



MEMORANDUM

TO: Wright County Northeast Quadrant Task Force

FROM: Mark Nolan

DATE: March 30, 2006

RE: Wright County Northeast Quadrant Land Use Plan
Task Force Meeting #4 Summary
SEH No. A-WRIGH0601.00

The following document summarizes the first Task Force meeting for the Wright County Northeast Quadrant Land Use Plan (NQLUP).

Date of Event: Monday February 27, 2006, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Wright County Government Center
Board Room

Attendees:

Tom Salkowski (Wright County)
Gordon Weber (Task Force member)
Donald Schmidt (Task Force member)
Judy Weldele (Task Force member)
Joseph Doyle (Task Force member)
Ken Felger (Task Force member)
Greg Eckblad (Task Force member)
Dan Bucholtz (Task Force member)
Jeff O'neill (Task Force member)
Nancy Carswell (Task Force member)

Marc Weigle (Task Force member)
Laureen Bodin (Task Force member)
Tom Zins
Barry Rhineberger
Scott Deckert
Stacy Arp
Kimberly Thompson
Tom Perrault
Mark Nolan, SEH
Lindberg Ekola, Ekola & Associates

Introductions

- Tom Salkowski introduced the project and the consultant team. The consultants (Mark Nolan and Lindberg Ekola) introduced themselves to the Task Force and gave a brief overview of what is to be accomplished in the meeting.
- Each attendee introduced him/herself and their affiliation (see above).

Project/Task Force Purpose and Process

- Mark Nolan discussed the purpose of the Project Task Force. Membership and representation, including representation by each of the three townships and seven cities in the Northeast Quadrant on the Task Force, was discussed along with the roles of the Task Force (see handout).
- A discussion, co-lead by Mr. Nolan and Lindberg Ekola, of trends and challenges in the project area was conducted. Each Task Force member was given an opportunity to comment. The following is a summary of issues discussed:

- Rapid growth in NE Wright County
 - Adequate public input
 - Consider property owners' rights
 - Find a compromise between townships and surrounding cities
 - City growth- residential development
 - Preserve farmland and open space, while accommodating growth "fairly"
 - Manage growth in an orderly fashion
 - Stabilize growth- jobs/housing balance, commuting times
 - Open space and transportation- preserve key corridors
 - Pelican Lake preservation- create /preserve a county open space system
 - Consider R.O.W. and alignments of transportation corridors now for the future (makes future development planning easier).
 - Invest in transportation funding
 - Focus on open space
 - Build a consensus-based plan, coordinate planning between townships, cities, urban and rural
 - Orderly annexation agreements
 - Individual property rights are important, especially when planning for open space
 - Plan should be flexible- "prepare" for future changes
 - Consider TDR, etc.- be creative
 - Look at successes in other areas of the country
 - Logical infrastructure/service boundaries
 - Public input tied with property rights (encourage this!)
 - Annexation agreements/state law
 - Deliver services to a growing population
 - Property rights \neq profit rights
 - Balance individual property rights with community needs
 - Transportation/infrastructure efficiency
 - County's role in annexation process (build a consensus, with the County as facilitator)
 - Where are the "outer boundaries" of city development
 - Parks/trails and connectivity
 - Consider gravel harvest before land gets developed
 - Balance
- Mr. Nolan then reviewed the major project tasks to be completed as well as the project schedule (see handout). Completion of the majority of the project by Thanksgiving of 2006 is the goal.

Review Inventory and Analysis of Northeast Quadrant

- Base mapping for the project was reviewed. Several maps were presented and discussed, and Mark also reviewed some additional mapping yet to be produced. Also, Mark stated that background and past planning efforts were being catalogued and reviewed, which includes planning document from the Northeast Quadrant cities. An analysis of current trends in population and demographics is also being conducted.

Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Task Force meeting dates were discussed. It was agreed to hold meeting on the first Monday of each month at 9:00am in the Government Center board room. The next Task Force meeting will be on April 3rd.

- A reminder was given that the first public meeting for the project will be held on March 28th at 7pm at the Rockford Town Hall. The content and format were discussed, which included the main goal of assets and issues identification through an analysis of the community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT).
- Members of the Task Force were encouraged to attend and asked to help facilitate small group discussions at the March 28th meeting.