

Eureka Envisioning Task Force Annual Meeting Report March 11, 2003

The Eureka Envisioning Task Force was established by the town board in May 2001 and charged to work with Dakota County and 1000 Friends of Minnesota to formulate and discuss various growth scenarios for the township, and then learn about the potential impacts of each growth scenario on such things as water quality, agriculture, wildlife, township infrastructure, and resident quality of life.

The task force is composed of nine citizen volunteers of various ages, backgrounds, occupations, lengths of residence, and locations of residence in the township. Although their views on growth and development differ, all members share a concern about Eureka's future.

The purpose of the Envisioning Task Force task force is threefold:

- to identify and explore growth issues the township will face in the 21st century
- to provide information so informed decisions can be made in the public interest
- to show the range of growth options available and demonstrate that we do have choices about our future

The task force is a discussion and educational group, not a policy making group; it has no power to make planning decisions for the township, and its work has no relationship to the town board's recent activities on ordinances or the comprehensive plan.

On November 14, 2002, the task force held a public open house at the Dakota County Extension Office in Farmington to share preliminary results of its work. The two-hour presentation was attended by 70 citizen.

During the next few months, the task force hopes to complete a written report to the township, which will include a list of recommendations and suggested next steps for how to carry forward the work of the task force. The group also plans to conduct additional open houses for those who were unable to attend the November event.

Eureka Envisioning Task Force Timeline

May 2001: Envisioning Task Force established by town board and charged to work with 1000 Friends of Minnesota and Dakota County to study possible growth scenarios for Eureka and their impact on the township.

June-August 2001: Group members became acquainted with each other, identified issues relevant to envisioning process, and created a mission statement to guide their work.

August 2001—January 2002: Worked with Matt Mega from 1000 Friends of Minnesota to gather data from Dakota County and participate in a trial of CommunityViz software program, which is capable of generating detailed maps and three-dimensional views of growth scenarios.

February-October 2002: Worked with Matt Mega on the Eureka envisioning study, which produced five fictional growth scenarios for the township and measured the impact of each growth scenario on various community attributes, including water quality, farmland, roads, population, and demand for schools.

November 2002: Prepared for and held public open house to share preliminary results from our work and feedback from residents. Approximately 70 citizens attended the two-hour presentation.

December 2002—present: Finalized Eureka Envisioning study and began work on a written report to the township that will summarize the results of the study.

April or May 2003: Written report expected

May-June 2003: Conduct additional public open houses to share our work with Eureka citizens