

WASHINGTON COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Radermacher at 1:00 p.m. at the Public Agency Center, Room 3224. Those present included:

Members Present:

Lawrence Hoffman..... County Board Supervisor
James Schwartz County Board Supervisor
David Radermacher County Board Supervisor
Linda Walter Health Department Director
Linda Olson Office on Aging Director
Ken Pesch Highway Department

Staff:

Debora Sielski Assistant Administrator for Planning
Washington County Planning and Parks Department

Joanne Wagner Office Manager
Washington County Planning and Parks Department

Visitor: Jessica C. LaPlante-Wikgren

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Call Meeting to Order/Review Agenda

Chairman Radermacher called the meeting to order. Quorum present.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: Approval of January 19, 2007 minutes

Motion by Olson, seconded by Schwartz to approve the minutes of January 19, 2007 as submitted with no additions or corrections. Motion carried.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Review and approval of Chapter VII – Issues and Opportunities Element

This is the first of many element chapters where we will be getting into the recommendations, goals and objectives, policies & programs. This chapter does not include policies and programs, just overall goals & objectives. The one thing that is missing from this chapter that will be included is an overall statement of County goals and objectives. Sielski stated that the goals and objectives for this chapter and all of the

upcoming element chapters were compiled from previous visioning and public participation events, such as the survey, the workshops, etc., existing goals from adopted County plans and meetings with County liaison committees.

Sielski reviewed the Issues and Opportunities bullet points from the Chapter (see attached).

Sielski stated that the local governments' vision statements are not yet included, but will be included in this chapter when completed. Sielski stated that the Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee chose not to create an overall vision statement for the County since it is not a specific requirement of the law. However, Sielski stated that she does have to create a paragraph summarizing overall goals and objectives for the County.

Overall Goals and Objectives for the County were reviewed. Sielski reviewed these item by item with the Committee.

Hoffmann commented that by the year 2035, we expect to have an increase of almost 40,000 people here in Washington County. That is approximately a 20% increase. Some of the land designated for preservation will be used to house these additional people. The character of Washington County is going to change. You have two choices. You can either choose to keep people out or bring them in and expand growth. Sielski stated that the key is to determine where you want residential growth and land preservation to occur and follow through with implementation. Hoffman further stated that in regard to supporting natural resources, water is one of the key resources for preservation in order to support life in both quantity and quality. Discussion ensued regarding prudence and further research needed in preserving water resources.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Walter to approve Chapter VII - Issues and Opportunities Element, as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that this Plan is a guide and a resource. It is not intended that everything proposed and recommended in the Plan will happen exactly as written. Radermacher stated that it will take vision, and the courage and cooperation of all of the municipalities working together to implement the Plan.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Review and approval of Chapter VIII –
Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
Element

Sielski stated that Chapter VIII has gone through the approval of the Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee (PCPC). The PCPC motioned to remove all recommendations regarding preservation of secondary environmental corridors.

Sielski stated that the Board of Health revised the Environmental Health Issue section and referred the Committee to the handout (see enclosed) regarding the environmental health section (replaces page 16).

Walter stated that the issue of medical hazardous waste should be added to this. Sielski stated that it is already in the chapter. Discussion ensued regarding proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and unused medication. Walter stated that the Health Department is working on this and will be compiling recommendations.

Sielski reviewed the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process in detail. Reviewed the land evaluation scores and referred the Committee to the first map of LESA scores (see attached). LESA will be used for updating the Farmland Preservation Plan. Regarding Map VIII-1, Pesch inquired about the red "blob" which is apparently over the County line into Dodge County (area that is served by the City of Hartford Sewer District) but would like identification as to what that is. Sielski will obtain clarification of what that is and report back at the next meeting.

On page 5, Hoffman commented on the "right-to-farm" ordinance. (i.e. – manure spreading and the fact that this practice causes complaints from neighbors). Hoffman stated that the farming operation needs this protection and that the right-to-farm law is very important.

Sielski stated that the PCPC eliminated the recommendation for the County to continue to look at Purchase of Development Rights as a way to protect and preserve farmland.

Radermacher stated that truck-farming (organic farming) is gaining popularity and feels that this is something that should be included and encouraged. Sielski stated that the second policy on top of page 8 addresses this.

On page 21 – regarding Historical Resources Issue; second bullet point under the policy "Encourage the preservation of local landmarks" - Radermacher inquired as to whether any activity had been taking place on this item, and what the requirements were for Washington County to become a certified local Government by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Sielski will check with the Clerk's office on this.

Radermacher stated that he feels this is an excellent document and an excellent tool for improving the quality of life in Washington County.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Schwartz to approve Chapter VIII - Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element as presented. Motion carried.

Pesch asked about map VIII-3 and the blue denotation of planned sewer service areas on that map as well as secondary environmental corridors in the lighter green color. Discussion ensued regarding development in environmental corridors. Sielski referred the Committee to Chapter VIII, Table 1 to explain the map and legend. Sielski will do further research and report back to Pesch at the next meeting.

Pesch asked about conservation easements. Sielski will check out potential errors in the Timmers area of Big Cedar Lake. Sielski will find out how we get information for recorded private conservation easements and report back.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Discuss future Meeting Dates and Times
Sielski proposed a late August/early September meeting date for the review of the Economic Development Chapter. At that meeting, we can also discuss the Dispute Resolution Board. Consensus was reached to set a meeting for **1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 30th**.

A meeting was scheduled for October (LU & Housing element). Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. was chosen as a tentative date. This date is to be confirmed at the August 30th meeting.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment
No one present from the public. No comment.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Adjournment

Motion by Hoffman seconded by Schwartz to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Sielski
Assistant Administrator for Planning

Approved by _____
David N. Radermacher, Chairperson

Date _____