

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING

### *Regarding Development of a Vision to Guide the Door County Smart Growth Plan Creation*

**Forestville Town Hall  
Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

#### **1. Open Meeting/Introductions**

Staff from the Door County Planning Department and University of Wisconsin – Extension held a public meeting on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Forestville Town Hall in Maplewood, regarding the development of a vision to guide the Door County Smart Growth comprehensive plan creation. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees, per sign-in sheet:

#### Residents and Property Owners

Mark Heimbecher  
Edson Stevens  
Pete Kozak  
John Fritschler  
Rick Nelson  
Adrian Schmidt  
Mark Finger  
Ed Krueger  
Rose Murray  
Lawrence Murray  
Ed Krueger  
Scott Janssen  
Dan Kielar  
Norma Uecker  
Joanne Bongle  
Marilyn Uecker  
Patrick Olson  
William Schmiling  
Dena Schmidt  
Kasy Mueller  
Gayle Gulley  
Joe Kerscher  
Ruth Kerscher  
George Whitford  
Bill Vandertie  
Mike Johnson  
Bob Krueger  
Kevin Guilette  
Gerald Uecker  
Don Londo

#### Staff/Meeting Facilitators

Mariah Goode, DCPD  
Becky Kerwin, DCPD  
Rob Burke, UWEX

#### Media/Observers

Deb Fitzgerald, Door County Advocate  
Kurt Rentmeester

#### Interested Agency

Chris Culotta, WisDOT NE  
Region, Green Bay

**2. Overview: “Smart Growth” legislation and county plan development process**

Door County planning staff provided a handout regarding the state’s Smart Growth legislation (attached) and described the process the county plans to follow in completing the county-level Smart Growth plan. This meeting is the second of four that county planning staff will hold throughout the county to help develop a draft vision statement that will guide the remaining county plan work efforts. After the visioning sessions are completed, work on each topical element will be undertaken. That work will include “work group” meetings where input regarding potential goals, objectives, and policies will be solicited from members of the public and relevant agencies and organizations. The target date for completion of the plan as a whole is December 2008.

**3. Public input exercise: “What are Door County’s greatest assets?”**

DCPD staff gave meeting attendees notecards and asked them to write as many responses as they wished to the above question. Once all residents had written down their ideas, DCPD staff asked them to pick/rank their top response, writing the number 1 next to it.

Each person was then asked to share their top response with the larger group. Once those ideas were shared and recorded on flip chart sheets, each attendee was given six adhesive dots to use as “votes” toward their favorite ideas. (Note: attendees were free to place one vote each on six separate items, or all six votes on one single item, or any method in between those two.)

Below is a chart depicting the assets shared with the larger group as attendees’ top responses to the question, “What are Door County’s greatest assets?” and the number of votes each item received from attendees.

Number of votes	Asset
27	Agriculture: people making a living through agriculture
17	Lake Michigan and fishing
13	Proper utilization & preservation of water & shoreline in and around Door Co.
13	Rural areas that remain in agriculture
12	Natural resources – non-metallic minerals
12	Schools
9	Rural scenic beauty
8	Open space
7	Preservation of woodlands
6	Parks
5	Tourism
5	People
4	Clean Environment
3	Low crime
3	Appealing buildings
2	Shipbuilding
2	Geology and geological history
2	Favorable climate and land for fruit production
2	Workforce
2	Southern Door Belgian heritage
1	Cities and villages
1	Library system
1	Arts

0	Roads
0	Change in climate – four seasons

Note that all notecards – not just the top/shared responses – were collected and have been included in this meeting summary (see Appendix One).

**4. Overview: Planning data**

DCPD staff member Becky Kerwin provided meeting attendees with an overview of the types of data being collected for the county comprehensive plan. The Powerpoint slide presentation is available for viewing on the county website at [map.co.door.wi.us/planning](http://map.co.door.wi.us/planning).

**5. Public input exercise: “What words or phrases best capture your vision for Door County’s future?”**

Meeting attendees were then asked to write down on notecards their ideas with regard to the above question, and upon completion, to pick and number their top 3 responses, which were then shared with the larger group. After those ideas were shared and transcribed onto flip charts, meeting attendees were again given six “votes” to place as they wished next to their favorite(s). Below is the chart depicting the top ideas shared and the votes cast for each idea.

Number of Votes	Words or phrases – vision for Door County
23	Working to keep the next generation in the county, keep young people from moving out
20	Preserve agriculture
14	Encourage rural economic activity balanced with protecting rural character
13	Well planned and orderly mineral extraction
13	Affordable housing; adequate supply of housing options for people of all income levels
11	Continued rural character
10	Higher paying jobs with benefits
8	Southern Door economy more diverse than Northern Door
6	Better relationships with government agencies regulating agriculture
5	Less tourism
5	Internet access to encourage home based businesses
5	Leave it as it is or back it up a few years
4	Preserve wooded areas
3	Preserve parks and trails
3	Encourage directed growth and concentrated, conscious growth
2	Retain & improve business/industry, primarily in Sturgeon Bay
2	Commonality of vision
2	Health care system for the elderly
2	Keep local units of government intact
1	Clean water and air
1	Bigger and better airport
1	Save the natural beauty
1	Extend tourist season
1	More public land
0	Diversity: land, people, economics

Note that all notecards – not just the top/shared responses – were collected and have been included in this meeting summary (see Appendix Two).

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

## **Appendix One**

This appendix contains all of the responses written on notecards by meeting attendees in response to the question “What are Door County’s greatest assets?” If the number 1 appears in parentheses after the item, it indicates that a meeting attendee designated that response as their top response to the question.

- Preserve the woodlands & streams along with special land marks (1)
- Agriculture (1)
- Farm land/fields (1)
- Parks (1)
- Rural lifestyle of living (1)
- Woods and park systems (1)
- Accessible to waterways (1)
- Shoreline (1)
- Waters of Door County of Door Agriculture (1)
- Natural resources (1)
- Waters -water front & shore land (1)
- Miles of beautiful shoreline (1)
- Rural areas that remain in agriculture (1)
- Farming and open spaces (1)
- Natural resources (1)
- Water –Lake Michigan. Green Bay waters, rivers, inland lakes (1)
- Shorelines –water (1)
- People (1)
- Agricultural lands open to farming (1)
- Waterfront –lake & bay (1)
- Open space in Southern Door and clean air (1)
- Proper utilization of preservation of waters (1)
- Natural resources (i.e. non-metallic mineral reserves) It is a limited resource & should be protected from being denied usage (1)
- Lake Michigan (1)
- Water resources (1)
- Natural beauty
- Preserve all the beaches or shore lines
- Agricultural land
- Climate – both summer & winter activities
- Life style developments – jobs
- Small town
- Low crime
- Clean water, to fish, drink, swim
- Nice looking buildings
- Parks
- Beaches – water sports. Fishing
- Park system
- Water access (boating)
- Hard working residents
- Good school system
- Easy access from larger cities (new highway)
- Water
- Historical buildings

- Unique shopping –art –collectibles –pottery
- Library system, 8 libraries in all
- Washington Island –camping –golfing –airfield
- Launching ramps –boating facilities –fishing
- People
- Recreation
- Shipbuilding
- Parks
- Workforce (underpaid, need to improve)
- A safe place (crime)
- Shipbuilding
- Open space
- Water
- State parks & trails and county parks system
- Parks
- Tourism
- Good road network
- Limited development (no sprawl)
- Good reputation as a tourism destination
- Have a county airport – lacking in Kewaunee Co.
- Niagara Escarpment
- Harbor
- Diversity of people
- The shoreline – location
- The land –scenery
- Diversity of people
- The shoreline –location
- The land –scenery
- Lake & Bay
- Fishing & water recreation
- Agriculture
- Rural character
- Geology –geologic history
- People –cultures
- Cities & villages
- Natural beauty
- the county has went from fruit production, to dairy, to tourism in my lifetime. Is it sustainable? Will it change? Is it a larger inclusive resort? Or just high priced real estate?
- Hardwood forests
- Productive agriculture land
- Climate favorable for fruit production –cherries –apples –grapes
- Great rural living areas
- Abundance of wild game –good hunting
- Scenic beauty
- Great fishery –bay & lake
- The amount of shore front
- Belgian heritage of Southern Door County
- Clean air
- Water
- Parks

- Tourism
- Great fishing, water recreation, etc.
- Wildlife habitat
- Woodlands
- Open farmlands
- Sparse population areas
- Small family farmstands
- Schools
- Most of its people and their work ethic
- Streams
- Woodlands & wetlands
- Cities & villages
- Ahnapee trail
- Forestville dam
- Rural areas –farmland –cattle
- Parks
- Wildlife –deer, turkeys, rabbits, etc.
- Agriculture flavor
- Getting better roads in & out of Door County of Door
- Keep wetlands and natural areas open to public and for hunting
- Natural beauty
- Churches
- Water
- Arts
- History
- Absence of large cities
- The potential for growth
- Recreational opportunities
- Concern for well being of neighbors
- Waters all around
- The old farm buildings
- We have very good roads in this County of Door
- We have clean environment along side of some areas
- The people of Door County are nice to meet and talk with
- Good telephone system
- Some wood areas
- Some swamps
- Rivers & creeks
- Vacation land
- Small individual villages
- Southern region –farming
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Lakes & rivers
- State parks
- Arts
- Forest
- Shipbuilding
- Water for consumption & recreational use
- The transportation infrastructure

- The potential for growth
- Shoreland
- Forests
- Farm land
- Agriculture & natural resources
- Strong work ethic
- Scenery
- Good schools

## **Appendix Two**

This appendix contains all of the responses meeting attendees wrote down in answer to the question, “What words or phrases best capture your vision for Door County’s future?” If the numbers 1, 2, or 3 appear in parentheses after the item, it indicates that a meeting attendee designated that response as one of their top three responses to the question.

- Encouraged, directed growth (1)
- Retirement place for people from larger cities and people coming back after they made their money somewhere else (1)
- Children playing outside in a safe environment. Also adults enjoying outdoors. (1)
- Government cooperation between county, towns, villages and city to provide cost effective and quality services (1)
- Realistic preservation of natural features, such as woods, agricultural land, escarpment while planning for transportation needs and socio-economic considerations of tourism, business development and housing in the area. (1)
- To keep the natural resources for the public (1)
- Keep town governments (1)
- We need more good paying jobs and insurance for the worker so they can live decently. (1)
- Continue growth so to keep the county accessible to all –not just the wealthy (1)
- Increased employment opportunities to retain youth & young families (1)
- Continued rural character (1)
- Maintain rural living atmosphere (1)
- Wooded areas (1)
- Lots of snow (1)
- Commonality of visions for Door Co. (1)
- Keep rural flavor (1)
- Natural areas and woodlands and wetlands intact (1)
- Preserve more agricultural land (1)
- More affordable housing opportunities (1)
- Diversity –agriculture, industry, tourism, people (1)
- Maintain mix of land uses (1)
- To retain the natural beauty of the County of Door (1)
- I know what's best for my property (2)
- Keeping the next generation in the County of Door (2)
- Crops growing on open land (2)
- Preserve the past with well planned future developments (2)
- Consumption of some natural resources needs to be planned for to allow existence of good road system. (2)
- Agriculture –land –farms (woodland –public beaches –parks) (2)
- I see an elderly population enjoying their retirement but not having family close because of lack of jobs. I also see the need for a younger people to care for the elderly – but seeing this is low pay they will not stay in Door Co. (2)
- Promote business so the young people decide to stay here (2)
- Communication, internet so more people can work from home. So more people live here full time (2)
- Continues agricultural opportunities as well as the opportunity to pursue industrial work in Sturgeon Bay. (2)
- Tourist destination with clean water (2)
- More variety of jobs (2)
- Orchards (2)
- Crop still growing (2)

- Flexibility to adapt (2)
- Rural flavor (character) of the county preserved (2)
- Retain businesses & industry & promote (2)
- Preserved natural resources (2)
- Working together to accomplish goals (2)
- Clean environment (2)
- The income for young people is too small to keep them here (2)
- Keep our waters & streams as clean as possible (2)
- Maintain rural character (3)
- Retain the rural atmosphere (3)
- Seeing tractors and machinery working in fields (3)
- Well planned county -control sprawl –a connected street system –limited cul-de-sacs –plan to provide services to elderly (3)
- Planned use of rock and aggregate sources is critical for area. (3)
- Less development. (3)
- Without younger people –many less children –a big need to consolidate schools. (3)
- Promote more employment with a door county living wage (3)
- Better/bigger airport. For business people to come & go (3)
- Less tourism and associated traffic (3)
- Preserve agriculture (3)
- Farms (3)
- Less government (3)
- Preserve park & trails (3)
- Greater employment opportunities higher paying jobs (3)
- Beauty (3)
- Industrial development centered around Sturgeon Bay (3)
- Preserve beauty of county –nature areas –parks, rivers (3)
- Clean up the sites of junk of (indechiperable) junk (3)
- Those that do live here will be summer people, that is the young ones that stay (3)
- We need more jobs for the young people to stay in this county (4)
- Transportation system for tourism, agri. Good movement, business products is critical for future. (4)
- Clean air & water for health & future of kids (4)
- Streams (4)
- More & better health care for older people (5)
- The same place
- A mix of agriculture and industry
- Clear water quality –no bacteria
- Clean air quality
- A friendly tourism destination
- A better rideshare system is in place
- Make decisions based on the county rather than individual community perspectives
- Clean government
- Diversity –land, people and economics
- Make learning a higher priority
- No urban congestion
- Keep natural beauty!! Don't let everything get all developed!
- I have my place, let's close the "Door".
- Changing –loss of agriculture. housing & agriculture vs. industry, economics, tourism
- Promote family wage, jobs, opportunity
- Promote agriculture diversity

- Get rid of junk yards & clean up some residential area full of junk
- Same as it is or put it back a few years. leave it alone
- Lower prices for real estate
- Concentrated growth with preservation of some rural settings
- Avoidance of over-regulation, flexibility build into comprehensive plan
- Flexibility to adapt

## **Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" Legislation**

1999 Wisconsin Act 9 – commonly referred to as Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" legislation – states that by January 1, 2010, any municipality that has programs or takes actions that affect land use must have a comprehensive plan upon which those programs or actions are based. Below are the plan elements required.

**Issues and Opportunities.** Overall goals and programs to guide future (re)development of the municipality over a 20-year planning period. Background information, including population, household, and employment forecasts, demographic trends, age distribution, education levels, income levels, employment characteristics.

**Housing.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand. Assessment of the age, structural, value, and occupancy characteristics of housing stock; specific policies and programs promoting the development of housing and providing a range of choices that meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs. Policies and programs that promote the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing stock and also availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low-income and moderate-income housing.

**Transportation.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide development of the various modes of transportation, including highways, transit, transportation systems for persons with disabilities, bicycles, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking, and water transportation. Comparison of local plan to state and regional transportation plans. Identification of highways by function, incorporation of applicable state, regional, and other applicable transportation plans, including transportation corridor plans, county highway functional and jurisdictional studies, urban and rural area transportation plans, airport master plans, and rail plans.

**Utilities and Community Facilities.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide future development of utilities and community facilities, such as sanitary sewer; storm water management; water supply; solid waste disposal; on-site wastewater treatment technologies; recycling facilities; parks; telecommunications facilities; power-generating plants and transmission lines; cemeteries; health and child care facilities; other public facilities such as police, fire, and rescue services, libraries, schools.

**Agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for conservation and promotion of the effective management of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, and recreational resources.

**Economic development.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to promote the stabilization, retention, or expansion, of the economic base and quality employment opportunities, including an analysis of the labor force and economic base. Assessment of categories or particular types of new businesses and industries that are desired, and strengths and weaknesses with respect to attracting and retaining businesses and industries. Identification of applicable county, regional, and state economic development programs.

**Intergovernmental cooperation.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. Analysis of the relationship with school districts and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state, and other governmental entities. Identification of existing or potential conflicts between the municipality and other governmental units and processes to resolve.

**Land use.** Objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide future development and redevelopment of public and private property. Amount, type, intensity and net density of existing land uses, such as agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, etc. Analysis of trends in supply, demand, and price of land, opportunities for redevelopment and existing and potential conflicts. 20-year mapped projections, in 5 year increments, of future residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial land uses. Maps of current and future land uses, productive agricultural soils, natural limitations for building site development, floodplains, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive lands, and the boundaries of the areas to be served by public utilities.

**Implementation.** Timetable of programs and actions, including proposed changes to any zoning ordinances, official maps, sign regulations, erosion and storm water control ordinances, building codes, mechanical codes, housing codes, sanitary codes or subdivision ordinances, in order to implement the objectives, policies, plans, and programs above. Method by which plan will be updated (at least every ten years).