

**Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan
Development Committee Meeting Summary
= Unofficial as Committee has not acted on Summary =**

Date: September 24, 2008

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Sawyer County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room

SCCPDC Members Present: Jason Sjostrom, Town of Lenroot; Pete Sanders, Town of Bass Lake; Steve Helmer, Town of Winter; Kathy McCoy, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors; Ed Peters, Town of Draper; Len Eckerly, Town of Hunter; Gene Krause, Town of Spider Lake; John McCue, City of Hayward; Curt Scherer, Town of Hayward; and Waldo Asp, Town of Edgewater.

Citizens Present: Linda Zillmer, Town of Edgewater/Birchwood; Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC; David Berard, Town of Hayward; Joe Eichinger, Namekagon Transit; Gary Gedart, Sawyer County Highway Department; Dena Young, WisDOT; Cindi Stiles, Archaeological Consultant; and Terrell Boettcher, Sawyer County Record.

Summary:

Vice-Chairman Waldo Asp called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Meeting summary of August 6 was read, motion to approve by Sanders and seconded by Leonard, motion carried.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No Comments.

Speakers Relating to Comprehensive Plan Elements

Gary Gedart, **Sawyer County Highway** Commissioner reported the highway department is responsible for 229 miles of county roads and 161 miles of state roads. Approximately 10-12 miles of county highways are reconstructed and paved annually. However, costs related to reconstruction and paving has increased significantly. Blacktop costs increased 27% in 2007 and 13% in 2008. Blacktop industry experts predict a 40% increase in cost for 2009. Costs per mile average for reconstructing a mile of road totals \$175,000. A 5-year road improvement plan is developed annually by the highway department and a copy of the proposed improvement plan was distributed. Most traveled county highways include B, K, E, NN and CC.

Dena Young, **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** reported on activities of WisDOT. Copies of the 2009-2014 improvement program for Sawyer County were distributed. WisDOT is focusing funding within Sawyer County for the maintenance and preservation of the existing roadway network. It was noted that an "allocation" of base funding is not provided to each county, rather the state highway improvements are based on average daily traffic, surface conditions, mobility needs, and crash rates.

Joe Eichinger, **Namekagon Transit**, (formally Sawyer County/LCO Transit) noted Namekagon Transit has been operating for the past 7 years. With 17 vehicles in its fleet, they provide 375-400 rides a day. Ridership and requests for service have been increasing steadily. With a scheduled ride 24 hours in advance, one-way rides cost \$1.00 or .50 cents to seniors/disabled. Same day scheduled service for one-way travel costs \$2.00. Namekagon Transit continues to work on expanding its services and expanding partnership possibilities.

Cynthia Stiles, an archaeological consultant, discussed the importance of including historical and cultural information in comprehensive plans. The level of historical and cultural information will vary by a community's past and level of existing interest in the past. The Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and Wisconsin Historical Society are good sources of information on historical and cultural related activities known in the community.

Countywide Existing Land Use Categories

Sheldon Johnson reviewed the list of proposed existing land use categories. Motion to approve distributed list by Leonard Eckerly, second by Curt Scherer. Approved.

County Goals, Objectives and Actions Strategy

A discussion was held as to a process of developing goals, objectives and actions. Motion to have Sheldon Johnson prepare county wide element goals, objectives and actions by Waldo Asp, seconded by Ed Peters. Approved.

Sawyer County Comp Plan Survey

Sheldon Johnson noted the survey data had been tabulated while the open-ended comments continue to be tabulated. A formal report on the survey findings will be prepared over the next several months.

Set Next Committee Meeting

Committee agreed to meet on the following dates October 22 and November 19 at the county courthouse beginning at 6:30pm.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jason Sjostrom and seconded by Gene Krause at 8:14pm. Approved.