



<http://www.lenawee.mi.us/817/Visioning>

e-mail – onelenawee@gmail.com
dswallow@tecumseh.mi.us

Meeting Notes

Infrastructure Committee

September 21, 2017

1. Welcome

Present: Patty Clark (Consumers Energy), Ron Cousino (Deerfield Twp.), Irma David (Rollin Twp.), Shane Horn (City of Adrian), Scott Merillat (Lenawee Co. Road Commission), Dan Swallow (City of Tecumseh), Tom Foremen (MDOT), Jim Wonacott (Village of Blissfield), Michael Sessions (City of Morenci), ?Joe Brezvai?(Lenawee Co. Drain Commission)

2. Priority Challenges that Can be Impacted by Strategic Planning

a. Electric & Gas

Dan Swallow, Committee Co-Chair, opened the meeting for discussion on Electric and Gas “issues” that communities and residents may have experienced. One of the challenges that the City of Tecumseh has faced is obtaining accurate utility information on short notice when there is a development proposal or other inquiry. Ms. Clark explained the process for obtaining information in the Midwest Energy Cooperative footprint. She stated that she serves as the liaison to make sure communities get the information they need for projects. She stated that a smaller electric cooperative, Midwest Energy can be fairly nimble in responding to requests and pride themselves on having competitive rates.

The discussion moved to the Fiber-Optic initiatives that have been started by Midwest Energy. The company has committed to be the “final-mile” provider for broadband internet access. Currently Midwest has approximately 50,000 broadband customers, more predominantly on the west side of the state in their primary service areas. Ms. Clark encouraged people to go on their website and request broadband service if they currently don’t have access. They are working on a larger build out throughout their service area. One of the challenges is that the Federal Communications Commission has not been releasing some of the funds they have available for developing rural broadband access. **One of the goals identified was the Lenawee Co. communities should work with their federal legislators to encourage the FCC to release more funding from the Connect America Fund and other funding sources they have available for these types of initiatives.**

The next topic discussed was energy efficiency initiatives by local governments. Mr. Wonacott noted that he has had difficulty working with Consumers Energy to obtain cost estimates and plans for LED street lighting conversions. Ms. Clark noted that there is annual funding available through the energy optimization fees that all rate payers contribute to through their utility bills. However, these funds often are expended prior to the end of the year and it is important to get your application submitted early in the year. There was discussion surrounding how the local municipalities could access expertise in utilizing these incentives. **One of the goals could be to work on a County-wide basis to engage experts in energy conservation that could assist communities in understanding and applying for incentives.**

b. Storm Water Drainage

At the last meeting the topic of orphan drains and lack of funding for storm water improvements was discussed, but there were not any potential solutions identified. The Lenawee Co. Drain Commission representative explained the petition process and who was eligible to initiate the petition process. Several of the local government representatives noted there is a general lack of understanding of jurisdiction over drainage and storm water issues, and how the drain petition process works. **A goal identified was to improve public and elected official education on Drain Maintenance Petitions; potentially through an annual informational meeting.** The Township representatives noted there appears to be multiple Township meetings (exp. MTA) occurring around single topics (exp. drains), and there may be **a need to organize and consolidate these meetings.** The discussion shifted to how multijurisdictional projects could be initiated, such as regional storm water detention projects. **Another goal discussed was to identify regional drainage issues in the County that need multi-jurisdictional cooperation and prepare recommended funding mechanisms.**

c. Public Transportation

The topic of public transportation was discussed, and what gaps may exist in the existing system. The group identified a significant concern with the development of the new hospital and need for transportation to that location for the senior and low-income populations. There are transportation services accessible through the 2-1-1 service, Veterans Affairs, and the Department on Aging, but they are fairly fragmented. **A goal identified was to create a central depository of information regarding public transportation options, and develop a mechanism(s) for ensuring the population that needs these services can easily access this information.**

d. Non-Motorized Transportation

Mr. Swallow noted that the final area that the Committee hasn't spent significant time discussing is non-motorized transportation. The Committee members agreed that the Kiwanis Trail was a priority project and the trail could be utilized as a backbone for other spurs to provide access to nodes such as the new hospital complex. **A goal identified was to identify priority routes off the Kiwanis Trail that would provide the greatest access.**

3. Goals to Address Priority Challenges

a. SMART Goals Criteria

- i. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Framed
- ii. Do the Goals Address the Challenges and Opportunities Identified in the Community Forums?

4. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

a. Draft action plan

- i. Specific steps (What needs to get done?)
- ii. Leadership (Who will take responsibility?)
- iii. Identify how progress will be measured (what metrics?)
- iv. Timetable

5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was set for Thursday, October 12 at 3:00 PM

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