

**Meeting Minutes:  
Door County “Smart Growth” Plan  
Utilities & Community Facilities and Transportation Work Group – 2nd Meeting  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**1. Open meeting/introductions.**

The second meeting of the Utilities & Community Facilities and Transportation Work Group was held in the Sturgeon Bay Library Basement, 107 S. 4th Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, February 26th, 2008. The meeting started at 9:10 a.m.

**Present:**

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Braatz	Laurel	WDNR
Busch	Pam	WEP, INC./DC Transportation Consortium
Curzon	Gregg	Property Owner
Heimbecher	Mark	Clay Banks, Town Of
Hippensteel	John	Community Wind Energy
Konkel	David	Aircraft Owners And Pilots Association
Krolick	Dale	Property Owner
Majeski	Jeanne	Jacksonport, Town Of
Meyer	Ken	Property Owner
Miller	Annie	Liberty Grove, Town Of
Olson	Chris	Door County Sanitarian Department
Perlman	Sam	Door County Economic Development Corporation
Pinney	George	Door County, Parks
Rossberg	Doug	Friends of Door County Park System, Inc.
Rogers	Rick	Sustain Door
Sohns	Steve	Villagers Snowmobile Club, Inc.
Stawicki	Jim	Sturgeon Bay Utilities
Steinberger	Bob	Gardner, Town Of
Zachariasen	Amy	Villagers Snowmobile Club, Inc.
Zachariasen	George	Villagers Snowmobile Club, Inc.
Zehnder	Jackie	Property Owner

**Also present:**

Mariah Goode, Door County Planning  
Becky Kerwin, Door County Planning  
Amy Kohnle, United Way (assisted in facilitation of the transportation sub-group)

**2. Review previous meeting minutes.**

The minutes were revised to reflect that Steve Sohns is representing the Town of Gibraltar as well as the Villagers Snowmobile Club, Inc.

**3. Review/discuss visioning work completed to date.**

Prior to the second meeting, the work group was to have reviewed the county visioning summary documents including the General Issues and Opportunities, the draft Vision Statement, and the County Visioning Summary – Parts A & B. The readings for the second work group are posted to the website

located at [http://map.co.door.wi.us/planning/Comp-Plan/work-group\\_reading.htm](http://map.co.door.wi.us/planning/Comp-Plan/work-group_reading.htm). Utilities and Community Facilities responses ranked highly for all visioning exercises.

#### **4. Visioning exercises re: work group topic area(s).**

Goode explained that the group would break-out into three smaller groups according to the participant's area of interest; community facilities, utilities, and transportation. Participants would be asked the four questions listed below and facilitators would record all responses. She explained that an issue is a weakness that is internal to the county or it can be an external threat originating from outside the county. An opportunity is a strength that is internal to the county or it can be an external trend that could be capitalized upon within the county.

- What words or phrases best capture your preferred future vision for the county with regard to this work group's designated topics?
- Within the context of your preferred future vision for the county, what are the key issues we currently face with regard to this work group's designated topics?
- Again, within the context of your preferred future vision, what opportunities are available to or should be pursued for the county?
- What strategies or action items might be employed to address those issues or take advantage of those opportunities?

The participants broke-out into their sub-groups to work on the four questions and the responses are listed below by sub-group.

#### **Notes from Utilities sub-group discussion**

##### **Participants**

Jim Stawicki  
John Hippensteel  
Mark Heimbecher  
Ken Meyer  
Laurel Braatz  
Annie Miller  
Sam Perlman  
Chris Olson  
Mariah Goode (facilitator)

##### **Topics (per Smart Growth legislation)**

Sanitary sewer service  
Storm water management  
Water supply  
Solid waste disposal  
On-site wastewater treatment technologies  
Recycling facilities  
Telecommunications facilities  
Power-generating plants and transmission lines

##### **What words or phrases best capture your preferred future vision for the county with regard to this work group's designated topics?**

- Minimize waste stream – improve efficiency/use less, change lifestyle
- Practical sustainability
- Public health
- Connectivity
- Conservation and efficiency
- High level of maintenance, particular with regard to affects on water quality
- Long-term water quality

- Utility expansion/infill
- Back-up power availability
- Renewable energy services
- Expansion of electric transmission capabilities
- Keep Sturgeon Bay utilities on cutting edge
- Phone line redundancy and new/better insulated phone lines – aged lines need to be replaced (insulation cracks due to age and deterioration from exposure to weather)
- Public education regarding all these topics
- Wellhead protection – increase/enhance emphasis, education
- Scenic, natural resource protection/conservation – balance between improving facilities and maintaining resources
- Distributed power generation – sources located closer to loads they’re serving (would need few above-ground lines)
- Harnessing energy from waste sources (animal waste and garbage, for example)
- Clean water – e.g., phosphorus reduction

**Within the context of your preferred future vision for the county, what are the key issues we currently face with regard to this work group’s designated topics?**

- Dial-up internet access
- Significant lack of broadband communication
- Sanitary system evaluation – need more staff
- Maintenance to keep resources (like water) clean and safe – more time, money, staff needed for many programs
- Water for most wells in county drawn from upper aquifer (more easily contaminated)
- NIMBY mentality – lack of understanding and awareness
- Recycling/waste
  - Different things accepted in different places – no consistency between municipalities (Question: is there consistency between companies?)
  - Little curbside pick-up
  - Where is it going after we drop it off?
  - Few “clean sweep” programs
    - Conducted in recent years by Highway Department
    - Not regularly scheduled
    - Cost is ...? 2 quotes: \$36,000-40,000 and \$100,000 per “sweep”
    - Grant money (up to \$14,000) has sometimes been available
  - Auto/truck/boat (repair/maintenance/storage)/machine shop recycling (coolant, etc.) or proper disposal is not being done correctly by many
    - Need more information regarding impacts to water supply of ethylene glycol (non-dog-friendly) versus propylene glycol (dog-friendly) type of coolants
      - Dog-friendly type can’t be used by many places (auto warranty issues)
- Aging utility infrastructure
  - Financial constraints re: upgrading
- Financial constraints in general
- State and other government levels – financial problems
- Lack of common vision/cooperation between governments re: utilities issues
- Cost is main issue re: a lot of utility issues (current problems, potential solutions, etc.)
- Connection between zoning (lot size, numbers of wells and septic tanks that will be installed, etc.) and the land (soil depth, water quality, etc.) – there doesn’t seem to be any
  - Clustered development (shared wells and septic tanks) can help
- Longevity in planning – commitment needed to keep working on these issues, maintain momentum, etc.
- Quality water – surface and groundwater – this county is nothing without these

**Again, within the context of your preferred future vision, what opportunities are available to or should be pursued for the county?**

- Education
  - Opportunities now due to problems at Log Den, lake/beach water quality – awareness is increasing
  - Private citizens are getting involved, not just government agencies
- Awareness of telecommunications issues – willingness to do something now
- Knowledgeable people/contacts/resources in the county – these planning meetings are providing people/agencies/local governments with new resources/knowledge
- Green Bay sewer line goes to Dyckesville – can existing lines in Door County be extended in similar manners?
  - Possible expansion being considered in Egg Harbor, due to Log Den issues
- More awareness now re: renewable energy – new county wind energy ordinance, for example
- Conservation is or will increase due to increasing utility rates
- County RFP re: fiber optic provision (April 30 deadline)
- Bedrock could make fiber optic lines very protected
  - Share trenches with other utilities (phone, etc.)
- Talk to ATC about sharing easements with other potential utilities rather than having to get new easements for new utilities, trails, etc.
- Government cooperation
- Extensive renewable energy resource available (wind) – can also provide money to municipalities, too; could use that money to address other issues (utilities or other)

**What strategies or action items might be employed to address those issues or take advantage of those opportunities?**

- Work with DOT to site utilities in road easements
- Talk to ATC about sharing easements with other potential utilities/facilities
- County's RFP re: fiber optic, city exploration of issue – support these and other efforts
- Look more at land qualities with regard to septic system installation
  - Set higher standards than state standards
  - Land division approvals – include information (and possibly base approval) on types of systems that will serve the lots
  - Shared wells and septic systems would help
- Make communication systems truly redundant – run on different paths
  - We have some, but we need more, and more redundant and divergent, lines
- County-wide recycling/waste standards
  - Look into options for more frequent/publicized “clean sweep” programs
- Look into use of other energy sources
  - Biomass
  - Wind
  - Nuclear
  - Gas “peaker” plant
  - Algae/cladophora
- Could we have a county-wide sanitary district?
- Public education regarding all these topics to improve awareness and understanding
  - Educating re: waste disposal
  - Wellhead protection – increase/enhance emphasis, education
  - Phosphorus reduction programs – continue/improve efforts
- Sales or other taxes to fund programs (potentially short-term or lapsing taxes)
- Use Legislative Days as a platform to advocate for necessary state-level change
- Room tax funds
- Identify where we want our energy sources (and what type) to be located
- Conduct studies that would help better protect water quality

- NY study re: # of residences that could be built in an area due to its hydrology, soil types and depths, septic systems, etc.
- Iowa County – voluntary sampling program to help track/identify/map problem areas so as to have more specific casing and other well requirements
- County policy to ban holding tanks
- Utility expansion/infill
- Help phone line redundancy issues by installing better-insulated lines
- Investigate potential for harnessing energy from waste sources (animal waste and garbage, for example)
- Establish opportunities/forums for government cooperation

**Notes from transportation sub-group discussion**

**Participants**

Rick Rogers  
 Pam Busch  
 Dave Konkel  
 Bob Steinberger  
 Amy Kohnle (facilitator)

**Topics**

- Highways
- Transit
- Systems for persons with disabilities
- Bicycles
- Electric personal assistive mobility devices
- Walking
- Railroads
- Air transportation
- Trucking
- Water transportation
- Identify highways by function
- Incorporate goals and compare to state, regional, and other applicable goals/plans:
  - Transportation corridor plans
  - County highway functional and jurisdictional studies
  - Urban area and rural area transportation plans
  - Airport master plans
  - Rail plans

**What words or phrases best capture your preferred future vision for the county with regard to this work group’s designated topics?**

- Available to all
- Renewable energy
- Reliable
- Affordable
- Accessible
- Safe
- Appropriate seasonal supports
  - Salt in the winter
  - Weed/brush control in the summer
  - Awareness of endangered species and wildlife
- Reasonable
- Futuristic
- Variety of options

- View the airport as an asset
- Proper maintenance
- Appropriate signs
- Billboard control
- The impact of roundabouts are thought about for now and the future
- Consider use of railways for the future

**Within the context of your preferred future vision for the county, what are the key issues we currently face with regard to this work group's designated topics?**

- Resource limitations
  - People
  - Water
  - Land
- Our current focus on highways and private vehicle ownership prohibits our thoughts to focus on other options
- Petroleum-based products
- Finances
- Education on other options
- Education on why we should work together
- Attitudes
- Fuel costs
- Lack of space for bikes on the roads
- Turn-over of county board supervisors
  - Education process needs to be done every other year
  - Will the SG plan provide for consistency when supervisors are asked to make decisions
- Trust
- Ownership
- Not willing to share
- Regulations
  - Government
  - Funding source limitations
- Geography
  - Narrow
  - Rural
  - Isolated
- Loss of water (lower levels)
  - Dredging without protection
  - Winter evaporation
- Number of trucks on the roads
  - Safety
  - Wear and tear
  - Trucking corridors
- Speed limit enforcement
- Lack of bike racks

**Again, within the context of your preferred future vision, what opportunities are available to or should be pursued for the county?**

- Close-knit community
- We cooperate well
- Linear geography
- Numerous harbors, provide an opportunity for water transportation
- Potential for rail development

- Use of ferries
- Use of airport
- New 4 lane highway
  - Better for trucking
  - Safer
- Park and Ride
  - Can more sites be added to the plan?
  - Have a mini-bus running from these to specific places
- We have open land for pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths
- The County should work with the Door County Transportation Consortium on developing a plan for a coordinated system

**What strategies or action items might be employed to address those issues or take advantage of those opportunities?**

- Encourage carpooling and ride-sharing by limiting parking spots at each employer
- Limit the use of critical sites for critical use
  - For example a ship yard should be built on the water, but a resort does not have to be built on the water
- Future development should be based on transportation access
  - Housing should be built near jobs and services
- Eliminate cul-de-sacs, these are barriers for many transportation options
- Look at how UWGB is set up, they encourage walking and biking and discourage the use of cars
- Paved space for walking and biking on all roads, not necessarily a designated bike path, just paved space
- Bus service
  - Fixed-route and door-to-door
- Be proactive in supporting the airport master plan
  - Accommodate larger aircraft
  - Buy property for east/west runway
  - Communication facilities
- Develop deep water piers for ferries
  - People and freight
- Sidewalks
  - Require them for new development areas
  - Add or enhance for current roads
- Bike paths
  - Same as above for sidewalks
  - Combine with sidewalks or run parallel to
- Increase number handicapped parking spaces on streets for businesses that do not have parking lots
  - Increased enforcement of those who misuse the current spots
- As the county replaces their vehicles they should replace them with fuel-efficient or vehicles that use other fuel options
  - Encourage/support the use of renewable energy vehicles by other entities
- Have the County fully endorse and support the Door County Transportation Consortium and Door Tran – work the Consortium on developing a plan for a coordinated system
- Bikes available for public use
- Increase the number of bike racks
- Encourage the use of rental cars
- Appropriate seasonal supports
  - Salt in the winter
  - Weed/brush control in the summer
  - Awareness of endangered species and wildlife with regard to support activities
- Proper maintenance

- Billboard control, but appropriate highway signage
- Consideration/study of options regarding
  - Roundabouts
  - Railway development
  - More use of ferries and/or harbors for water transportation
  - Truck traffic options (safety, road wear and tear, corridors, etc.)
- Education
  - For elected officials and private citizens
  - On other options (beyond private, fuel-only powered vehicles)
  - On why we should work together
- Speed limit enforcement
- Park and Ride Lots
  - Add more sites to plan
  - Have a mini-bus running from these to specific places

### **Notes from Community Facilities sub-group discussion**

#### **Participants**

Gregg Curzon  
 Amy Zachariasen  
 George Zachariasen  
 Dale Krolick  
 Jeanne Majeski  
 George Pinney  
 Doug Rossberg  
 Steve Sohns  
 Becky Kerwin (facilitator)

#### **Topics**

Cemeteries  
 Health care facilities  
 Child care facilities  
 Parks  
 Police  
 Fire  
 Rescue facilities  
 Libraries  
 Schools  
 Other governmental facilities  
 Location, use, capacity of community facilities  
 Timetable forecasting need to expand, rehabilitate, or create facilities  
 Assess future needs for government services related to such facilities

#### **What words or phrases best capture your preferred future vision for the county with regard to this work group's designated topics?**

- Multi-purpose trail from Ahnapee to Gills Rock with side trails for snowmobiling, horseback riding, and biking
- Continuous trail system in northern Door; southern Door to plan for trails
- Permanent easement or ownership of a multi-use trail
- Trail access and staging areas for snowmobilers and horseback riders
- Accessible and family-oriented multi-use trails for equestrian camping and snowmobile camping
- More county parks; expansion of existing county parks; more diverse uses
- Preserve wild space and green space
- More user-friendly parks

- Community and government agencies working together to do long-range planning and to implement their plans
- Commitment from ultimate decision-makers to implement plans
- Communication between all user groups; find opportunities for shared improvements (i.e., emergency services to utilize kayak launches)
- Library service to all residents provided in a cost-efficient manner without duplication of services; look at sharing services
- More access/safe-harbors along Lake Michigan
- Communities to consider cemetery needs and cost to maintain
- More access to waterways for recreation; communities to consider dredging needs

**Within the context of your preferred future vision for the county, what are the key issues we currently face with regard to this work group's designated topics?**

- NIMBYism
- Low water levels; encourage higher authorities to do something about it; affects invasive species and creates shoreline ownership issues
- Potential withdrawal of water from Lake Michigan for sale
- Aging population – impacts cemeteries, health-care, funding for schools, and trail development
- Alcohol use and its impact on emergency services
- Water recreational use is threatened; where does funding come from to develop recreational uses
- Taxes – funding formula for the schools needs to change
- Geographically isolated county and emergency services logistics; no connectors except from the south
- Lake access for rescue services
- Cost of land for all topics
- Misinformation regarding trail liability

**Again, within the context of your preferred future vision, what opportunities are available to or should be pursued for the county?**

- Non-profit coordination council for conservation/preservation agencies and user groups
- More communication between conservation/preservation and user groups; efforts will fail as separate entities
- Great place for more trails; generate more tourism through development of recreational infrastructure
- Grant opportunities for recreation development
- Many people with a lot of time and intelligence; good volunteer base
- Common concerns and goals between groups
- Work with the DNR and Parks
- Peninsula State Park Super. retirement; who will replace him?
- Tourism opportunities
- Get the DNR to stop fighting snowmobiling

**What strategies or action items might be employed to address those issues or take advantage of those opportunities?**

- Work with state legislators who like to horseback ride and snowmobile
- Develop multi-agency cooperation
- Joint kayak and emergency services launches
- Coordination among emergency services to improve rescue services
- Increase communication
  - County-mixer with residents, supervisors, department heads, and other agencies
  - Get-togethers with key players
  - Create comprehensive list of all agencies and contact information
- Library and school consolidation

- Educate people that this is a tourism-based economy
- More honest, thorough, and accurate reporting by the Door County Advocate
- Better health-care facilities
- Better animal care – 24 hour veterinarian services

**5. Set next meeting date.**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 8th, 2008**

Location: Sturgeon Bay Library - Jane Greene Room

**6. Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

*Minutes transcribed by Becky Kerwin, Door County Planning*