

## **Eureka Township Envisioning Committee Minutes from 10/17/01**

Mike Greco called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Present were committee members Jody Arman-Jones, Mike Greco, Amy Nielsen, Bob Papke, Pat Steege, and Bev Topp; and Matt Mega and Gina Mitteco from 1000 Friends of Minnesota. Not present were committee members Ray Kaufenberg, Kenny Miller, Jerry Swedin, and Randy Wood.

1. Minutes approved from 9-26-01
2. Announcements.
  - a. Library report (Bob). Bob sent everyone a list of our current library materials. There is a great deal of material, and Bob offered to locate relevant materials for everyone if they tell him the topic they are interested in. Bob also passed out copies of reading material he suggested everyone read:
    - Growth Management in the Twin Cities Region (published by the UofM)
    - Agenda for Regional Action (Met Council)
    - Growth at the Ballot Box (Brookings Institution)
    - Transportation Improvement Program (Met Council)
    - Who Sprawls Most How Growth Patterns Differ across US (Brookings Institution)

Copies of some of these materials will need to be shared among the group, so be sure to borrow copies from others in the group if you didn't receive one.
  - b. Include Gina on your e-mail list. [gmitteco@1000FOM.org](mailto:gmitteco@1000FOM.org)
  - c. Two new items were submitted to the library:
    - Growth Planning Task Force for Jan 2000 Farmington School District
    - Chub Creek Watershed Assessment—Final Report

If you have other items to submit, please give them to Bob.

### 3. Report on research by group members

#### Mike—property values

Assessor's office only has data on individual parcels; no GIS data. Kurt Chatfield at Dakota County says GIS maps are available for structures built and for property values (land, building, and total). May be more difficult to get accurate info on when parcels were subdivided. We can also get print maps upon request.

#### Amy—farm sizes and types

We have the Eureka Agricultural Preserves map (date?). Karl Foord with Dakota County says there is no map of farm types or uses available from the county; Amy suggests taking a landcover map or parcel map and doing an inventory ourselves (only about 50 farmers in the area to contact). Can also use planted or cultivated vegetation from the landcover map Bob has as a rough indicator of actively farmed areas. Other useful data: rental vs. owner-farmed (ag extension may have this info). Matt will check to see what GIS data is available regarding farmland/agricultural areas, and to see if he can get digital information on Ag Preserves/Green Acres.

#### Pat—aesthetics and community character

Pat took pictures of various parts of the township. Ways to incorporate these into our final report were discussed (digitize to include in report, make a PowerPoint presentation, create a video about the township, etc.). Kurt Chatfield or Karl Ford may be able to provide more photos of Eureka from the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Project. Pat still hopes to get photos of Chub Lake area, Cedar Avenue development, and some other areas of the township. If you have photos of the township to contribute, please give them to Pat.

#### Bev—commercial

The township is accepting letters of interest to be on a commercial task force. Presently there is a moratorium on further commercial development, and representatives from existing commercial enterprises are being asked to register their businesses with the township. Both this registration process and the commercial task force will yield baseline data about existing commercial development, but probably not in time for the December scenarios. Bev is also doing background reading on various issues related to commercial development, including theories of how commercial development occurs, the need for planning development, types of development (strip malls vs. multi-story and town-center oriented development), the concept of "livable communities," etc.

Bev has identified several potential speakers who might speak to our committee or the commercial task force (whose meetings we could attend). Matt suggested that the National Trust for Historic Preservation might be a useful resource for the commercial task force or our group as we investigate possible scenarios for commercial development. Matt also noted that the Met

Council currently has 6 "smart growth opportunity sites" open to the public (designed by Cal Thorpe).

Bob—wildlife inventory and habitat

Bob worked with Brian Watson of SWCD. Bob brought maps of land cover and an aerial view of the township. Bob noted the unique location of Eureka between two major watersheds—the Cannon River and the Vermillion River—and suggested a potential scenario for the study that includes protecting these watersheds and connecting them via a greenway. [See Bob's report for a more detailed description of his research and findings.]

Bob noted that Brian Watson has just completed a wildlife audit of Empire Township, and is interested in doing one in Eureka. Matt thinks it might be possible to get a Metro Greenways grant for such an audit. Matt noted that there is potential for developing PDRs for water-retention areas as well as for farmland (essentially communities downstream in the watershed pay for a community upstream to temporarily store water the downstream community cannot handle).

Jody—growth in other communities

Jody is on a Farmington growth task force that just met for the first time. The task force is trying to get a handle on growth in the Farmington-Lakeville area. She will keep us posted on developments.

4. Discuss connections between research and potential Eureka projects.
  - Visual quality study
  - Historic development scenario (find a place that was just like Eureka 10 or 15 years ago and see what happened—Apple Valley?)
  - Presettlement drive-through (what did Eureka look like prior to settlement?)
5. Discuss base scenarios with some first-draft indicators. Matt brought some maps of data from a 1:20 scenario. The maps showed development in relation to distance to drainage ways, depth or groundwater, and soil type. He will try to bring additional maps to the next meeting.

Matt passed out a handout called "Eureka Township Indicator and Scenario Initial Test." The handout lists other issues and indicators in the areas of water quality, land quality, and community quality, as well as initial scenarios for the Orton study and additional scenarios that the group might focus on next spring.

6. Matt suggested we think about what form our final report to the public and the township board might take. Possible items include:
  - Documenting baseline data
  - Analyzing key factors involved in envisioning Eureka's future

- Identifying high-priority or sensitive land
- Discussing impacts of various growth scenarios on indicators
- Recommending action steps for the township

7. Next meeting will be November 1. Potential agenda items include:

- Research reports from members not present at 10-17-01 meeting (Kenny, Jerry)
- Presentation from Matt on "Concepts, Jargon, and Terminology" related to growth/development
- Using data maps to begin brainstorming where some mixed-use scenarios would make sense (Bob will bring the large aerial map and the priority natural areas map he has)
- Continue discussion of indicators and base scenarios

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.