

**Eureka Township Envisioning Committee  
Minutes from 1/30/02**

All Members present including Matt and Gina, Randy came at 8pm.

1. Approve minutes from 11/01/01. Minutes were approved.
2. Announcements
  - a. Farmland and Natural Areas Report issued by Dakota County. Mike brought a copy of this document for the library. The report has been submitted to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, which approved one of the options for protecting farmland and natural areas in Dakota County. The report, as well as information about the project, can be found at [http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/planning/farmland/farmland\\_project.htm](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/planning/farmland/farmland_project.htm).
  - b. Met Council's "Rural Work Groups Report" and "Framework for Blueprint 2030." Mike brought copies for the library. The Rural Work Groups were held last fall throughout the metro area (including one in Dakota County), and this report summarizes the results of the process. Blueprint 2030 is the new Met Council metro plan. "Framework for Blueprint 2030" is the first in a series of four reports on the Blueprint initiative. The Met Council will hold public meetings on the Blueprint (one is scheduled for March) and also encourages input from citizens via e-mail, phone calls, or participation in online forums. More information about the Blueprint 2030 can be found at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/directions/blueprint2030.htm>. Because the Met Council (and in particular the Council's Rural Issues Work Group) appears to recognize the value and preservation of farmland and natural areas in Dakota County, Matt thinks there is some hope that the Blueprint 2030 will reflect this. Matt mentioned that Lakeville is the fastest growing city in the state and it is now all the more important for Eureka to be prepared with plans of its own.
  - c. Bob suggested the committee visit Dunn County WI (south of Madison, ~4 hour drive) to observe what the community's Land Easement programs yielded and how it was implemented. He offered to provide transportation and contact officials in Dunn who might speak to us about the program. Those interested in making the trip should contact Bob directly. Bev and Matt also suggested making a trip to northern Washington County to see examples of 1:10 development.
  - d. Matt suggested we get an outside speaker to talk about the Life Trust Exchange program, which attempts to address some of the typical concerns about development rights transfers
  - e. Matt offered us to come to his office and use the Orton software. It was suggested we make a field trip and get some hands on time with the gathered data, additional indicators, etc.
  - f. Matt recommended a book *Rural by Design* by Randall Arendt. Since the book is expensive he offered to let us borrow the book.
  - g. Eureka Township Annual meeting is schedule at Mount Olivet Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm. The quarterly newsletter will be sent out within a week after the meeting. Discussion was heard about how the Envisioning Committee work would be presented at the annual meeting with no concrete decisions made. Probably no more than 10-15 minutes would be allocated for the Envisioning Committee report.
3. Report on Orton Foundation study (Matt). Matt passed out a preliminary copy of the report to everyone and suggested that they review the report and e-mail the group with questions or comments. We can continue discussion of the report at the next meeting. Matt stressed that the report is based on very simple scenarios that used only three indicators related to water quality. The intention was simply to

learn the software, show how it might be used in Eureka, and provide feedback to the Orton Foundation on the software. The scenarios that we create in the second phase of our work with Matt will be much more complex. The Orton Foundation has now released a commercial version of the software, which costs \$5000 retail. Dakota County was given a copy of the commercial release for their participation in the study. We can check with John Mertens, Dakota County GIS person, about access to the software once the Orton Foundation study is over. Discussion was had about the reliability of data used regarding soils with the septic-impact indicator.

4. Future of the Committee. Matt offered some suggestions for how the committee might proceed from this point. The committee discussed some of these options (including how to present information to the public about our work and the timing of such a presentation), but agreed that the best place to begin is to create a mission statement of some sort.
  - a. Mission/charge. Ray distributed a revised version of the draft Mission Statement he created last fall. The document can serve as a framework for discussions of how to proceed, and can also serve as the basis for presentations to the public. Committee members should review the document and come to the next meeting with questions and comments for revision. Ray will tweak the document based on this input so we as a group have a common goal and set of objectives.
  - b. Goals. These will be developed based on revisions to the mission statement.
  - c. Timeline. Mike indicated that our time with Matt and 1000 Friends expires June 30 2002. This leaves us with 5 months to complete any goals that involve Matt or the CommunityViz software directly. We will then need to decide what other goals we want to accomplish after this time.
  - d. Meeting dates. The group agreed on several future meeting dates in hopes of getting a regular meeting schedule that could be open to the public. The dates are as follows:

Thu.	21 February
Wed.	6 March
Wed.	20 March
Thu.	11 April
Thu.	2 May
Wed.	22 May
Thu.	13 June

All of these meetings are tentatively scheduled for the Town Hall, although we may reserve one or more of them for meetings at the Dakota County Extension office in Farmington or the 1000 Friends office in St. Paul.

5. Next meeting: Thursday, February 21, Town Hall at 7pm. Tentative agenda is to discuss the mission statement and begin to identify specific goals for the committee.
6. Open Items:
  - a. Matt please email the group the outline you presented titled " Overview to Date (Discussion)"
  - b. Ray please email the Mission Statement document to everyone so we have a soft copy.
  - c. Everyone please review Ray's Mission Statement document for the next meeting and come prepared to discuss revisions. You can also e-mail Ray with questions or comments.
  - d. Mike suggested we get together for dinner or another social event as a group.