



MEMORANDUM

TO: Wright County Northeast Quadrant Task Force

FROM: Dan Jochum

DATE: August 7, 2006

RE: Wright County Northeast Quadrant Land Use Plan
Task Force Meeting #6 Summary
SEH No. A-WRIGH0601.00

The following document summarizes the sixth Task Force meeting for the Wright County Northeast Quadrant Land Use Plan.

Date of Event: Monday August 7, 2006, 9:00am – 11:45am

Location: Wright County Government Center
Community Room

Attendees:

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donald Schmidt (Task Force member) | Joe Jacobs |
| Ken Felger (Task Force member) | Stacy Arp |
| Greg Eckblad (Task Force member) | Kimberly Holien |
| Gordon Weber (Task Force member) | Tom Perrault |
| Tom Salkowski (Task Force member) | Scott Glup |
| Shannon Bye (Task Force member) | Mary Wetter |
| Judy Weldele (Task Force member) | Hannah Texler |
| Tim Bremicker | Mark Nolan, SEH |
| Scott Deckert | Dan Jochum, SEH |
| Tom Zins | Lindberg Ekola, Ekola & Associates |
| Luke Johnson | Bill Warner |
| Angela Schumann | Tracy Janikula |

Introductions

- Mark Nolan kicked off the meeting with an introduction of the consultants present and asked each meeting attendee to introduce themselves (see above).
- Mr. Nolan also gave an overview of the role of the task force.
- Mr. Nolan discussed the purpose of the meeting, which is to hear presentations from various resource managers about natural resources in the Northeast Quadrant.

NE Wright County Natural Resource Presentations

- Tim Bremicker, who is a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Regional Supervisor gave an overview of wildlife resources in the NE Quadrant, with special attention given to the Pelican Lake Area. He stated that the DNR feels that is important to be involved in the Land Use Planning Process. The DNR has a history of being involved in Land Use Planning in Wright County as they were involved in the 1970s Land Use Plan.

- Bremicker also stated that Pelican Lake is important on many levels, including local, regional, state, and national levels. The lake is very important for waterfowl production and general waterfowl habitat. The lake also has fish in it, but it is primarily managed for wildlife. Over the last decade or so the DNR believes the high water has damaged the waterfowl/wildlife habitat. The lake has recently grown from 3,000 acres to 4,000 acres, or 5 to 6 feet above the normal water level. A vision was developed for Pelican Lake through a task force. The recommendation from the task force is to complete a restoration project on Pelican Lake. The basin will be re-vegetated and the lake level will be lowered to maintain biological significance. The project may become a model on how to improve a wetland and improve water quality.
- The DNR also feel it is critical to preserve and enhance wetlands in the Northeast Quadrant. They also feel that it is important to maintain natural resources in proximity to where people live.
- Luke Johnson of the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District gave a presentation on geology and soils in Northeastern Wright County. Luke indicated the aquifers in the NE portion of Wright County are shallower as compared to the Western portion of the County. This is due to the sandy nature of the soils which also makes the soils high permeability soils.
- Hannah Texler who is a Minnesota DNR Regional Ecologist gave an overview of ecological conditions in NE Wright County and stated there are several areas of varying significance in NE Wright County that should be protected. She also indicated she has worked with several Wright County communities in the past. There are three highlights of biodiversity significance that Hannah discussed:
 - Mississippi River – Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, rate mussels
 - Pelican Lake
 - Big Woods area south of Pelican Lake
- Joe Jacobs of the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District gave an overview of water resources in NE Wright County. He stated there are storm water issues with urbanization including erosion, sedimentation, and otherwise unclean or turbid water. Joe would like to see more wetlands restored as Wright County continues to grow.
- Tracy Janikula, who is the Wright County Feedlot Officer gave an overview of feedlots in NE Wright County. She also suggested preserving prime farmland and on areas that is not as productive.

Preview Content and Process for Public Meeting

Mark Nolan discussed this briefly with the task force. A meeting was scheduled with County Staff to further look at content and the process for the upcoming public meeting.

Next Steps

Mark Nolan identified the next steps in the project including the next public meeting on August 16 at the Monticello Community Center in the Mississippi Room. He indicated help would be needed from the Task Force to facilitate small group discussion at the public meeting. Mr. Nolan also said the next Task Force Meeting would be on September 11 at the Wright County Government Center.