

## MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 AT 1 P.M.  
PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Present: John Iacoangeli, Brad Hopwood, Charles Beale, Sharron May, Al Taylor, Betsy Evans, Roger Yoder, Denise Blakeslee, Tamara Buswinka, Bruce Wildie, Deanna Patterson, Jim Laarman, Bob Delanoy, Dennis Holcombe, Dave Long, Connie Barnes, Ted Wood, Kurt Schindler, Susan Zenker, Deb Lindgren, Sandy Gaier, Monica Schultz, Tim Ervin.

#### I. Future date for Convention of Communities (What's realistic? What works?)

John Iacoangeli explained the decision to reschedule the Convention of Communities. Some townships would like to present the Cornerstones and Future Land Use maps to their seasonal residents. Others are having a hard time finding 5 delegates who are available during the day on a Friday. Iacoangeli recommends that we use the summer for opportunities to get public review and input. This provides a better sequence of events and engages the seasonal folks involved. There could still be a meeting in May at the PVCC where we would invite Planning Commissioners and Board of Trustees to come and share where they are at and discuss some key things in preparation for a September Convention of Communities meeting. This would also help get a better idea of who to bring in from the state and federal levels. We thought we'd be further ahead but that's okay. Some communities have never put together a Master Plan before and we would rather have it be comfortable rather than pushing the envelope.

#### Discussion:

- How and when to present Cornerstones to the township board. Each township is different. Some may be interested in the process, others in the finished product.
- The May meeting should be more internal, a chance to cross-talk with our neighboring townships so we can be more cohesive as a unit; to sit down with other townships and see their perspectives.
- We need to be aware of what obscure commissions may have purview over the areas we are looking at and use background information they have. (Example: the Benzie Conservation District). We have to step lightly and embrace those interests that are already in place instead of thinking that we're our own entity and are going to do things without them. We need to ask what we can do to help these agencies and commissions and have them as allies.
- Most seasonal residents will stay through the leaf-peeping season. A Saturday in May-August may be tough. We may be better with an evening session.
- The definition of seasonal: voters/non-voters? The township listens to the voters more than the non-voters. Sometimes they are really vocal and influence your Master Plan direction and then when they're not here, the township defaults to the voters and it poses problems.

- Without devaluing the seasonal residents, we really need people who are going to spearhead ideas and topics and become a main force behind getting things implemented. We really need to pick someone who is already passionate and really going to get things done.
- How do we coordinate the Watershed Coalition with Lakes To Land? They don't know much about what's going on here. We should get on their agenda in May.
- How do you find the 5 representatives? The priorities come right out of the Visioning Sessions, so the people are there. The right person is the one who can do the best job going forward.
- Our job is to educate communities.
- Is this going to be a township ordained position? A study group? Funded? Identify problems and present to Planning Commissions? We need to think about this.
- Discussed an evening meeting in May and Saturday Convention of Communities in September
- PCs need to be ready to present the MP document to the board in May so it can be ready to present to the public in June-July-August

## II. Discuss Formal sharing of Master Plan progress in May (between participating communities only):

### Discussion:

- Where do you feel your community is strong to pursue these priorities?
- Where do you feel your community needs to develop leadership capacity in priority areas?
- Where are other potential sources of in community funding for future resources?
- Identifying Top 5 priorities - where you can identify delegates and have the capacity to start working? Maybe there's not leadership available, or maybe there are no other townships with that priority. Where you can get the most traction?
- Is this realistic? Can it get done? Low hanging fruit.
- Example: strong enforcement of zoning ordinances. Gilmore needs assistance with getting legal review; deficiencies pointed out and corrections made.
- You can have a succinct Zoning Ordinance but not a well-trained Zoning Administrator.
- Communities have established Cornerstones but the Building Blocks are the specific things that need to get done. Focus on the building blocks; top 5 that could and should be done immediately.
- The townships have to rely on the county (for enforcement) and it appears that there is a breakdown between what the townships want and what the county is willing to do. We need to identify those areas and talk about how we can resolve them as a group.
- If the road commissions for both counties aren't aware of what's happening and are not with us philosophically, it could be adversarial.
- Charlevoix County. All collectively hired a single law firm
- If you have any agencies you would like to invite to sit down. Brief what L2L is and the MP process is.
- Don't choose a Tuesday.
- John will send out a meeting wizard with dates starting at 6:30pm and a rough agenda. Provide pizza.
- Training is a big issue as well as fear of litigation. Citizen Planner program: PCs were meeting twice a month. Determine a date at the May meeting. Give a review of the program in May. Citizen Planner is just the beginning. The process doesn't end. There are different tracks for Zoning Administrator, Zoning Board of Appeals. You commit to a certain # of hours to maintain a Master

Citizen Planner certification. An advisory group tells us what the big issues are and matches that with training. Then look at regional issues, the economy, Place-making and the Grand Vision.

- Each township has legal representation but when we do things like the Medical Marijuana Ordinance, we would have a better shot if 14 communities. A lot of communities are waiting until the Supreme Courts. All of the townships in Charlevoix City went in on a far more qualified attorney.
- May meeting: 1. Review of the MP process (with trustees); 2. Training; 3. Identify 5 key priorities at the local and L2L levels.
- Would like to hear a presentation by the DNR about what they can help us do collectively; also the GTRLC (similar to miPlace Initiative)
- Generate an official invitation; MSU has a flyer about training: importance and liability risk mgmt. strategy; see if MTA and MSU will put their logos on it.
- We really need to bring the township boards to this meeting! We need to have one on one contact. Be the chauffeur. Feed them.
- Discussion on when to invite funders (September).

### III. Implementation Track – Tim Ervin

Tim Ervin was invited to speak about the L2L Initiative at a session with the Governor and MDEQ. L2L has captured the eye of Michigan Funder's group involving most of the major foundations (Kresge, Kellogg, Mott, etc) - and L2L is one of the agenda items. Oftentimes the work happening locally is more appreciated outside of the area. The fact that our communities unified around the need to update your blueprint for the future; unified around the need to do it in partnership, in unison and that we have 16 units of govt. doing this is unbelievable.

We all agreed this needs to be about implementation. You will have some priorities that are the same across-jurisdictions and identify partnerships opportunities. Then we will need link the plan to resources. This comes back to training and education. It is all about the programs that Kurt has and also building capacity to implement them themselves. What are those capacities we need to develop locally? We have already set the stage with DNR. September is the cusp of when you need to start writing grants. We want to take the priorities that are distinctive as well as shared so we can.

Public funding, private foundations, philanthropy, volunteerisms; community building; seek and secure resources (DNR, DEQ, MEDC, DMOT, Fishery Trust, Oleson Foundation, Rotary Charities, USDA, USFWS, EPA, Community foundations.

Need to develop leadership capacity and self-sufficiency and self-perpetuation. Before Sept. we need to begin identifying where resources match up with those needs and write grants. Need to see results fast. The City of Manistee defined a series of important things. Goal: First St. beach as a destination. They got a CZM grant; MDOT road beautification; enhanced the Fishery with a grant from the Fishery trust for fish cleaning stations; they improved pavilion beach house with a grant from the Land Trust with a City match. Then they wanted a children's play area and are seeking Land and Water Conservation fund. Good example of how we can take the MP and break it apart in increments. And success brings success. You can't overstate the power of collaboration and you are the only ones.

Discussion: would this be a good time to bring in these other waiting communities? The May Meeting. The Great Lakes Fishery trust is a funding source that hasn't been thought of. Sleeping Bear Dunes should be part of this. Special funding is attached to Sleeping Bear to mitigate their presence, especially regarding transportation.

#### IV. Announcements

- Reminder of the free pass for the Michigan Small Town Preservation. Tim Ervin would extend the reservation. Get a hold of Jamie by Friday morning. Kathy said if you could only make part of it, go the second day. Website:
- Kurt Schindler announced trainings: Zoning Board of Appeals training April 24<sup>th</sup> in TC; April 25<sup>th</sup> in Manistee; Home Alternative Energy – April 17<sup>th</sup> in TC; Right to Farm Act – June 11 at the Horticultural Center

#### V. Other items Discussed

- Financial status report - Funds are available. Funds are reserved. 2-3 Grant requests out to bring more funds in. Funders: Tim Ervin's Foundation and Department of Treasury Economic Vitality and Incentive Program.
- Zoning. What is the job that has to be done and how do we best do that? How big is the box? That's a big topic for May. It can take 3 months to develop an ordinance.
- When Benzie County discontinued their zoning they were in the process of updating a lot of their ordinances and a lot of communities adopted them as they were. It might be valuable to ask the Benzie County Planning Co to distribute what was identified.
- What is that only the county can do and how does that fit into this picture and how do we make that connection and conversation happen?
- It would seem to make sense if the county worked with the townships to be an umbrella from the bottom up.
- Every four years you have new administrations but we have to work together as individuals leading government.
- Lake Management – we should be partnering to have economies of scale.
- Is there some specific legislation to empower communities to address some of these issues statewide?
- May meeting second Wednesday at 1:00 and the special meeting will be later on in the month.
- Susan Zenker complimented Crystal Lake Township for posting their Planning Commission minutes on the L2L website. If other townships want to publish their minutes on the L2L website, email them to Leah DuMouchel.