

ST. CROIX COUNTY KICKOFF WORKSHOP RESULTS

| Utility and Community Facilities | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. We need to make sure there is abundance of clean, pure water | 2 | | 3 | 5 |
| 2. Need to be aware of the treatment of water before it enters our natural water system | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 3. We need to establish parks and recreation areas | 1 | | | 1 |
| 4. We need to continue recycling programs and have facilities to accomplish this | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5. Need to balance impacts created by development and their cost upon the larger system. Are the facilities in place to handle the proposed development and if not who's responsibility is it to put them in place | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 6. Guarantee adequate and affordable electric power throughout the County | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 7. Identify the long-term sewage treatment strategies for the growing areas of the County | 2 | 3 | | 5 |
| 8. Plan the growth (or limit it) to match the ability of the community to provide appropriate infrastructure | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 9. Promote services for elderly, including senior citizen centers with programs and meals | | | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Ambulance services to be coordinated. | | | | |
| 11. Promote high speed internet throughout County | | 1 | 2 | 3 |

| Transportation | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. We need to maintain roads and bridges and identify major travel corridors for the future. Identify and prioritize major projects to compete for limited state \$\$. | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| 2. As the County develops will we need public transportation? (a good time to plan is now) | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 3. Trails (multi-use) along county roadways and in abandoned rail ROW are important to a multimodal transportation system | | 1 | | 1 |
| 4. Coordination with Minnesota counties/agencies on transportation improvements is vital to the continued prosperity of the county and to balancing the significant impact on the transportation system | 1 | | | 1 |
| 5. Build Stillwater bridge | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 6. Develop ideas 2 & 4 together | 1 | | | 1 |
| 7. Develop and promote ride share opportunities for commuters | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 8. Keep safe biking routes | | | | |
| 9. Be aware of natural resource corridors | | | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Passenger rail between St. Paul – Milwaukee – Chicago | | 1 | | 1 |
| 11. Transportation for seniors and the disabled is limited and needs public government support at a much higher level. | 1 | | | 1 |
| 12. Develop light rail system connecting to Twin Cities | | | | |
| 13. Use of more efficient (plug in hybrids, etc.) for vehicles in county, City, etc. | | | 1 | 1 |

| Housing | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Communities should include a wide range of housing options and understand what price range is “affordable housing.” Housing for families at various price points is crucial to community health. | 5 | | 2 | 7 |
| 2. Need to control “urban sprawl” | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 3. Develop marginal land first! | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 4. Discourage one house on every “40” | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5. Encourage compact housing that efficiently uses land and community resources. | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 6. Density is not bad, but improperly planned density is due to the problems it creates (congestion, resource use, lack of civic facilities, need for infrastructure improvements) | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 7. Recognize a healthy housing industry keeps our communities vital and thriving | | 2 | | 2 |
| 8. Allow housing in appropriate places, not just “everywhere” | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 9. We must be “aware” of the effect of impact fees on “affordable” housing | | | 2 | 2 |
| 10. Make use of TDR – transfer of development rights | | | | |
| 11. Issue – vacant foreclosed homes – promote filling them | 1 | | | 1 |

| Economic Development | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Limited transportation connections to larger Twin Cities metro limits ability to create jobs | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Grow high paying jobs in County while recognizing connection to Twin Cities | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 3. Utilize UW-RF and WITC to catalyze economic development, ie. research park | | 3 | | 3 |
| 4. Focus public efforts on job creation and removing barriers to economic development | 3 | | | 3 |
| 5. Direct economic growth to what is “appropriate” for a particular community through enforceable ordinances. | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| 6. Continue to promote cooperation between cities, townships and zoning for planned development together | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Try to keep like development together. | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 8. Promote measured growth to allow service to keep pace | | 2 | | 2 |
| 9. Promote business/industrial park with rail access | | | 1 | 1 |
| 10. Support and elevate our entrepreneurs and existing businesses | 1 | | 3 | 4 |

| Agricultural Resources | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Provide ability for next generation to keep farm operations in production | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 2. Recognize water resource impacts from farm operations and assist in response strategies | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| 3. Develop appropriate ordinances to help keep farming affordable | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 4. Fund programs to preserve farm lands – TDR (transfer of development rights), PDR (purchase development rights), etc. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 5. Identify land use opportunities to maximize the best practices | | | | |
| 6. Work towards best management practices to keep neighboring uses compatible | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 7. Promote CRP (conservation reserve program) for ag use | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 8. Protect and promote all sizes of farms and types of farms including organic. | | | | |
| 9. Recognize right to farm laws | | | | |
| 10. Realize ag needs support business in this County | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 11. Recognize that ag has its place in the larger County and the ability to farm should be protected. Just because a subdivision goes up next door, doesn't mean that farming must stop. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

| Natural Resources | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. We must preserve and protect natural resources (soil, water, air) | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| 2. We need to promote the use and enjoyment of the natural resources thru parks and public access. | | | | |
| 3. Buffer areas around public lands | | | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Preserve rivers and waterways – preserve the St. Croix River | | 1 | | 1 |
| 5. Plans developed by lake districts & conservation groups should be an integral part of County planning and enforcement | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 6. Need to control storm water run-off by innovative methods ie. Rain gardens, engineering swales and less proliferation of ponds. | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 7. As the County gets built on and paved, runoff becomes a big concern | | | | |
| 8. Soil conservation by working with FSA | | 1 | | 1 |
| 9. Connect parks/natural areas with multiuse trails. Could be part of green/natural corridors that interconnect the larger system. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 10. Preserve abandoned rail corridors for future transportation use. Larger corridor for trails in the interim. | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 11. Clear-eyed analysis of land that deserves permanent protection. | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| 12. Use of private land owners in addition to public control when fashioning natural resource protections. | 1 | 1 | | 2 |

| Cultural Resources | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Identify existing cultural resources in each community. Make historic/cultural sites more visible. Lack of knowledge of what we have and what may be lost. | 6 | 2 | | 8 |
| 2. Identify appropriate areas for change: expand, shift, etc. | | | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Develop ways to keep “culture” affordable to citizens | | 1 | | 1 |
| 4. Promote education of cultural resources | | 1 | | 1 |
| 5. Keep / preserve historic sites in County | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 6. Expand the library system | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 7. Expand opportunities for our youth to experience and participate in cultural activities | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 8. Develop means for all citizens (seniors, disabled, etc.) to enjoy arts and historical activities. | | | 3 | 3 |
| 9. Keep our agricultural history alive | | 1 | | 1 |
| 10. Include private interests / ownership in all cultural resource inventories. | 1 | | | 1 |

| Intergovernmental Cooperation | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Opportunity – shared services – fire, police, library, etc. Need to share utility services, ie. Water, sewer, energy, etc. | 3 | | 3 | 6 |
| 2. Agreements between towns and cities (villages) regarding expansion | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 3. A broad cross-section of the population should be involved in bringing cooperation between governments. | | | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Need boundary agreements for proper planning and development of areas between governmental entities. | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 5. Towns and villages need to work closely with County. Open communication between towns, villages and County. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 6. Citizens need to work with local government | | | | |
| 7. Respect each others views. Understand why views are what they are. Then find a common solution. | 1 | | | 1 |
| 8. At County level, explore revenue sharing for major economic development targets. (Maybe even regionally) | | 1 | | 1 |
| 9. Adjoining communities planning commissions should meet often – jointly develop planning together as much as is appropriate. Practice civil discourse and work together for the public benefit | | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| Land Use | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | T |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Wise use of County lands through zoning. | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| 2. Keeping the ag areas of the County | | | | |
| 3. Keep conservancy lands | | | | |
| 4. Issue: Economics may affect potential land use | | | | |
| 5. Preserve existing green corridors and connect them when possible. | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 6. Preserve farm land through transfer of development rights. Make use of TDR. | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Control urban sprawl, limit size of lots for development | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 8. We must protect the best ag land in St. Croix County | | 3 | | 3 |
| 9. Recognize that the County, particularly the west will develop and needs to be planned for. The greater the amount allowed, the less pressure there is to go east. | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 10. Focus intense land use along transportation corridors i.e. 94, 64, 65, rail lines, etc. | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 11. Acknowledge property rights up front when zoning/planning issues are advanced | | | 1 | 1 |
| 12. Identify, at a minimum, the amount of land needed for healthy development. | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 13. Do not discourage large lot development where appropriate. | | | | |
| 14. Expand green corridors. | | | | |
| 15. Identify first how much land is needed for maintaining the ability to feed ourselves – then allow other development – ability to preserve land for food production adequate for our survival should drive ideas on where housing should expand. | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 16. Identify sensitive environmental areas and zone uses accordingly. | | | 3 | 3 |