

Washington County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date / Time: Monday, March 1, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m.

Location: Salem City Hall

Attendees: Leslie Batt, Laura Bishop, Shenan Campbell, Todd Campbell, Laurie Carr, Jim Day, Ervin Day, Lane Freiberger, Donnie Hacker, Pam Hardwick, David Hoar, Greg Hopkins, Burl Jean, Kerry Lewis, Scott Maudlin, Terry McNeely, John Mishler, Kelly Mollet, Eric Rusby, Tom Scifres, Brad Shelton, Jeff Souder

Planning Consultants: Scott Burgins, Michael Krosschell, Andrew Young

Scott introduced the planning team to the committee and provided a summary of activities for the project. After discussing the fundamentals of planning and associated benefits, Scott questioned the committee on their vision and desired outcomes for this plan. The following questions and responses summarize this exercise:

What do the Washington County residents hope the plan will accomplish?

- We hope that the community will have all misconceptions cleared up and that they do not turn down the plan due to ignorance.
- I would like us to save the beauty of Washington County.
- Farms have been ruined due to strip developing so there should be preservation of farms in Washington County.
- The John Hay Center needs to be preserved in order to protect the history of Washington County.
- Washington County has a significant supply of fresh water and this resource needs to be protected and secure.

What concerns do you have about the Washington County plan?

- I hope that the plan does not become ultra regulated and overbearing on Washington County residents.
- The plan needs to be flexible enough to meet the needs of businesses that want to relocate to Washington County.
- The plan should protect the beauty of the land and understand how important it is to prevent prices from skyrocketing on agriculture land.
- We need to make sure the plan is open for revision in order to make future adjustments.

What visions do you have for economic development?

- I would like to see more progressive agriculture in Washington County.
- There needs to be opportunities to both sleep and work in the county.
- I would like to see more students from Washington County pursuing a college education.
- There is a need for more jobs which will give students more desire to stay or work in Washington County rather than move to larger cities.
- We need to preserve the beauty of our county roads and be sure that structures built are not eyesores to the community.
- We need the development of new and larger quantities of technology for Washington County to take advantage of.
- We need to address the feasibility of transportation on certain roads that have become difficult to traverse on.
- We should try to minimize the travel distance to the nearest retail stores in preparation for the gas price increases. Having a shorter distance to travel will mean less money will need to be spent on gas for the residents.
- I would like to see us keep retail and other areas of shopping in downtown areas.
- The historical aspects of Washington County need to be protected.
- We should protect the existing businesses of Washington County and allow for grandfathering when necessary to allow for a reasonable order of succession.

What are some other concerns you have regarding the Washington County plan?

- We need to realize what the change we want is and what change we do not want.
- I would like to see us have all the “What ifs” analyzed and completely covered in the plan.
- We should take a look at Bob McCormick’s “Planning with POWER” project and apply where necessary to the Washington County plan.
- The plan needs to address where water is available and where it is not available because that has a huge impact on the quality of life residents endure.
- The Washington County plan needs to completely analyze soil types, drainage, and road access.

At the end of the meeting, two meeting date and time changes were noted:

Tuesday July 6, 7:00

September 7, 7:00

All meetings will be held in Salem City Hall.

Steering Committee Meeting #2 is scheduled for **Monday, April 5, 2010 at 7 p.m.** in Salem City Hall.