

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
May 28, 2008

DRAFT DT NOTES

Committee Members Present: Blakeslee, Brooks, Carlson, Dalhoff, Davis, Gerdman, Green, Hausner, Iausly, Jones, Knight, Kriegl, Lanter, Ladas, Murray, Olson, Robkin, Wenzel, and White. Not present: Churchill, Godfriaux-Leystra, Lehman.

Others Present: Krueger, Stevens, Steward, Tremble, Simmert, Hartman, Erickson, Vondra.

The meeting convened at 6:32 p.m. Mark Steward, Planning and Zoning Director, asked members to review the agenda. Hausner moved to approve, second by Brooks. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Steward asked members to review the minutes from the April meeting. Ladas moved to approve, second by Iausly. **Motion Carried unanimously.**

There was no public comment.

There were no communications to report.

Steward briefed members on the media contact list used to publicize the Steering Committee meetings, and asked members to forward suggestions for additional media to be contacted.

Aaron Hartmann appeared to conduct a Team Building exercise. He asked members to name an individual whom they admire and to identify some of the qualities about that person that appeal to them. Discussion progressed around the table. An incomplete list of figures mentioned includes FDR, Matt Pinion, various members' brothers, sisters, mothers and dads and wives, those who have had the courage of their individual convictions, Eldon Pratt, Winston Churchill, George S. Patton, Aldo Leopold, Pat Yanke, Alan Alda, area farmers such as Dave Lundgren, Frederick Douglas, and Jane Goodall.

Mark Steward began a review of the proposed planning process, referring to the draft Work Plan, and asked members to suggest additions to the three stated goals of the plan. Members agreed to address goals following development of a group Mission. Steward asked members to identify additional interests that should be represented in the planning process. Discussion followed about arts and culture, the Ho Chunk Nation, the Merrimac area and the Wisconsin Dells area. Mark asked members to inquire of their communities and organizations regarding unrepresented interests, and bring those concerns back to the Steering Committee.

Steward then asked members to identify elements of the draft Work Plan that are not currently included, but should be. Members suggested discussion of the Technical Advisory and Review Team (TART), which is currently mentioned in the draft Work Plan as the "Experts". A question was raised as to how the Plan would compliment or connect with local municipal comprehensive plans. Discussion followed about the inventory of relevant plans, the emphasis of the County Plan on larger regional concerns, and the fact that some local plans call for County

assistance in implementing policies that have countywide implications. Staff conducting the preliminary inventory of plans agreed to give special attention to identifying these kinds of goals and policies in the municipal comprehensive plans.

Marty Krueger addressed a question about the scope of the “Thrive” economic development effort, telling members that the “asset and opportunities” analysis being conducted by a Thrive consultant would include Sauk County even though Sauk County is only participating in the Thrive project indirectly through the Sauk County Development Corporation. Krueger told members that Thrive officials would probably be meeting with the Comprehensive Plan TART.

Steward asked members for suggestions and changes to the draft Work Plan.

Brian Simmert appeared to ask members for feedback on a draft Mission statement, which he assembled from members’ responses to the homework assignment from the April meeting. Comments included: Make it shorter, more concise; Focus on the “what” of the Mission, not the “how”; remove the second sentence of the draft, and restate that as a goal; remove mentions of “live, work and play”; be cautious of using the term “sustainable”, the mention of which generated a discussion of the concept of sustainability. Staff suggested assigning the task to a subcommittee, or to using a web-based forum to stimulate and capture people ideas, but members chose to continue the discussion. Members eventually agreed to draft some specific value statements to support a very brief mission statement. Use of the main theme of the Plan, “Positioning Sauk County for the Future” was suggested. Members tentatively agreed by consensus on the following:

“Our Mission is to create a plan to position Sauk County for the Future”

Following a five-minute break, Jenny Erickson asked members to consider modifying the agenda to postpone the discussion of a Consensus process and Rules of the Committee, and begin discussion of the draft Public Participation Program. Iausly moved to postpone the Consensus and Rules discussion to the beginning of the next meeting, second by Hausner. **Motion Carried unanimously.**

Erickson began a review of the draft Public Participation Plan with a summary of reasons for involving the public in the planning process, including the statutory requirement to do so. She then briefed members on the levels of public involvement and types of approaches the Steering committee and staff would employ at each level, and specific steps to be taken with each approach.

Members asked how the actions and activities would get done, and who would do them (Answer: Steering Committee and staff), and what is the link from the Steering Committee to the implementation of the Plan.

Members also expressed interest in providing input to proposed opinion survey questions, and to review survey questionnaires prior to their being issued. Members also want to be able to review and revise the Public Participation Plan as the process evolves. Mark Steward also agreed make copies of his public presentations available for Steering Committee review, to improve

consistency in communications. Erickson mentioned surveys of local officials and key local representatives to identify critical issues, as well as general public surveys later to gather public input on issue identification. Other public participation tools that will be used include the Visioning conference, the interactive website and focus groups interviews.

Members asked if the existing local comprehensive plans are available on the County website for review. Staff said some are, and a list of those will be made available to members.

Erickson provided a web URL address for the UWEX publication referred to in the draft Public Participation Plan.

Steward asked for public comment. Don Stevens, a County Board supervisor and TART member, suggested that the Committee should be conscious of opposing viewpoints and should bring them to the table throughout the process, and that the Committee will need a lot of help from the public and will need to keep the County Board informed.

Marty Krueger assured members of his expectation that the County Board and the E&L Committee would both value and respect their work.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at 6:30 in Rm. B30 of the Sauk County West Square Building. He mentioned that the next agenda would include an “agenda-building” item.

Steward thanked members for attending and asked for consensus to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Steward and Dave Tremble
Sauk County Dept. of Planning and Zoning