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Sauk County Comprehensive Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting Notes  
Sauk County West Square Building  
January 28, 2009

Committee Members Present: Borleske, Dalhoff, Davis, Gerdman, Green, Iausly, Knight, Kriegl, Ladas, Murray, Robkin. Shirley Tollaksen, Tom Broughton and Joe Prem were the new members present.

Others Present: Mark Steward, Dave Tremble, and Brian Simmert, Sauk County Dept. of Planning and Zoning, and Jenny Erickson, UW Extension. Also, Sue Gleason and Julia Popolizio were present to represent the Thrive Eight-County Regional Development organization.

Mark Steward, Planning and Zoning Director, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and asked members to review the agenda. Steward asked that agenda items 6 and 7 be reversed in order on the agenda. The agenda was adopted as modified, by consensus.

Steward asked members to review draft minutes from both the December 2008 Steering Committee meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Steward introduced three new members of the Steering Committee: Shirley Tollaksen represents the Lake Delton/Wisconsin Dells area; Tom Broughton, Chair of the Town of Westfield, represents communities in the west side of Sauk County; Joe Prem, Chair of the Town of Franklin, represents communities in the southwest part of the County. Dan Brown, representing the Ho-Chunk Nation, was not present.

Steward then introduced Sue Gleason, Director of Regional Assets and Metrics, and Julia Popolizio, Thrive project specialist, who together presented the Thrive Opportunities and Assets Analysis and the State of the Madison Region Report. Sue provided Steering committee members with packets containing summaries of the Assets and Opportunities Analysis and the State of the Region Report. Sue told members that she would be able to provide a CD version of the entire 160 slide report. Sue also provided a summary of regional statistics that compared with similar data specific to Sauk County.

Steward suggested members break for a few minutes following the presentation.

Following the break, Erickson briefed members on the proposed Visioning Conference, reminding them that the date had been changed to Monday, March 30, 2009. The event will be held at the CAL Center at Reedsburg High School in Reedsburg, beginning at 6:00 pm. Richard Longworth has accepted our invitation to speak. Mr. Longworth, a Senior Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Distinguished Visiting

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Scholar at De Paul University, is an internationally recognized journalist and author of *Caught in the Middle: America's Heartland in the Age of Globalism*. Erickson discussed the program for the evening, which, in addition to the Longworth presentation, would include a panel discussion with area experts, and facilitated small group Visioning sessions. Simmert mentioned that the breakout sessions might include some more creative activities to engage participants' interest. The goal is to develop descriptive language of what Sauk County should become in 20-30 years. Members expressed some concern over the time available to hear Mr. Longworth and to conduct a Panel Discussion along with facilitated small group breakout sessions. Other suggestions included recruiting High School principals and teachers to either help facilitate or to participate in the discussion, to engage students in a poster project to illustrate the County Vision.

Tremble invited members to volunteer to discuss these ideas in a small group session. Dalhoff, Green, Murray and Kriegl volunteered to set up a small group meeting.

Tremble then distributed copies of draft public opinion survey questions and asked members to review them over the next days and respond with each member's selection of the most important questions to include in the survey. Tremble described the purpose of the survey as helping to secure a public consensus on the important issues, and to begin moving toward identifying a set of Strategic Objectives on those issues. Tremble agreed to distribute the draft survey as a Word document for members to respond to.

Tremble then asked members to consider serving as the Committee's representative to update the County Board at the February meeting. Peter Murray volunteered.

**Public Comment**

Dale Moore rose to remind the Committee of the importance of their effort and thank them for serving.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday February 25, 2009, and will be held at the Sauk County West Square Building in Baraboo.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Steward, Director  
Sauk County Dept. of Planning and Zoning