

August 11, 2003

Presentation of Eureka Envisioning Task Force Draft Report

In July of 2001, the Board of Supervisors appointed nine citizens to the Eureka Envisioning Task Force and empowered them to work with Dakota County and 1000 Friends of Minnesota. At that time, we were assigned three specific tasks:

- to formulate and discuss a variety of growth scenarios for the Township
- to learn about the potential impact of each growth scenario on such things as water quality, agriculture, wildlife, Township infrastructure, and resident quality of life
- to inform the citizens of Eureka about their findings at the conclusion of their work

On behalf of the Eureka Envisioning Task Force, I would like to submit to the board a draft of our written report, which represents the culmination of our two-year study, carried out on behalf of the township. With the publication of this report and the conduct of a final public open house this fall, our three originally assigned tasks will be completed.

This task force brought together a diverse group of Eureka residents with very different backgrounds, experiences, and worldviews. Despite these differences, all of us share a common concern about the future of Eureka Township, and a belief that ordinary citizens—armed with knowledge and a vision of what their community can be—have the power to shape their own future. During the past two years, members of the task force have worked diligently to educate themselves about rural growth and development, and to create hypothetical growth scenarios for the township based on this knowledge. However, we have always viewed our work as only a first step in the process of envisioning Eureka's future—a process that ideally should involve **all** members of our community. We present this report to the board with the sincere hope that it will contribute to a community-wide envisioning process by sparking discussion and debate among township citizens and officials, by helping them better understand the complex issues surrounding growth and development, by showing the range of development options available to our community, and by enabling everyone in our township to participate more effectively in decision making about Eureka's future.

The report is fairly lengthy, so I would like to present a very brief overview for the benefit of the board and audience members in attendance. Out of respect for the board's request that we not distribute copies of the report to the public until the board had a chance to review it, we do not have copies of the draft report for the audience tonight. However, with the board's permission, I do have copies of the table of contents to distribute to the audience. [See attached table of contents for overview of report.]

As one of only five communities nationwide to be chosen for this trial study using CommunityViz geographic information systems software, Eureka Township is very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in this citizen envisioning process.

On behalf of the Envisioning Task Force, I would like to extend thanks to a number of people and organizations who made our work, and this report, possible:

- The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance and the Orton Foundation, which were major funders of this project in the form of grants totaling more than \$50,000.
- The Eureka Township Board of Supervisors, who created this task force.
- 1000 Friends of Minnesota, particularly Matt Mega and Gina Mitteco. 1000 Friends' original commitment to Eureka Township was for one year, but Matt and Gina have far exceeded that commitment in time and effort. Without their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for this project, this report and most of our work would simply not have been possible. 1000 Friends also made a significant financial contribution to this project, providing or securing matching funds of more than \$50,000 on the township's behalf. Eureka Township owes a huge debt of gratitude to 1000 Friends of Minnesota for financially supporting our work and for continuing to work with our Township beyond their original obligation.

I would also like to personally thank the other eight members of this task force—Pat Steege, Jody Arman-Jones, Randy Wood, Amy Nielsen, Bev Topp, Ray Kaufenberg, Bob Papke, and Jerry Swedin. I don't think I could have asked for a better group of individuals to spend the last two years working with on this project. I've learned a great deal from each one of you, and I truly appreciate your dedication, commitment, and support.

It is our understanding that the board will review this draft report and provide feedback at the September Board of Supervisors meeting, at which time the board will also set a date for a public open house. We would like to take up a precedent set by the first Eureka citizen task force, the Mining Task Force. When the Mining Task Force presented its final report to the board, it invited the board and the planning commission to a special task force meeting to answer any questions board members had. Likewise, we would like to invite the board to a special task force meeting prior to your September meeting to answer any of your questions about our report.

Thank You.

Mike Greco
Chair, Eureka Envisioning Task Force

Table of Contents

I. Introduction and Background

Project Overview.....	Page 3
Eureka Envisioning Task Force Overview.....	Page 4
Project Methodology.....	Page 5
1000 Friends of Minnesota Overview.....	Page 6
Community Viz Overview.....	Page 7
Scenario Overview.....	Page 8
Indicator Overview.....	Page 9
Open House Overview.....	Page 10
Open House Results.....	Page 11
Summary.....	Page 12

II. Local / Regional Context

Eureka Township Physical Characteristics.....	Page 14
Eureka Township Demographic Characteristics.....	Page 16
Eureka Township Current Planning Efforts.....	Page 17
Metropolitan Council.....	Page 18
Scott County Comprehensive Plan.....	Page 19
Dakota County Comprehensive Plan / Farmland & Natural Areas	Page 20
Residential Development Patterns.....	Page 21
Commercial Development Patterns.....	Page 25

III. Scenarios

Introduction.....	Page 28
Hybrid and Alternative Scenarios.....	Page 29
Transfer of Development Rights Overview.....	Page 30
Purchase of Development Rights Overview.....	Page 31
Transfer of Development Rights - Eureka Twsp.Draft Concept.....	Page 32
Existing Conditions.....	Page 34
Current Zoning Buildout Scenario.....	Page 35
Ten-Acre Buildout Scenario.....	Page 36
Residential Cluster Scenario.....	Page 38
Town Center Scenario.....	Page 40
Suburban Progression Scenario.....	Page 42
2.5 Acre Buildout Scenario.....	Page 44

IV. Indicators

Introduction.....	Page 46
Demographic and Infrastructure Impacts.....	Page 48
Economic Impacts.....	Page 49
Water Quality, Solid Waste, Water Use and Septic Impacts.....	Page 50
Farmland and Natural Areas Impacts.....	Page 51

V. Conclusion

Next Steps and Recommendations.....	Page 53
Final Remarks.....	Page 55

VI. Appendices

Appendix A: Recommended Reading and Resources.....	Page 57
Appendix B: Glossary of Terms.....	Page 61
Appendix C: Base Maps for Eureka Township.....	Maps 1- 6
Appendix D: 2000 U.S. Census Data for Eureka Township.....	Volume II
Appendix E: Eureka Envisioning Open House Materials.....	Volume II
Appendix F: CommunityViz Formulas and Technical Notes.....	Volume II
Appendix G: Wastewater Treatment Alternatives.....	Volume II
Appendix H: Land Conservation Examples.....	Volume II