many roles including serving as a liaison with other agencies, coordination, communication; mapping and census data compilation; administering the Community Growth Grant program in the Grand Vision region; and serving as a neutral convener. They are grant funded, project based, and provide fee for service work for local governments.

#### Food Innovation Districts

The purpose of Food Innovation Districts is to increase regional access to local food through a geographically concentrated area of food-oriented business, services and community activities. Local governments would provide support through planning and economic development initiatives. The business cluster would provide mutual support, fill in gaps and create demand for other businesses. A Food Innovation District Guide is being developed as a project out of the Michigan Good Food Charter policy initiative with a grant from USDA.

#### Types of Activities:

- Producer-oriented: production, retail storage, processing, packaging, promotion, and incubators
- Place oriented: festivals, fairs, events, sidewalks, benches, plazas, art, and pedestrian scale traffic flow.
- Community oriented: restaurants, eateries, community kitchens, education, nutrition outreach, social services, open space, gardens, gleaning, food pantries.

The Food Innovation District guide will be available online. It will provide examples and worksheets for creation, implementation and zoning as well as a process for identifying strengths and weaknesses. What do we already have? Does the Master Plan address community interest in local food systems and emerging food businesses? Can we add uses, a new zone, PUD, form-based zoning, or an overlay district? The guide will assist in determining the needs of local food businesses and how Food Innovation Districts could help fill the gaps. What are the assets, opportunities, linkages and networks between uses? Is there a local or regional food network (Food and Farming Network?)? Will the focus primarily be on processing, distribution or the community component? Can we tie the district to other Initiatives such as property redevelopment, historic preservation, brown field or mixed-use development? What financial incentives exist? An example given was the Neighborhood Center in E. Lansing.

The presentation was followed by questions and comments by the Leadership Team, citing the potential positive impacts on economic development, zoning, rural smart growth and job creation. Tim Ervin suggested that the L2L Initiative creates the possibility for collaboration on developing a framework. He feels that agriculture is much more becoming the "lower hanging fruit". Funders know that agriculture is something this region produces and are asking questions like: What

do you need money for? What would those systems look like? How would it create sustainable operations in these communities? What are the opportunities for investment? This project is uniquely positioned for using our natural assets. When questioned about the biggest challenges and gaps, Patty Cantrell responded that as Food Hubs are coming to the fore, there is a need for the broader building of the consumer, market, retail, and place-making benefits. One of the Leadership Team members is one of 20 local regional producers participating in a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Development Grant with MSU Experimental Station for a grass-fed beef project. The project will support the Good Food Charter goal of increasing food purchases in the region by 20% by 2020. Part of this research includes identifying the gaps and weaknesses in the supply chain. One that is already present is the lack of meat processing facilities. How do you overcome some communities' knee-jerk reaction to having such a facility in their backyard? Kurt Schindler responded that with trying to prevent something like a slaughterhouse, there is a very high probability that the businessman would prevail. But why should they put up a fight if they don't have to? That's what happens. If you don't have a fast, prompt review process, the business goes elsewhere. That is what happened in Kalkaska when they took too long to process an application.

The Leadership Team will be put on the mailing list for the Regional Food Guide when it comes out. Sarah Lucas is available to give a presentation to a township or a group of townships that want to have this presented to the public at large. Tamara mentioned that she is having a meeting with Blaine Township farmers on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Item: Post the entire power point presentation on the Lakes To Land website as well as the Regional Food Guide when it becomes available. Schedule a follow up discussion on a public presentation about Innovative Food Districts. (B&R)**

### **Introductions and Report on Master Plan Progress, Confirmation of other LT members.**

Brad Hopwood – Arcadia Township is developing a Future Land Use Map. **Other LT member?**

Janette May (with Deanna Pattison) - Bear Lake is two weeks into getting started with their plan. The next meeting is 11/27 with completed maps.

Bill Robinson - Lake Township has their Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance; add Dick Krupp to the Leadership Team.

Bob Peterson, Pleasanton (with Tony Merrill) - will be collecting their existing Land Use Survey

Ted Wood - Joyfield is working on Land Use survey maps, identifying stakeholders, identifying goals first run, next meeting end of the month (with Betsy Evans)

Dave Long (with Chuck Beale) – Blaine Township is developing strategies and goals; Land Use maps are done but they are verifying some of the land uses. They are meeting with their farmers and defining "rural preservation" in their zoning. There is a question of why they need a zone for agriculture when rural preservation seems to be adequate. They want to add agri-tourism instead of changing the zoning. The goal is not agriculture vs. rural preservation but viable long-term family farms.

Jackie Johnson (with Melanie Ware) – The Village of Bear Lake is trying to get enough people to serve on a committee. The village is out soliciting names of residents for the Planning Commission and having a joint planning conversation with the township.

Tim Ervin, AES - The Greater Bear Watershed plan has been submitted to the DEQ, which opens the door to funding. It would be helpful to have the village and township working together to draw out the salient elements in these Master Plans (responding to Jackie Johnson and Janette May).

Sharron May (with Monica Schultz, Sandy Skees-Gaier and Jim Laarman) – Crystal Lake Township is turning the rest of the Land Use Maps at this evening's meeting.

Tamara, Buswinka, John Iacoangeli and Tim Knutsen - B&R

### **Old Business, New Business, Other Business**

- a. Lakes to Land Leadership Team photo – not enough in attendance today.
- b. Planning Commission meeting dates accuracy - Please check the L2L calendar ([www.lakestoland.org](http://www.lakestoland.org)) for accuracy.

- c. Planning Commissioner Training – It was discussed that the Citizen Planner that was tentatively targeted for February-March at last month's meeting may conflict with vacations. Kurt Schindler suggested a small committee that he can meet with to go through the process of deciding what time works. John Iacoangeli suggested Survey Monkey to find out available times. The training is open to everyone and Planning Commissioners as well as Township Board members should take it.

**Action Items:**

- Survey Monkey to find out best time for Citizen Planner Course (B&R).
  - Encourage completion of survey and attendance at course (LT)
  - Check accuracy of Planning Commission meeting dates (LT)
  - Reschedule LT photo (B&R)
  - Add Dick Krupp to Leadership Team mailing list (B&R)
- d. Collaborative Recreation Plan – Tim Ervin has brought this up on a number of occasions because it would be an incredibly useful tool for leveraging dollars. It would be easier to prepare a regional recreation plan than for individual townships. Benzie County has a very current countywide recreation plan. To fold it into the Master Plan process might mean adding another meeting. Master Plans and the 5 Year Recreation Plan are very close together and AES just had four grants approved that were tied to the big picture.

**Action Item: Regional Recreation plan presentation at December Meeting (B&R).**

- e. Tab 2 Discs Available - John Iacoangeli offered that Leadership Team can request a disc with Tab 2 maps.

**Next Meeting December 12, 2012 at 1p.m. at the PVCC**