

**Land Use Committee Retreat  
March 14, 2012 ~ Minutes  
NIRPC Auditorium**

**Members & Visitors**

Kevin Breitzke, Greg Stinson, A J Bytnar, David Wright, Craig Phillips, Mark Reshkin, Dale Engquist, Mia Goulding, Nancy Adams, Sergio Mendoza

**NIRPC Staff**

Eman Ibrahim, Steve Strains, Tom Vander Woude, Hubert Morgan, Gabrielle Biciunas, Meredith Stilwell

Chairman Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Self-introductions followed.

**GOALS FOR THE DAY:**

- a) Evaluate the committee's contribution over the last years
- b) What can the Committee do/accomplish to be more relevant to you/your community
- c) The Committee's role in the 2040 Plan Implementation

**PRESENTATION: Land Use Committee Accomplishments**

Eman reviewed and highlighted accomplishments achieved throughout the past 2-2 ½ years that included presentations and suggestions to the CRP.

The group reflected on what worked well for NIRPC as well as them and their communities over the last two years, and what could be improved on in both the process and product. The following was voiced:

◆ **What worked well for NIRPC:**

- Included professional planners talking about sensitive and technical land use issues.
- Involving the Land Use Committee in the review, recommendation and selection of the preferred land use scenario & led to a very good outcome in the form of the "Growth and Revitalization Vision". This was a very fair, reasonable result that reflects a realistic vision for the future of the region.
- The information provided by the Committee shifted the focus of the transportation program, widens the focus as an agency and gives a more credible voice when talking on land use and regional goals.
- The requirement that every project submitted to the TIP had to measure itself against the Plan's priorities.
- Public Involvement of municipalities and the general public.
- The Committee became the forum for many planners and shaped the strategies and recommendations that went into the CRP.
- The ability to act as a clearing house to synthesize plans from the local communities.
- Environmental asset mapping on a regional scale.
- Partnerships.
- Helped with regional perspective.
- Inclusion of government bodies as well as non-profit organizations. Assistance of planners from municipalities.

◆ **What worked well for you:**

- Presentations and information about various land use plans and efforts throughout the region helped better inform about what was happening in terms of land use in the region.
- Working together to come up with the best solution.
- Partnerships.
- Data collection for CRP.
- Determination of an appropriate Land Use role.
- Communication and building of relationships with municipalities.
- Cooperation, collaboration and partnership.
- Garnering of federal and state monies.

◆ **What could we improve on PROCESS:**

- Improve relationship and connection between Land Use Committee and Transit agencies/operators to provide a clearer vision for transit agencies and encourage understanding of and participation in CRP implementation.
- More balance from all counties in terms of presentations.
- NIRPC should share information from conferences they attend with groups and organizations.
- Sponsor webinars to improve participation.

Hubert Morgan presented the group with the current Land Use Committee Mission Statement.

An overview of the different Committees and Agencies that are contributing to the Regions Implementation was presented. The Committees and Agencies reviewed were:

- Pathway to 2040
- Urban Core Sub-Committee (to be formed)
- Shoreline Commission (to be formed)
- Marquette Advisory Council (to be formed)
- Regional Development Authority
- Gary & Region Investment Project

Best roles for the Land Use Committee and the relationship between the Committee and others were discussed. The following was voiced:

◆ **Best Roles for the Land Use Committee:**

- Collaboration
- Comprehensive look at what other groups are doing

The Land Use Mission Statement was briefly discussed again with a brief tutorial from Hubert on how to develop a mission statement. An exercise was given to the group to review the mission statement and report back their recommendations. Nancy Adams shared her recommendation for a mission statement with the group and is as follows:

- *Implementing a strategy for regional land use planning by creating a collaboration of facilitated planning processes and partnerships that build links between jurisdictional boundaries.*

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.