

RESULTS OF THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE VISIONING WORKSHOP 2-18-09

In the Year 2035, St. Croix County will:

Page 1

Card 1:

In the year 2035, St. Croix Co. will provide rural and semi rural land uses and environment that supports the need of its citizens to prosper with an above average quality of life.

Card 2:

In the year 2035, the county of St. Croix will have preserved its history, open space, and agricultural heritage by focusing development along multi-modal transportation corridors that maximize mobility, connectivity, livability, and economic development throughout the county.

Card 3:

In the year 2035, St. Croix County has a comprehensive transportation network, efficient agricultural practices and enterprises. The current land use has preserved natural resources, clean water, recreation opportunities, and accountability.

Card 4:

In the year 2035, St. Croix County will leverage their agricultural heritage and natural resources to inform their development in their cities and towns, focusing on the establishment of clean and transparent guidance on the development of future growth, including business, infrastructure and committees.

Card 5:

In the year 2035, the county of St. Croix will continue to provide a higher quality of life through less and open government, free markets, and planning flexible enough to adjust to changing economic and development needs for county residents well being.

Card 6:

St. Croix will value its residents by providing exceptional educational opportunities for all. The community will preserve, protect and develop the natural resources, agriculture enterprises, vibrant urban center, manufacturing center and use of infrastructure with a fair, thought out and reasonable tax structure.

Card 7:

In the year 2035, St. Croix County will empower communities to leverage their natural and man made assets toward developing sustainable business, transportation and infrastructure development that balances the quality of life of its residents with the resources available to achieve that result.

Card 8:

In the year 2035, St. Croix County will offer a blend of rural and urban amenities that acknowledge its agricultural heritage and development in a cost effective and playful way that ties together its infrastructure and natural resources and leverage its resources of the county.

Page 2

Card 1:

In the year 2035, St. Croix County has mass transit available between all villages and cities. It is a vibrant, alive, healthy place to live with good paying jobs and cultural opportunities. The schools produce well educated students who are good citizens. The farms are profitable and the farmers are good stewards of the land, preserving it for future generations.

The cities and villages cooperate to provide municipal services to the citizens. The water quality for drinking and recreation is excellent. The streams, rivers and lakes are clean and vibrant with healthy fish and recreation opportunities. The air quality is good. Green energy is produced by solar and wind.

Housing is available and affordable for all citizens. There are programs for the aged citizens and for the youth. Governmental agencies are responsive to citizen needs. Real estate taxes are affordable for home and business owners, farmers and developers. The quality of life in St. Croix County is good with low crime.

Card 2:

In the year 2035, the community of St. Croix I see innovative, productive, well paying jobs in both our municipality (i.e. cities/villages/hamlets), and our rural farms with animal production, fruits vegetables, fish, etc.

I see municipalities using coop agreements of services and less duplication to save costs. I see excellent water resources in both quality and access. I see safe, small town atmosphere in local municipalities proud of their heritage and many community events.

I see school systems second to none with innovative teachers paid by their results with great community involvement. I see an increase in senior housing with active seniors still giving their time and knowledge in their communities. I see many cultural centers in communities. I see rural development with little impact on the overall land use.

Card 3:

In the year 2035, the county of St. Croix to be a scenic, healthy, progressive place to live and work.

Card 4:

2035, St. Croix County Vision Statement. To enhance and promote a vibrant, growing community with great culture environment, education and to achieve a comfortable living rate in which to live.

Card 5:

The County of St. Croix is a land of eco-friendly individuals that have preserved this land's natural resources and the beauty of the land for a better life now and for future generations to follow.

Card 6:

In the year 2035, the County of St. Croix is committed to preserving the quality of life for its citizens by maintaining progressive education, creating viable economic opportunities, sustaining all aspects of its natural resources, promote substantial resources for efficient and effective technological, transportation needs for its citizens so that the vision of a better and greater county is met.

Page 3

Create:

- Mass transit
- County Administrator
- Fiber optics county wide
- Intra-governmental cooperation
- Good paying job opportunities
- Affordable housing for all ages
- Shared municipal services
- Sanitary water treatment systems county wide
- Small family home farms
- Organic farming
- Wind/solar energy and related jobs
- Green construction requirements
- Opportunity for growth – residential, commercial
- Travel corridors
- Improve transportation systems
- County farm into industrial energy
- More PDR programs to protect valuable natural resources
- Method to share services – parks, library, fire ambulance, infrastructure repair, etc. between municipalities

Page 4

Create:

- Better communication network – fiber, broadband
- Large natural corridors for wildlife and people to use and enjoy
- Urban and rural township transitions

Page 5

Create:

- County wide trail network connecting cities, parks, and natural areas (non-motorized)
- County place separated trails along county road projects
- New bridge on 64
- Public transportation to MN: i.e. rail, bus
- Subdivisions with common wells and septic systems
- Manufacturing growth for good jobs (cluster development)
- Transparent rules and regulations
- Transparency of county government expenditures (web)
- Develop PDR and TDR program
- Dense urban centers
- Large massive open areas (farm or other use)
- Focus development on transportation corridors – to maximize public infrastructure investments

Page 6

Change:

- Lower/change property tax formulas
- How seniors are taxed
- Homestead credits R.E. tax
- Eliminate per property tax
- East/west division of county
- Perceived by residents
- Combine, adjust or relocate some county services
- Regulate/require recycling at commercial and residential levels
- Decrease large roadways
- Change development practices to less land consumption
- Decrease farmland chemical runoff
- Loss of quality farmland
- Streamline county zoning
- Intra-governmental cooperation
- Promote local business use and agriculture in county
- Slow down rural residential development
- Lower/eliminate impact fees to impact growth and motivate commercial and industrial development

Page 7

Change:

- Reduce county board and go to full-time board
- Incentive for growing businesses
- Control elevated electric distribution lines use underground, share use of lines
- Better options for recycling and garbage
- Removal of permit fees: construction, zoning
- Role of county in SMSA – more involved, more vocal
- Stop large lot rural development, especially by urban centers
- Change view of density is bad

Page 8

Preserve:

- Local flavors
- Park and recreation land
- Farmland
- St. Croix River Valley – water quality
- Rural areas
- Open spaces
- Farming
- Wildlife corridor
- Historic sites/features
- Woodlands, prairie lands
- Old barns and out buildings
- Horizons
- Ground water quality
- Small town atmosphere

- Good schools/education
- Good soils
- Cultural opportunities
- Good public protection
- Protect all streams/rivers/lakes
- Good health EAC
- Natural features
- Lands related to waterways

Page 9

Preserve:

- Quality transportation system
- Agricultural lands
- Woodlands
- Large natural wildlife corridors
- Water sheds: lakes, rivers, streams
- Large contiguous tracks (undeveloped)
- Abandoned transportation corridors (i.e. RR)
- Access to public natural resources - water
- Preserve retiring farmer – ability to wealth (purchase development rights)(TDR)
- Private property rights
- Clean water: lakes, streams, wells
- Libraries

Page 10

Themes:

- Conserve and protect natural resources
- Preserve, protect and develop transportation system multi modal
- Enhance urban centers and use of infrastructures
- Plan development to maximize infrastructure road, water system, sewers
- Demonstrated value of property taxes with limits
- Preserve, protect and develop agricultural enterprise

Page 11

Themes:

- Transportation/infrastructure
- Environmental/recycling
- Government – cooperation and taxes
- Housing
- Land use
- Job creation/living wage jobs
- Technology
- Energy
- Cultural opportunities
- Education