

**JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012
7:00-9:00AM
LITITZ BOROUGH OFFICE**

ATTENDEES: Brittany Smith, Tony Robalik, John Theilacker, Bill Coleman, Rick Jackson, James Simmermon, Frank Kenavan, Grant Hummer, Ken Kauffman, Karen Mailen, Curt Evans, Jeff Tennis, April Hershey, Joyce Garhart, Sheri Garman, Wade Hartz, Logan Myers, Dan Zimmerman, Dave Steffen, Gwen Newell, Emma Hamme, Matt Clair, Brian Donmoyer, Karen Weibel, Rodney May, Eileen Liberman, Susan Tennant, Kelly Withum, Gaylord Poling, Sue Barry, Tom Zug, Todd Kauffman, Curt Strasheim, Bob Navitski, Patrick Moulds, Dick Bergy, Chris Brown

AGENDA

1. Introduction by host
2. **Pennsylvania Highlands:** John Theilacker from Brandywine Conservancy discussed the significance of the Pennsylvania Highlands. Designated by Congress in 2004, the highlands spans an area of 3.5 million acres, part of which resides in the northern part of Elizabeth Township. The William Penn Foundation helps to promote conservation within the Highlands for Berks and Lancaster County. On a larger scale, the Highlands Coalition encourages protection and enhancement of the area.
3. **Review of themes and regional maps:** The consultant team put together a list of overarching themes that have surfaced throughout the previous Steering Committee meetings. They will continue to add to them, as we discuss more topics and come up with new initiatives.
4. **Presentation of Sustainable Communities Assessments (SCAs)-** Brandywine Conservancy has assessed each of the three municipalities' plans, ordinances and policies on eight criteria pertaining to community sustainability. Tony Robalik briefly discussed the assessments and then turned it over to the committee to discuss recommendations and priorities for the region.
5. **Breakout sessions** (see attached)
 - Natural Resource Protection
 - Water Quality and Quantity
 - Global Warming & Climate Change
 - Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation
 - Community Health and Safety
 - Food Production & Security
6. Group discussion

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: September 27 (Heart of Lancaster)- Economic Development

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP NOTES

8-16-12

Natural Resource Protection

1. Education

- a. Provide education in as many forms and technology as possible.
 - i. Written
 1. Newspaper articles
 2. Municipal newsletter articles
 3. HOA articles
 4. Through electronic technology
 5. Educate the kids
 - a. They will educate their parents and family
 - b. They will carry it through life
 - c. Private and home schooled as well as publicly educated
 - b. Educate (create a list and disseminate it) of which local, state, and federal agencies protect what natural resource

2. Woodland Protection

- a. Educate people as to the “why” we need to protect woodland
 - i. Storm water, air quality, etc.

3. Work Regionally to Protect Natural Resources

- a. Use the county or regional entities to help facilitate
- b. Want to work regionally on the ideas, not have to implement at a local level the rules created at a higher level of government
- c. Think how to involve 20 – 40 year olds in the process

4. Incentives

- a. Use incentives instead of forcing people to preserve natural features.

Amendments to the Natural Resource Protection Recommendations sheet

1. It was felt that there was a LOT of short term (ST) goals. So many that they needed to be further prioritized because they will not all be completed in 2 years.
 - a. It was felt that many of the ST goals should be moved out into a new medium goal and long term (LT) goals with the education occurring in the short term.
 - b. Elizabeth Township, Remove obstacles: it was felt that the floodplain amendments were already in the works with the MS4/Stormwater regulations and could be moved into ST recommendation.
 - c. Elizabeth Township, Enact standards: move to a medium term or long term goal the following: Requirement to replace trees due to construction and to explore service of the village area with community utilities.

2. It was felt that there were some goals specific to one municipality that could be a goal of the entire region. (As example under Warwick's Enact Standards to add native fruit and nut trees to lists of allowed species)

WATER QUALITY

1. The group contained 3 representatives from Elizabeth Township and 1 representative from Lititz Borough and as such, they did not feel comfortable assigning a priority order to Warwick Twp.
2. The highest priority items for Elizabeth Twp. was to update the Act 537 plan to remain consistent with the strategic plan and also to be mindful of future sewer needs (specifically related to public sewer availability) and requiring BMP's for new development
3. The highest priority items for Lititz were developing a Green Infrastructure Plan and expedited approvals for those implementing Green Infrastructure
4. All other items noted in the hand-out were deemed lower priority items.
5. Under Elizabeth Twp., the wording "permitting only" was deemed very heavy handed and the group preferred the word 'encouraging' as a substitute and felt that this item is really a more long term, gradual change
6. There was discussion about creating a REGIONAL fund to address stormwater management facilities maintenance – this strategy is mentioned under Lititz Borough's heading, but would benefit from regionalization
7. The concept of rain barrels was considered better for Lititz Borough and Warwick Twp., as they have public water systems, whereby making the rain barrels benefit the homeowner. This strategy should show up in each column.
8. Related to the rain barrel discussion, the group discussed ways to partner with local businesses to support water quality initiatives – e.g. Bombergers for discounted rain barrels (or having the municipality offer a coupon or rebate that must be used locally) and working with Esbenshades to enhance native plant offerings and education
9. There was discussion of the County's recent report on water quality that is being presented to local municipalities and how collaboration with the County on these efforts will enhance the effectiveness of everyone involved
10. There was discussion of a watershed based approach and how that applies to our region (who else would need to be brought in because we are in shared watersheds?)
11. When we discuss infrastructure as a group, the public water and sewer long-term plan for Elizabeth Twp. must be discussed.

GLOBAL WARMING & CLIMATE CHANGE

1. "Greening" and sustainability should be accomplished by incentives and "free-market" initiatives; it is not, by-and-large, something that government should mandate
Education is key to communicating the value of sustainability; otherwise, we may just "wait for it to happen"
2. Education should focus on those relatively small, but potentially environmentally-significant actions that each of us could take, for example: one person installing a rain barrel doesn't accomplish much, but if an entire neighborhood installed them if more people were able to plant trees

3. Energy conservation is “huge;” we should try to find ways to make it more attractive (to do and in appearance) and to promote geothermal applications
4. Consider ways to convert existing, large residential lots into green/sustainable sites, by promoting individual actions, neighborhood-wide actions, and/or by promoting Clean & Green for farms and wooded tracts, where and as applicable
5. TDR’s were discussed, including the concept of regional TDR’s within the Warwick School District [IE: sending from portions of Elizabeth Township (ET) to Lititz Borough (LB) and Warwick Township (WT)]; education on TDR’s is needed
6. Promote walkability, including the retrofitting of older neighborhoods that don’t have sidewalks
7. Concern was expressed for preserving farming and natural resources while not giving-up property rights

Prioritizing the Recommendations: The proposed recommendations were noted as being very specific. The recommendations were also considered to be generally (but not entirely) “grouped by priority” already, whereby: those recommendations that apply to all of the municipalities should be considered “high regional priorities,” those that apply to one municipality should be considered a “low priority” for the region, though likely a high priority for that individual municipality.

While not specifically discussed, it appeared to be the consensus of the group that, in general, “Removing Obstacles” was a higher priority than “Creating Incentives” which, in turn, was a higher priority than “Enacting Standards”

As noted below, several recommendations garnered very little support, falling below “Low Priority”

High Regional Priorities for All Three Municipalities

Category

Promote education of greening and sustainability (please note that this is a new, separate recommendation)	Remove Obstacles
Develop regional Climate Action Plan, built on the Carbon Audit	Remove Obstacles
Develop lists of plant species appropriate to shifting climate patterns	Remove Obstacles
Offer density bonuses/credits to developers who reforest common open space or publicly-owned lands (this was considered a great idea for the region, even though it applies mostly to ET and WT)	Create Incentives

Medium Regional Priorities

Continue to implement trail expansion in LB and WT (considered more important than shuttle bus concept)	Remove Obstacles
Investigate shuttle bus, other public transit, and non-auto mobility in LB and WT (important to the region, but considered unrealistic for ET)	Remove Obstacles
Prioritize planning/funding decisions based on links between transportation and future land use in LB and WT	Remove Obstacles

Consider ways to incentivize increased mix and concentration of uses (in specific areas and possibly through TDR's/Regional TDR's) Create Incentives

Add a natural resource sending area, especially for woodlands, to the TDR options available to landowners (this must be preceded by an effort aimed at educating the public, first) Create Incentives

Offer an expedited permitting process and fee waivers for "green" construction (this is not considered feasible at this time; its benefits need to be explained) Create Incentives

Low Regional Priority, Though Likely High Individual Municipal Priority

Requiring sidewalks (although 5' seems too wide) in ET Remove Obstacles

Prohibiting new cul-de-sacs that discourage walking in ET Remove Obstacles

Amend TND ordinances to increase densities and demand for public transit; add reduced setbacks, graphic design standards, walkability, and mixed use in WT Create Incentives

Undertake WT-wide natural resource priority planning and developing resource protection ordinances Enact Standards

Classify and protect WT woodlands based on ecologic value Enact Standards

Extend Conservation Zone woodland replacement standards to all WT zoning districts through woodland/resource protection ordinance Enact Standards

Little or No Support

Requiring inexpensive energy audit at point-of-sale Enact Standards

(Concerns were expressed for the cost of this recommendation; "inexpensive" to one person is "expensive" to the next. Are there more practical approaches that could/should be considered? Is more education needed on this point?)

Reducing block lengths to encourage walking Enact Standards

(What difference does this make; if you're going to be walking anyway, why do more cross-streets make a difference? In fact, don't more cross-streets create more paving which, ultimately, is less sustainable from coverage and stormwater perspectives?)

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION

1. Many of the recommendations are Market Driven – implementation of solar and wind energy are feasibility only if energy credits/funding is provided through state legislation. None available now.

2. For the borough there is a major focus on providing of trees. This is more important than solar.
3. Solar installation have issues such as amount of sun in our region, structural on existing buildings, weather accommodations, impact to historic structures.
4. Maintenance of renewable energy facilities is an issue.
5. Visual and aesthetics issue need to be addressed for many of these installations.
6. Encourage or educate the public on Energy Audits and green initiatives
7. Look at generation of energy from waste.
8. Recognize that as technology advances more opportunity for use of renewable energy facilities may become more practicable.
9. Enacting standards are quite difficult given many issues identified previously.
10. We need to keep affordable housing in mind with regard to the recommendations.
11. Are some of these recommendations legal?
12. The market place should be reviewed annually to see if these recommendation will be more feasible.
13. Encourage businesses to implement R&D projects to implement or evaluate renewable energy facilities or possibilities.
14. Incentives for implementation of LEED certification and implementation of green building standards should be addressed.
15. Expedited permitting approval should be looked as an incentive.
16. We need to constantly keep up technology and demands in the market place.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Recycling

- a. Make sure there are enough receptacles at convenient locations
- b. Make sure people are aware of where receptacles are located
- c. Consider uniform recycling policies or a joint recycling program between municipalities in the region
- d. Educate people about what they can recycle and how (Lititz sends annual reminders about how to properly recycle – is this effective? Do other municipalities do things to raise awareness?)
- e. Rather than creating new regulations and requirements, make it easy for people and teach them why it is important
- f. *(Can we map recycling facilities in the region – where to go to drop what off?)*

2. Trails

- a. Consider creating a trust or volunteer organization to help with trail maintenance and advocacy

3. Safety by Design

- a. Safe design of buildings, industrial areas, public spaces, etc. using landscaping & topography to create safe areas in the event of emergency
- b. Time lighting based on when people are moving – that way you can avoid excessive light pollution and costs

- c. Design public buildings so that facilities are easily accessible to the public – and ensure that people know of their existence
 - d. Encourage mixed use – particularly among uses that have different peak usage times – as a way to keep “eyes on the street”
- 4. Bicycles** (*this may go under transportation, but it’s a health and safety issue, as well*)
- a. Support bike lanes or other methods to make biking in the region safer
 - b. Educate both motorists and bicyclists about sharing the road and the vehicle code
 - c. Provide more places to park or hang bikes
 - i. A grant may be available from the Lancaster Bicycle Club for such an initiative
- 5. Community Cohesion**
- a. Encourage people to live and work in the same community so that they have more of a stake in what happens
 - b. Encourage young people to join volunteer organizations that help to sustain & contribute to the community, like Lions, Rotary, and volunteer fire companies

FOOD PRODUCTION AND SECURITY

1. Native plants
 1. Encourage planting of fruit trees
 2. Create a list of indigenous plants for the region, encourage planting of only native species
 3. Create a list of chemicals that should not be used on yards
2. Encourage Community Gardens and Home Gardens
 1. Expand farmers markets, increase to year-round
 2. Begin a seed saving/sharing program
 3. Encourage local markets and stores to carry local produce
 4. Amend ordinances to allow front yard gardening and keeping of small livestock (bees, chickens, goats, etc)
 5. Amend ordinances to allow sale of food from home gardens
 6. Participate in gleaning programs, support local food banks
3. Public Education: through classes, website or brochures
 1. Growing/preserving your own food
 2. Composting
 3. Companion planting, growing organically
 4. Rain barrels
 5. Hydroponic garden
 6. FFA students involvement of a WSD community garden/composting food scraps
4. Expanding TDR program
 1. TDRs in the Borough to be used for higher density and historic preservation (ex: Pittsburgh)