

B. Wright Township Master Plan

08-35 Motion: To support Wright Township's 2008 Master Plan Amendment

Moved by: Miller

Supported by: Wilson

UNANIMOUS

Announcements:

A. Reports of Meetings Attended

Matt Hehl had nothing to report.

Doug Kamphuis had nothing to report.

Bill Miller attended a Wright Township Planning Commission meeting.

Jim Miedema attended a presentation by Representative Fulton Sheen regarding the Michigan Fair Tax. Jim stated that the presentation will be given again on June 2 at the Allendale Township office. Jim also attended a 911 policy meeting, and he stated that a new dispatch center was approved. The groundbreaking will be held on May 22. Additionally, Jim attended a Parks Commission meeting, when it was decided that anyone wishing to use a metal detector on County beaches would be required to first obtain a permit.

Jeff Wincel attended meetings at Park Township for the Planning Commission and for the Master Plan update subcommittee. He stated that there is significant interest in the Master Plan update. An independent organization has been attending all of the meetings and has also created their own website regarding the Master Plan update.

Jim Holtvluwer attended the County Quarterly presentation in Hudsonville.

Roman Wilson attended the National Brownfield Conference in Detroit. He stated that there were discussions regarding Michigan's role as a leader in Brownfield redevelopment. Further, he stated that he is supportive of the County's movement toward establishing a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Mark Knudsen attended the American Planning Association Conference. He stated that the best session he attended was titled, "The Psychoanalysis of Geographic Places." The speaker discussed why people live in or visit certain areas from a psychological viewpoint. Mark felt that this information could be beneficial for marketing local communities.

Petitions and Communications:

A. FYI Folder

B. Letter of correspondence, dated 3/18/2008, from the City of Coopersville, regarding a PA 116 Application from Timothy Omlor

C. Letter of correspondence, dated 3/20/2008, from Polkton Charter Township, regarding a PA 116 Application from Timothy Omlor

- D. Letter of correspondence, dated 3/26/2008, to the City of Coopersville, regarding a PA 116 Application from Timothy Omlor**
- E. Letter of correspondence, dated 3/26/2008, to Polkton Charter Township, regarding a PA 116 Application from Timothy Omlor**
- F. Letter of correspondence, received 4/1/2008, from Michigan State University Land Policy Institute, regarding training opportunities**
- G. Letter of correspondence, dated 4/1/2008, to Port Sheldon Township, regarding a rezoning request**
- H. Letter of correspondence from Michigan State University Extension regarding Citizen Planner Advanced Academy**
- I. Email of correspondence, dated 3/24/2008, from Wright Township, regarding an update to the Wright Township Master Plan**
- J. Letter of correspondence, dated 4/10/2008, to Wright Township, acknowledging receipt of the updates to Wright Township's Master Plan**
- K. Letter of correspondence, dated 4/10/2008, to Pete LaMourie of Progressive AE, thanking him for conducting the Excellence Through Training Seminar on March 20, 2008**
- L. Letter of correspondence, dated 4/22/2008, from Jamestown Township, regarding a Community Recreation Plan**

08-36 Motion: To receive for information Items A-L

Moved by: Holtvluwer

Supported by: Hehl

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Public Comments:

None

Discussion Items

A. Wind Energy Model Ordinance

Mark stated that he, Adam Kantrovich, and Kim Scherschligt had met with Dave Walters from the Zeeland Board of Public Works to discuss wind energy. Dave had two primary concerns regarding residential wind turbines being added to the power grid. The first concern was regarding BPW employee safety. Dave stated that if a line was down, and his staff needed to perform service on the line, there would be a safety issue if electricity was being transmitted down the line from another entity that was not directly controllable by the BPW. To mitigate that potential hazard, costly equipment would have to be purchased and installed by the owner of the wind turbine. The second concern that Dave had expressed was regarding payment to the owner of the wind turbine. Because electricity transmission rates are variable, it would be difficult for the administrative staff of the BPW to determine the amounts that would be paid to turbine owners.

Mark stated that after the meeting, he, Adam, and Kim had determined that more comprehensive research should be conducted regarding the issue. They decided that the best step forward would be to hold a Wind Energy Symposium, which is tentatively scheduled for June 5.

Mark distributed a tentative agenda for the Symposium, which he reviewed with the Planning Commission members.

Matt Hehl stated that he had attended a session at the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) conference regarding wind energy. He stated that Huron County received a percentage of each kilowatt hour generated by wind turbines located in the County, and those dollars were used to assist in funding their County Farmland Preservation program.

Roman Wilson asked if the ecological impacts would be discussed, and Mark stated that this concern would be addressed during the session regarding siting issues.

Jeff Wincel stated that he would like to see a list of wind energy equipment suppliers be distributed at the meeting. Mark said that suppliers would be invited to set up booths at the Symposium, but he would also try to create a list of suppliers for distribution.

Jeff also stated that Michigan has limited incentives for wind energy, as compared to other states. He asked if Mark was aware of any pending legislation that would give additional incentives to users of wind energy. Mark stated that he was unaware of any pending legislation involving incentives, but he would ask the presenter to address possible future incentives.

Additionally, Jeff asked if symposiums were being planned regarding other forms of renewable energy. Mark stated that Adam Kantrovich had also made that suggestion, and they were considering future renewable energy symposiums on a variety of topics.

Matt Hehl stated that further discussion at the MAC conference was in regards to the economics of wind energy. Michigan has a manufacturing workforce that would be suited to make the components needed for wind turbines. He said that there was also a push to bring wind turbine manufacturing to the state.

B. Ethanol Production Facilities Ordinance

Mark stated that a draft of the Model Ordinance was completed and sent to the attorney for review. He stated that the attorney's review was from the standpoint of a large, commercial operation. Mark said that he then told the attorney that the intent of the Ordinance was to regulate small, farm-use operations.

Mark stated that the attorney had also presented another issue. In previous discussions, the Planning Commission had decided to permit a farmer to produce any amount of ethanol, provided the ethanol being produced is used exclusively in association with the agricultural operations of the farmer producing the ethanol. The attorney stated that this wording had to be changed in one of three possible ways. The first option would involve rewriting the ordinance to state that farmers can produce as much ethanol as they desire, without requiring that it be used for their own agricultural operation. The second option would require the Planning Commission to determine an objective maximum number of gallons that can be produced annually. The third option would involve rewriting the ordinance to state that the ethanol can only be used on that specific site.

After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that Mark and Adam would meet with the attorney again to determine how best to proceed.

C. Comprehensive Water Resource Assessment

Mark stated that Kim Scherschligt and Paul Sachs had worked on rearranging the contents of the Comprehensive Water Resource Assessment RFP. Further, he stated that the RFP was going to be sent to consultants within the week.

Additionally, Mark stated that a subcommittee or volunteer group would need to be created to review the incoming bids. He asked the Planning Commission members to consider serving on a potential subcommittee, and stated that the members of the subcommittee or volunteer group would be determined at the next month's meeting.

D. Transit Study

Mark stated that there was a Technical Committee meeting two weeks ago to revise the Transit Study RFP. Additionally, the Steering Committee is scheduled to meet during the week of May 19.

Mark stated that a new issue had been presented regarding the urban linkages. Mark explained that when a commuter route is offered between existing transit systems, there is a federal requirement to pick up anyone requesting a ride within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the route that is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. For riders expecting to arrive at their destinations at specific times as scheduled, this could present a problem. Mark said that he is discussing the issue with MDOT to see if an exemption could possibly be granted. Until the issue is resolved, the RFP will not be sent.

E. Scratch 'N Sniff Brochure Update

Mark stated that the odor company that produced the manure scent for the original Scratch 'N Sniff brochures has gone bankrupt. A new scent has been found, but the brochure producer has been unable to encapsulate the new scent for use in brochures. Until a way is found to encapsulate that scent or find a new scent, the company will be unable to produce the brochures.

F. PDR Ordinance Update

The County Board of Commissioners passed the PDR Ordinance at their meeting in late April. Mark stated that the next step in the process was to advertise the positions for the Agricultural Board. Once the Ag Board is established, they would need to approve the Application and Scoring System. Mark anticipated that the Ag Board would be established by late summer.

G. Ottawa County Housing Needs Assessment

Mark stated that the Ottawa County Housing Needs Assessment was available for review. Among other items, the Assessment includes information regarding the types of current housing stock that is available, housing needs, and income levels.

H. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Mark stated that Kim Scherschligt is working on the creation of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. He stated that this Authority would not impact communities that already have a Brownfield Authority in place, but would provide an option for local units of government that do not have a Brownfield Authority.

Mark estimated that the Brownfield Authority would be in place by July.

I. Doug Kamphuis Resignation Letter

Because Doug Kamphuis' term on the Planning Commission is contingent upon his serving on a public school board, and his term will be ending, he has submitted a letter of resignation. His term on the Holland School Board expires as of June 30, and he has decided not to seek re-election.

08-37 Motion: To accept the letter of resignation from Doug Kamphuis

Moved by: Hehl

Supported by: Miller

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Input and Strategy Session

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.