

# Town of Spencer / Owen County Comprehensive Strategic Plans Steering Committee Meeting Notes

**Date / Time:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**Location:** Spencer-Owen Community Schools Administration Building

**Attendees:** Dean Bruce, Shelley Edwards, Don Meek, Anton Neff, Mark Rogers, Denise Shaw, Jack Simmerman, Patty Steward, Mike Wood  
EGT: Cory Whitesell, Scott Burgins, Matthew Pierce

Jack started the meeting with a request that all of the community's planning efforts, including the comprehensive plan, the Indiana - HomeTown Competitiveness Pilot Program and flood relief efforts are coordinated.

Cory then suggested that the group use a mapping exercise to begin creating goals and objectives for the comprehensive plan. Let's "start on the ground," looking at problems in specific areas. Then the group can step back to form a vision for the future. The following issues were addressed:

- Y would like to see a trail all the way to McCormick's Creek. Link to Cooper's park.
- White Oaks, town is annexing Dunnagan's and Childs to Hyden Road.
- How put roads in to new subdivisions.
- Hyden: commercial ribbon or residential.
- White Oaks Critical Sub Area: Hyden.
- Boston has no place else to expand, this would give them a campus like environment, 110 acres.
- Dangers of sinkholes in the undeveloped areas. Town would have to take some of the risks to determine that it is safe to build.
- Conservation subdivisions would be a good fit but town has to guide.
- Housing will go first unless the town start
- Mixed use, commercial across from Babbs Road.

The committee then discussed possible critical sub areas:

Lane's Addition CSA:

- South of Thorn Ridge, stay ag?
- COFA is in area. What do about it?

- Decisions must be made or ignored

Texas Pike CSA:

- Heavy flooding will make it recreational or agricultural
- Two owners would like to sell for commercial or industrial
- Conservation Club and County owns old landfill. Make into park?

Flatwoods CSA:

- Anything will require sewer, run lines or put a plant
- State park has a treatment plant that could be brought over
- Drainage would have to be improved in Flatwoods before anything can be done.

The committee also discussed:

- Watershed protection plan north of Spencer
- Off street parking along downtown, particularly on the east-west street. Example is North Street.
- Flood Mitigation
- Flood recovery
- Mitigation will focus on moving people out of the way, not fixing the structural problems
- 19 unguarded crossings
- Ag preservation. Small acreage and organic farming is increasing in state.
- Need some reserved E.D. land - could make into a TIF district
- Sinkhole protection.
- Neighborhood retail at Concord and 46.
- Road maintenance,
- Ditching is a big problem.
- There is no county engineer.
- Enforcement is a problem - Establishing the rule of law.
- Education campaign - Education is the way to isolate the hardcore, stubborn "land rights" people.
- Not on the tax role
- The community has a right to say where the place land uses

The next meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>.