

**Eureka Township Envisioning Committee
Minutes from 8/9/2001**

Mike Greco called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Jody Arman-Jones, Mike Greco, Ray Kaufenberg, Kenny Miller (arrived 8:15), Bob Papke, Jerry Swedin, Bev Topp, Amy Nielsen, Randy Wood, and Matt Mega from 1000 Friends of MN. Absent: Pat Steege.

Matt Mega from 1000 Friends of MN presented from 7 to 9 pm.

1. Matt talked about the OEA grant. That includes use of CommunityViz software developed by the Orton Foundation. Eureka Township was one of two communities selected for the Orton Foundation study. Orton Foundation requires at least one scenario using the software by December 31, 2001. Additional scenarios can still be conducted through June 30, 2002, when Matt's commitment to Eureka ends. The software is a limited release, only 12 organizations were chosen, 1000 Friends of MN is one of them. Results of the study will be posted by the Orton Foundation.

2. Mike asked about anonymity of Eureka Township for the study. Where possible in the public data, Matt agreed to refer to Eureka as "a community in Dakota County," but the Orton Foundation website already specifies Eureka. The group felt this was not a problem given that developers are already well aware of Eureka, and that our participation in the study is not likely to attract unwanted attention to the township.

3. It was asked how involved 1000 Friends wants to be involved in the committee's efforts. The study period is two years, but Matt said he can be available for most meetings only through June 30, 2002, at which time he will begin working with Franconia. He also said John Mertens from Dakota County would provide 150 hours of support to the project.

4. Matt suggested we have at least three community scenarios for the CommunityViz software.

Scenario 1: 1 per 40 acre

Scenarios 2 and 3 will be determined later.

In answer to a question about including data for surrounding communities whose future might affect Eureka's, Matt suggested running a scenario of Farmington or Lakeville to determine when those communities will fill up based on their current land-use plans. We will need to get digital data for those communities in order to run the scenarios. This may be available through the Met Council or through Dakota County.

5. Many questions were asked about the software capabilities. In brief: the software requires a set of indicators to produce an output. Matt said core indicators include: building locations, lot lines, topography and zoning because it is already available through the county. Matt suggested gathering data in digital format for faster input to CommunityViz. Other indicators: water usage, traffic, census, school enrollment, wells, tax impact, sewage clustering, etc.

The software has three separate modules: (1) a scenario builder—users plug in possible development scenarios (based on density, zoning rules, etc.), and the software measures the resulting demand for each of the indicators that have been created for the township. (2) a policy analyzer—users input baseline data and development scenarios, and the software predicts where development is most likely to occur in the township. (3) a 3-D visualization module—users can create and view a three-dimensional representation of the township based on a scenario builder scenario, or by designing from scratch.

6. The Group is tasked to define a set of 10 additional indicators. Matt will provide some generic indicators used in other communities, while the committee will design indicators tailored to the specific needs, interests, and goals of Eureka. Quality IN = Quality OUT.

7. Matt agreed with the committee's idea to invite feedback and input from the community via a survey. Matt said the funding for such a mailing could come from OEA, but he will need to check on this. The grant does allow limited financial support for some committee activities.

8. Mike tasked the group for survey topics, not specific questions. Survey questions will be written later. Wording is important for optimum response.

9. It was asked if we include postage paid response. Some felt this was unnecessary since the last township survey generated at least a 50% response, while others suggested that including postage left those who chose not to respond with no excuse for not doing so. The decision may depend on whether 1000 Friends grant can pay for return postage. Mike will ask the town board for permission to include a survey in a future edition of the township newspaper.

10. Matt also suggested the community be invited to these meetings to provide input, and so it does not appear as though the committee is dictating a vision to the community.

11. The group discussed many resources that are necessary either for baseline data, for creating indicators, or for a resident survey. Items included:

- * Dakota County survey of residents (we have print copy)
- * DNR survey of residents (Bev will look for)
- * Met Council survey of residents (Mike will look for)
- * 1000 Friends surveys (Matt will get)
- * Lakeville comprehensive plan (we have a print copy)
- * Lakeville future land use plan (we have a print copy; Bob will check into digital data)
- * Aerial maps of subsoil/bedrock, groundwater, aquifers, etc. (Kenny has print copies; also need digital data for these)
- * Aerial map of Eureka Township (Bob may have one)
- * Met council white paper (Matt will look for)
- * 35W interchanges plans
- * LCMR project report (shows tributaries of Vermillion River)
- * Productive soils/farmland map, showing gradations of productivity (need digital data)
- * Green acres/ag preserves expiration data (need digital data)
- * Scott County comprehensive plan (Ray says print copy costs money; may be on website)
- * Scott County future land use plan (need digital data)

12. Next meeting is Thursday, August 30. Tentative agenda items: Discussing indicators for the 1000 Friends study based on the list of indicators Matt Mega already has, as well as our brainstorming list from 8/2/01 (and any other items we think of between now and then); and discussing possible items to include in a survey of Eureka residents. Matt will also bring a list of the data types he has on CD from Dakota County.

Meeting was adjourned 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Amy Nielsen