

**One Lenawee is: ...a**  
*collaboration* of concerned people  
dedicated to *The Vision of making  
Lenawee County a Great Place to  
live, work, learn, worship, play  
and invest.*

*We bring attention and action* to  
important community issues.

*Uniting and Connecting* partners  
and committed people, we identify,  
support, and develop initiatives and  
projects that optimize community  
resources toward *The Vision.*



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## **Meeting Notes**

### **Infrastructure Committee**

August 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Lenawee Co. Road Commission Office

2461 Treat Street, Adrian

#### **1. Welcome**

Co-Chairs Dan Swallow and Marty Marshall called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM. The following individuals were in attendance.

- Marty Marshall, Dan Swallow, Scott Merillat, Shane Horn, Ashley Hutchinson, Joe Williams, and Eric Walcott (MSU Extension).

#### **2. Introduction: Strategic Plan for Lenawee County**

**a.** Work to be Completed- timeline update

Dan Swallow reviewed the project timeline and workplan (attached).

**b.** Focus Groups – participation and recruitment

The Committee noted that we should attempt to expand participation, particularly from other areas of the County including some of the outlying townships.

**c.** Planned Outcomes from Focus Groups (Committees)

#### **3. Description of “SMART” Goals**

**a.** Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-framed

**b.** Process and Forms for Facilitating Goals and Strategies Development

Dan Swallow and Eric Walcott discussed the process for developing SMART Goals and reviewed the handouts.

#### **4. Infrastructure Challenges in Lenawee Co. (Brainstorming)**

**a.** Notes from Community Forums

**b.** Roads

**c.** Non-Motorized Transportation

**d.** Water & Sewer

**e.** Electric & Gas

**f.** Telecommunications (Broadband)

Initial discussion focused on lack of broadband internet across the County. The following issues were identified by the Committee:

- Central towns (Cities and Villages) all covered by D&P Communications or other service providers.
- Several areas of the County do not have broadband service and it is likely not cost-effective to service them with fiber or even enhanced cable.
- There is an opportunity to explore fixed wireless service for more rural areas. Cost and financing are still a challenge with fixed wireless service.
- The County and municipalities have had issues with some of the fixed wireless service providers and their desire to place large towers in public road rights-of-way. ***How can this issue be addressed collectively?***
- There is an opportunity for the other utilities (electrical) to utilize existing infrastructure to further develop fiber network. Midwest energy has started to get into the cable TV and internet services.
- The Committee may want to develop a ***Goal to assist in creating partnerships between utilities and telecom providers.***
- The State of Michigan has started the “Connect Michigan” program to begin to address the lack of broadband in rural areas. There could be resources from the State in the future that we need to monitor.
- Permitting costs and property taxes are not uniform across the County, which creates a challenge for the telecom providers. It may be a ***Goal to create a more consistent permitting and property tax assessment system for telecommunications in the County: 1) Unified permitting process, 2) Consistent application formats and fees, 3) Model Agreements with public agencies for major projects.***
- Another ***Goal should be to document what areas of the County are currently services and areas without Broadband service.***
- There appears to be a lack of knowledge among consumers regarding what service options are available. ***There should be a Goal to provide additional public information on service areas and options- 1) Utilize Connect Michigan 2) Technology education materials 3) Documents to promote broadband network for economic development.***

Discussion shifted to the Road Infrastructure in the County:

- There is mixed coordination with the townships in the County, and what funding is available for Primary and Local Roads. The County is limited by law to fund only 50% of improvements to Local Roads.
- Some townships have a local millage to help fund improvements to local roads, and are more involved than others. There should be an effort to better educate the residents on what the County role is on roads in the townships.
- It is sometimes difficult for municipalities to get competitive bids for smaller projects. ***There should be a goal to develop a Cooperative Bidding program in***

***Lenawee Co., so that the County and municipalities could obtain better bid pricing.***

- The Road Commission could act as a road contractor, like they currently do in the Village of Blissfield. However, the Road Commission cannot be directly involved in competitive bidding. ***A Goal to explore how the Road Commission could be more involved in contracting for some projects in the County should be explored.***

## **5. Priority Challenges that Can be Impacted by Strategic Planning**

### **6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- a. Draft Goals to address Priority Challenges
- b. Identify strategies to achieve goals
- c. Identify how progress will be measured (what metrics?)
- d. Begin developing action plan
  - i. Specific steps (What needs to get done?)
  - ii. Leadership (Who will take responsibility?)
  - iii. Timetable

Discussion occurred around what groups were not represented on the Committee and who should be recruited for the next meeting. The following groups and individuals were identified.

- Township Representatives-
  - Rolin Township
  - Adrian/Madison Township
- Drain Commissioner's Office
- Midwest Energy- Pati Clark
- Airport – Joe Mallet
- Lenawee Now
- MDOT
- Villages – Michael Sessions (Morenci), Kevin Cornish (Clinton), Jim Wonacott (Blissfield)

### **7. Next Meeting Date**

The Committee felt meeting sooner would be helpful- August 31 at 3:00 PM was recommended.

# Lenawee County Strategic Planning Timeline – From Eric Walcott

- I. November 2016 -
  - a. Eric will meet with One Lenawee group, present project timeline
  - b. Review Community Capitals Framework and identify organizations/individuals that need to be at the table for this process to be a success.
    - i. One Lenawee may have already done a similar process for putting together a list of stakeholders, so this may not be necessary, however, it may be worth reviewing the Community Capitals framework to make sure no important community sectors are being left out of the process.
- II. December 2016
  - a. Promote kickoff meeting
    - i. Press releases, website, social media
  - b. Send out stakeholder invites
    - i. Identify ahead of time which individuals will be responsible for following up on invitation with identified stakeholders.
- III. Kickoff Meeting - January 2017
  - a. Dan Gilmartin - presentation on Lenawee County demography and economic development activities other counties are pursuing
  - b. Eric Walcott - Overview of process plan and timeline.
- IV. Public Engagement Workshops (1-2 months)
  - a. A series of public engagement workshops, carried out throughout the county, will involve community members in exploring unique strengths, challenges, and opportunities that exist within the region.
    - i. Adrian
    - ii. Hudson
    - iii. Blissfield
    - iv. Tecumseh
    - v. Onsted
  - b. Workshop outline
    - i. Participants identify and discuss most positive features of the county and major challenges facing the county.
    - ii. Overview of demographic and economic data for the county.
    - iii. Use data discussion to inform discussion of opportunities that might exist for enhancing strengths and/or addressing challenges.
    - iv. Prioritization of opportunities by participants
    - v. Morenci, JCC, SHU, AC (did not get much participation from AC)
- V. Focus Groups (1-2 months - depends on number of opportunity areas identified)
  - a. Review meeting notes and decide Focus Groups
  - b. Communication: what do we report, and in what media?
  - c. Based on opportunities identified at the Public Engagement Workshops (as well as other areas key stakeholders might feel should be discussed), focus groups will be held by industry/issue cluster (manufacturing, arts, local government, agriculture, tourism, etc)
- d. Focus groups will explore more detailed data for each cluster, and identify opportunities that exist within the cluster, potential barriers to success, and goals/objectives for moving forward.**

We're here

- e. Focus group participants should involve key stakeholders from clusters that have been identified.**
- VI. Focus group follow-up (This could be done in a single or multiple meetings, as well as by cluster, or altogether. Especially if opportunities and goals are identified across multiple clusters that overlap, doing this part all together might be more helpful.)
  - a. Identify strategies to achieve goals
  - b. Identify how progress will be measured (what metrics?)
  - c. Begin developing action plan
    - i. Specific steps (What needs to get done?)
    - ii. Leadership (Who will take responsibility?)
    - iii. Timetable
- VII. Draft Plan
- VIII. Share plan with stakeholders for review
- IX. Present plan publically, allow for public review
- X. Finalize plan (*TARGET*: October 15, 2017)
- XI. Implement Plan