

**Village of Blanchardville
Village of Hollandale
Town of Moscow**

Community Vision Plan

Iowa County

**A Summary of Public Input
November 2002**

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On Monday, November 19 the Town of Moscow, Villages of Blanchardville and Hollandale participated in a community-visioning program called: ***“Community Vision: Looking to the Future.”*** This visioning exercise took place at the Pecatonica High School. Paul Ohlrogge of the UW-Extension Office, Amy Knox of Regional Planning and Mary Jenkins of Regional Planning facilitated this program.

Communities today face any number of pressing concerns, including requests for rezoning, demands for affordable housing or the loss of a major employer. Unfortunately, decisions about these issues are frequently made in the absence of a real vision of how the residents want their communities to look in the future.

Planning for a community’s future can be a difficult, time consuming and costly job. Residents are often more concerned about daily tasks rather than think about a vision. Residents want good schools, decent jobs, safe and clean environments and safe neighborhoods in which to live. Without a vision, however, communities limit their ability to make decisions about these issues – somewhat like driving across the country without a roadmap.

Who should determine a community’s future, other than its residents? Should it be a consultant hired to develop a plan, a state or federal agency making decisions on highways or wetlands preservation, or a private developer constructing a shopping mall or a residential subdivision? All these could have a large impact on a community’s future without input from a broad range of residents. Residents need to participate in and actively envision the future of their communities – or other groups and individuals will determine it for them.

The community-visioning program lasted approximately three hours with good healthy discussions on what folks of these three municipalities envisioned their future to be. The program was broken down into three sections. The first section concentrated on: “Our Current Condition”. The second portion focused on: “Challenges and Opportunities.” The third portion focused on: “The Future.”

What follows is a summary of information gathered during the visioning session on a series of questions posed to the group of citizens in attendance. This information, along with other information gathered from a recent written county wide survey, will be used to assist the Regional Planning Commission in drafting a comprehensive plan for the participating jurisdictions. This visioning session will help guide the future of the participating town and village Plan Commissions in their efforts to work toward comprehensive planning.

Section 1: Our Current Condition

The following three questions were asked to the group regarding our current condition:

1. What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?
2. What are some of the community values?
3. What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?

- ◆ Beautiful Area
- ◆ Quiet
- ◆ The people who live here
- ◆ Green rolling hills
- ◆ The different seasons
- ◆ Clean air and water
- ◆ Dark starry nights
- ◆ Close to employment opportunities
- ◆ Close to cultural opportunities
- ◆ Low crime rate
- ◆ Rivers and streams
- ◆ Churches
- ◆ Peace and quiet
- ◆ Positive family environment
- ◆ Strong sense of volunteerism
- ◆ People support people
- ◆ Close to good health care
- ◆ Close to family
- ◆ Taxes are lower
- ◆ Good roads

What are some of the community values?

- Supporting neighbors
- Quality of water
- Education
- Preservation of land and water
- Democratic process
- Participation by the people is good
- Respect for diverse lifestyles
- Quality of housing
- Scenic views
- Access to locally elected officials
- Schools
- Wildlife resources

What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

- ◆ The people
- ◆ The small town atmosphere
- ◆ Honest and down to earth people
- ◆ Pleasant
- ◆ Grandview Site on Hwy 39
- ◆ Natural resource base
- ◆ History and historical sites
- ◆ Farms are still here
- ◆ Stone bleachers in the park
- ◆ River in the middle of town
- ◆ More activities – sports, etc.
- ◆ 4-H Extension opportunities
- ◆ Originality – people are creative
- ◆ Small business ideas
- ◆ Self employment in the area
- ◆ Bowling alley out in the middle of nowhere
- ◆ Relatively crime free
- ◆ Old dam
- ◆ Smithsonian Barn Again Exhibit coming in 2003
- ◆ Main-street community
- ◆ White pine relics
- ◆ Blanchardville location is a multi county village
- ◆ Panoramic views
- ◆ Mormon History is unique to Blanchardville
- ◆ Specialized springs
- ◆ Collaborative work has a history of success (i.e. Churches and Schools)
- ◆ Library has always been important – a long history

Section 2. Challenges and Opportunities:

The second portion of the Visioning Program focused on the Challenges and Opportunities facing the Town of Moscow as well as the Villages of Blanchardville and Hollandale. The following question was used to facilitate discussion on the upcoming challenges:

1. What type of development or re-development should occur in your communities?

(Please note a lengthy discussion took place on the different types of development, not just residential housing development. Commercial, agricultural, parks and recreation and housing were all discussed.)

What type of development or redevelopment should occur in your communities?

- Watch what other communities are doing to encourage smaller scale farms
- Preserving open space
- Protecting the integrity of the municipalities
- Housing on lesser number of acres – not just a 35 acre rule
- Encourage local commodity crops
- Encourage the use of cluster site development for housing
- Encourage the preservation of historic buildings and historic places
- Reasonable aesthetics
- Preserve the Pecatonica River Valley from too much development
- Define the term “Development Right”
- Look at the density in our area – what is the minimum acres needed to build rurally
- Cluster development like the Middleton Hills (Marshall Erdman site) encourage this type of residential development
- I don’t favor too much regulation
- Potential lots opening up in Blanchardville for newer homes to be built
- Not interested in large corporate farms moving in
- Develop a public policy that promotes preservation
- More use of renewable energy resources
- Look at developing more housing for the elderly and disabled
- Like a golf course here
- Keep prisons out
- Like to see development of small ag businesses and bio-tech businesses

Section 3. The Future

The final segment of the visioning process was to look ahead at a preferred vision of the future. Visioning is *a process* by which a community envisions the future it wants, and plans how to achieve it. Through public involvement, communities identify their purpose, core values and vision of the future. The following questions were asked to encourage discussion on the community's vision for the future.

1. What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?
2. What do you want to preserve?
3. What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?

- CWD no longer exists
- I wish my grandchildren were here now
- Peaceful, scenic
- Fun to live here
- Deer are here
- Tractors still work the land here
- Freedom to pursue their dreams
- Safe place to live
- Safer driving with grandma as fewer deer around
- Affordable to live here
- I can buy a home here
- This is a back to nature place
- See farms

What do you want to preserve?

- Park area in Blanchardville
- Fertility of the land
- Agricultural land preserved
- Preserve history
- Preserve the tree and forests
- Wetlands
- Cold water streams
- Recreational opportunities – fishing and hunting
- Preserve our rights
- Preserve the beauty of the Pecatonica River
- Preserve the access to the river
- Preserve the good/character/quality of the roads

What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

- Windmills developed for energy sources of electricity
- Sharing of cell towers
- I'd like to see working profitable farms
- I'd like to see a reduction of light pollution from the east
- Continue to see recreation opportunities outdoors – (bird watching, hiking, biking, walking)
- See more local government information on the web
- A more diverse ethnic population
- A safe place to live
- Economic stability
- Rolling green hills
- A good place to live
- Rolling green hills
- Something similar to 2002 with controlled development
- Conservative change in the roads
- More cooperative transportation
- Like it to look like it does today
- 35 MPH on side roads
- Prairie grasses planted on the sides of the roads