

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

**Door County Government Center, Sturgeon Bay  
Saturday, April 28<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 Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Door County Government Center in Sturgeon Bay, regarding the development of a vision to guide the Door County Smart Growth comprehensive plan creation. The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Attendees, per sign-in sheet:

#### Residents and Property Owners

David Berg  
Sandy Brown  
John Hippensteel  
Barb Graul  
Susan Kohout  
Matthew Matuszak  
Pat Miller  
Deni Moore  
Bart Munson  
JoAnn Neinas  
Monica Nelson  
Mary Paitrick  
Betty Parsons  
Rick Rogers  
Cat Schmidt  
Jean Setterholm  
Dennis Statz  
David Tuch

#### Staff/Meeting Facilitators

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

#### Interested Agencies

Robert Loss, NWTC  
Kevin O'Donnell, City of Sturgeon  
Bay  
Roger Tepe, Door Co. Dept. of Social  
Services

#### **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 third 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 top 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 ideas 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
19	Beautiful scenery, rural setting, natural/pastoral areas
14	Water for beauty, sports/recreation, and industrial usage
11	History and architecture: maritime, Belgian and other ethnic groups, Michigan Street Bridge
9	Green space, state parks, wildlife habitats and access to them
8	Agricultural heritage and setting
8	Big-city amenities in a small-town setting
7	Volunteerism – caring community
5	People
5	People – diversity of skills and interests
4	Shorelines and creeks
4	Safe, healthy, tight-knit community
4	Diversity between rural and tourist areas
4	Recreational opportunities
3	Climate: 2 growing zones
2	Door County cherries & apples and cherry & apple products
2	Outstanding educational system
2	Shipbuilding
2	Quaintness and uniqueness of villages
2	Community pride
2	Work ethic
1	Library system
1	Location
1	Industrial natural resources (sand, gravel)
0	Low population density
0	Washington Island

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 view on the county website at <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.

<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>Words or phrases – vision for Door County</b>
20	Sustainable economy, environment, social system
8	Become more energy independent – electricity and transportation
7	County-wide transportation system for motorists, bicycles, and pedestrians that is user-friendly, and scenic, with green screening/buffers of development along highways
7	Thriving agricultural economy that provides food security for the county
7	Health care education for long-term wellness, as part of a universal health care system
6	Development that is intelligent, planned, long-term
5	Economic development that will attract and retain young families
5	Retain open spaces
4	County-wide educational system for all age levels
4	Clean, safe, and pleasing environment
4	Good water quality
4	On-going communication between government and residents
4	Sense of individual as well as community responsibility
3	Effective and efficient system of land management
3	Continued protection of the environment through non-profit organizations
2	Excellent place to nurture soul, mind, and spirit
2	A place where the average citizen can afford to own his/her own home
2	No poverty
2	Maintain blend of rural and urban
1	Locally owned and operated businesses
1	Increased manufacturing base
1	Top-rated communications (internet) and other technological advances
1	Adequate planning for Highway 57 expansion
1	Continue to enhance services for retirees
1	Preservation of historic structures
1	Adequately staffed and funded social services
1	City and county cooperation on development issues to ensure coordination
0	Greater representation of women in elected and appointed government offices
0	Signage control – no large signs (billboards) and signs should be in similar styles

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 11:35 a.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.

- People (1)
- Water – shoreline, also inland lakes and streams (accessibility and length on Bay and Lake Michigan) (1)
- Small-town atmosphere with larger community resources (1)
- Scenic beauty and existing open areas (1)
- Shoreline and water (including creeks) (1)
- The beauty of nature, land, water (1)
- Natural beauty (1)
- Environment, natural: shoreline, beaches and dunes, Niagara Escarpment, scenic views, wildlife (1)
- Environment – rural, natural, beautiful (1)
- Water and shoreline (1)
- Access to green space (1)
- Our people (1)
- Volunteerism (1)
- Diversity in rural/business/tourism (1)
- Location (1)
- Beautiful scenery and a rural setting with lots of “natural” and “pastoral” areas (1)
- History/culture (maritime, architecture, early settlements, Belgian community) (1)
- State parks (2)
- Water/Trees/Landscape/Scenery/Farms
- Natural Resources
- Work Ethic
- Artists/artisans
- Environmental organizations
- Natural resources (especially very limited)
- Non-metallic minerals
- Agricultural setting
- Wildlife and its habitat
- Established access to extensive shoreland
- Outstanding schools
- Community spirit
- Many varied recreational opportunities
- Wide variety of resources and expertise among citizens
- Variety of green spaces: orchards, old trees, crops, “wild” areas
- Diversity of skills and interests (wish I could say age groups) in population
- Groups willing to volunteer time and money to preserve/enhance historical and natural areas and educate others
- Arts – theatre, galleries, fairs
- Cultural events – Hispanic, Scandinavian, Belgian, Threshere, Winter Games
- Varied recreational opportunities
- Climate
- Caring community
- Friendly people
- Wisconsin is in the Midwest

- Environment, “man made”: historic structures, buildings (bridge, etc.), parks (state, county, city, etc.), green space
- People – involved, concerned, work ethic, ethnic diversity, etc.
- Roads – main state roads, county “back roads,” other scenic roads
- Industry – shipbuilding, non-smokestack
- Open spaces and natural resources
  - Parks, land conservation via Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Ridges
  - Niagara Escarpment
  - 2 growing zones (5 & 6) – vegetation and wildlife diversity and choice for home location
- Water – beauty and sports; choice of 2 bodies of water (Lake and Bay)
- Agriculture – barns, farmland, orchards
- Performing and cultural arts
- Learning institutions – The Clearing, Bjorklunden
- Museums
- Michigan Street Bridge
- Community Size
- Shipbuilding
- Variety of ethnic communities and people, culture, buildings
- Volunteerism
- Quality environment
- Recreational opportunities
- Low population density
- Good agricultural land use
- Beautiful villages
- Unique agricultural products
- Agriculture – fruit, crops, dairy
- Water/coastline – Lake Michigan and Green Bay
- Wind – good, clean, energy source
- People
- Industry
- Local people/leaders
- Agricultural land use
- Natural areas (caves, rock formations, woodlands)
- Wildlife areas
- Natural beauty
- Green space
- Water
- Community pride
- Acceptance of diverse livelihoods (i.e., agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing...)
- Water/beaches
- Topography – cliffs/beaches/views
- Remote, wide open areas
- Our environmental resources
- Scenic beauty
- Rural values
- Schools
- Cultural activities
- Environmental preservation
- Government cooperation between some units
- Community participation

- Pride in their individual communities
- Parks
- Lighthouses
- Shoreline
- Washington Island
- Road maintenance – especially in winter
- Water
- State parks
- City parks
- Museums
- Restaurants
- Plays/theatre
- Ease in getting around
- Low-key pace
- Mix of urban and rural
- Water
- Natural beauty
- Safe place to live
- Friendly, open people
- Economic wealth
- Agricultural land (and its fragility, i.e. thin soils)
- Coastlines
- Small communities
- Midwestern families and seasonal “arts” influx
- Many small, locally run businesses
- People that care about their community
- An agricultural heritage and landscape
- Habitat for wildlife and green spaces
- Expansive coastline and water-based recreational activities and industries
- A safe, healthy living environment
- Close-knit communities and strong relationships between community members – that home-y feeling
- Friendly, open people
- A thriving tourism industry
- Cultural resources
- A budding music and art scene
- Parks – recreational opportunities
- Education – pre-school through adult
- Library system
- Agriculture – orchards, vineyards, traditional crops, and animal production

## 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.

- Environmentally responsible (1)
- Sustainable (economic, social, environmental) (1)
- More full-time, better paying jobs with benefits (year-round jobs) (1)
- Safe, clean environment (1)
- Preservation of natural resources and rural areas (1)
- Nice blend of rural and urban (1)
- Intelligent, long-term planning (1)
- Increased manufacturing base (1)
- An excellent place to nurture the soul, mind, and spirit (1)
- Clean, pleasing environment (1)
- Ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable communities (1)
- Controlling growth to retain open spaces and charm of rural landscapes (1)
- On-going environmental protection, by environmental organizations and community, of natural resources, especially water (1)
- SUSTAINABLE – so we don’t lose our beauty and resources; so everyone, all socio-economic levels, can enjoy our county! (1)
- Clean water and shoreline – management to ensure safety (1)
- Effective and efficient system of land management (1)
- Highways without billboards and large signs – small sign system (2)
- Keep as much open space as possible (2)
- Protect water (2)
- Food security: a thriving agricultural community that provides for the county’s food needs in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable fashion (2)
- Energy self-sufficient (2)
- Sustainable (self-sufficient – local): agriculture (local and organic), industry, social policies, tourism, energy, transportation (2)
- Planned development (2)
- Surrounded by water (2)
- Top-rated communication network (2)
- Ideal retirement location (2)
- Diverse range of housing and job opportunities (2)
- Transportation – especially in N. Door (2)
- County and state continue to have green/natural spaces that everyone has access to (2)
- Preservation of our natural environment: parks, scenic vistas, beaches, water, etc. (2)
- Food security – more small farms growing food for the community, not commodities that yield low prices and need to be exported to be processed and sold – sustainable agriculture (2)
- Impact of 4-lane highway – Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay – on land use, population density, schools, water (2A)
- Green – even business; having plant buffers (3)
- Sound, efficient, effective system of universal health care (3)
- Energy independent as a county (3)
- Food self-sufficient (3)
- The people of Door County take responsibility for their environmental footprint (3)

- Energy independent (wind, solar, biomass for electricity; biofuels, biodiesel, hybrids for transportation) (3)
- Consolidated schools (N. Door) (3)
- Growth of elderly population and needed services (3)
- Unique terrain of various elevations (3)
- Creation of adequate jobs (pay-wise), year-round (3)
- Place where the average citizen can afford to own his or her own home (3)
- Preservation of our “man made” environment: historic structures, historic sites, other “significant” structures (3)
- Growth in economic opportunities (3)
- Community (municipalities) collaborative efforts and also collaboration of environmental orgs. (3)
- Declining school populations/consolidation of services/districts (4)
- Lots of locally owned and operated businesses (4)
- Sustainable community (4)
- Clean water supply for human consumption, agricultural use, and recreation, habitat, and industry
- Socially responsible
- Clean water
- Healthy communities – address cancer/disease epidemics in a comprehensive way (ID toxin and water contamination sources)
- Support an economy that will bring young people back here (after they leave for college) to start families
- Better wages (v. state and national averages)
- Foster a culture of entrepreneurship
- Bountiful game and wildlands
- Sustainable/green building leader
- Open-minded and tolerant culture
- Zoning – to control condo development
- Protection of drinking water supplies
- Decline in younger populations
- Washington Island – provision of basic services to an isolated population
- People know and care about the county’s past
- Development of industries and housing that are most “protective” of our natural environment: high tech, communication, reverse urban sprawl
- Excellent place to live, work, and raise a family
- Quality educational environments
- Ideal recreation environments
- Robust economy
- Public trails/bike paths/transportation
- Sustainable development
- No poverty
- A thriving rural community
- A clean, safe, pollutant-free environment
- A leader in green building and business practices
- A safe environment to raise a family (environmental and social issues)
- A thriving economy to support an educated population
- City and county working together for appropriate development
- High tech service
- Protection of natural and historic assets
- Greater evidence of women in representative/elected and appointed positions
- Individual and community sense of responsibility



- Open space
- Land use – preserve the present atmosphere, resources, heritage of the county’s acreage.
- Transportation – the easier and more pleasant it is to travel to a desired destination, the more likely a person is to make the trip. This reflects economy. A plan for the county’s roadways.
- Effective, efficient land management
- Natural resources protected/preserved, including agricultural
- County-wide educational systems – cooperation among all for progress, priority for tax
- Economic development – diversification, wage increases, job market “values”, work ethic
- Cultural resources – used and promoted, priority for tax
- Health facilities – availability
- Volunteerism
- Universal health care
- Completely (whole county) connected technologically (web, wi-fi, cable or satellite, etc.)
- Diverse and balanced age distribution
- Effective and efficient system of mass public transport
- Protected natural and scenic resources
- Diverse economic base
- Well-funded quality educational system
- Adequately staffed and funded social services support system
- Consistent zoning with specific areas for industry giving them access to delivery systems – think safety for everyone
- Affordable housing in good repair
- Maintain our small town quaintness

## **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).