

## **POLK COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS ALL FOCUS GROUPS – QUESTION 3**

### **Amery Focus Group February 26, 2007**

35 people signed in.

#### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Planning – (comprehensive) and control on zoning/planned growth/preserve lakes & natural resources.
- Green space protection.
- Jobs for youth/"better" jobs for all.
- Promotes viable small business, sustainable local/entrepreneur-based business.
- Greater cooperation among villages.
- Encourage entrepreneur.
- Better zoning & planning/protection of land.
- Promote logging/agriculture – preserve farmland.
- Encouragement of creative arts.
- Leader of cohesive county government.
- County "stewards" rather than supervisors.
- Bird watching.
- Promoting health wellness.
- Better use of renewable energy/energy independence.
- More trees.
- Smaller, more efficient county board.
- Protect farms/open spaces.
- Decide if establish "Big Box" or maintain local businesses or revive other small local opportunities (Econ Dev).
- Diversity of economic development.
- Develop park system – county & towns.
- More businesses & incentive for preserving natural & physical resources.
- Increase population.
- Non-motorized transportation for recreational & non-recreational.
- Protect & preserve "right to farm."
- Better definition between residential and business.
- Service roads/frontage roads to accommodate travel.

### **Town of Apple River Focus Group March 12, 2007**

#### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Retain rural image.
- Structured/planned development.
- Good paying jobs.
- Apple River remain in natural state.
- Allow green space in plans.
- Establish guidelines based on values for each township.

## **County Employees Focus Group**

**March 13, 2007**

11 people signed in.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Control urban sprawl and outside influences.
- Expand on tourism without relying on it.
- Protect resources – growth on lakes, water quality high, farmland as farmland, environmentally sound.
- Unified county – values, services, identity.
- Adequate educational and social services.
- Maintain diversity – unique qualities.
- Creating communities – strong healthy families, social networks, intergenerational networks, community pride, not ME but community.
- Attract healthy youth.
- Attract new industry.
- Expansion of healthcare services.
- Mass transit.

## **Luck Focus Group**

**February 12, 2007**

27 people signed in.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Sustainability.
- Protection of natural spaces.
- Utilizing sustainable, innovative energy sources.
- Wireless internet – county-wide retaining culture.
- Be a model for energy efficiency.
- Clean water, air, open space.
- Greater cooperation.
- Greater availability of health care.
- Affordable health care for everyone.
- Lower taxes.
- We don't want to look like Woodbury.
- Large, contiguous areas of land for wildlife habitat.
- Educational opportunities.
- Self-sufficient in energy production.
- Agriculture is preserved.
- Nutritious school lunches.
- 'Next step' eco-municipalities.
- Hemp made legal cash crop.
- Crop producers grow many options.
- Living wage available.
- De-centralize large government – more local control.
- Active, respectful inter-government relations with tribe.
- Fair tax system.
- Instant run-off voting.
- No bridge at Stillwater.

- Effective and efficient government.
- Flexible zoning codes.
- Creative building design standards.
- 'Clean' county.
- Financial and environmental accountability.
- Public transportation.
- Maintaining historical buildings.
- Return to railroad to meet transportation needs.
- Walkable, bikeable communities.
- Re-evaluation of rail lines.
- Controlled growth.
- No hunger.
- No domestic violence.
- No meth labs.
- Activities for youth.

## **Osceola Focus Group**

**February 22, 2007**

26 people signed in.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Maintain farmland – rural character integrity.
- Locally supported business – shop locally.
- Open space preservation.
- Preserve unique areas – lakes.
- Sustainable energy sources – independence.
- Education to preserve natural resources.
- Accessibility for all.
- Embracing/celebration of diversity – ethnic & disabled inclusive.
- Meeting social needs – poverty, neglect, abuse.
- Trees, Trees.
- Commuter trains/mass transit.
- Better paying jobs.
- Innovative water management plan – protect environment – utilize run-off.
- Educational opportunities.
- Opportunities for creative land use.
- Incentives to preserve farms.
- Balanced land use/zoning: development to open space ratio.
- Local control – more inter-cooperation by governments.
- Trail development.
- Tourism based economy.
- Controlled growth.
- Property: 40% out-of-county ownership, 60% local ownership.
- Strong schools.
- Light pollution.

## **City of St. Croix Falls Focus Group March 12, 2007**

**WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Retain uniqueness and rural character.
- Preserve natural resources.
- Light rail.
- 'Destination' County.
- Preserve rural character.
- Develop low-impact development.
- Set example/create model for others.
- Balance between growth and preservation. (Growth and preservation = potential mission statement.)
- High-tech jobs.
- Preservation of farmland.
- Community allegiance.
- Universal health care.
- Lower taxes.

## **Tourism Council February 2007**

**WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? Preferred future. What does Polk County's preferred future look like?**

- Back to rural roots.
- Commuter rail/public transportation.
- 'Destination transportation.'
- Planned development.
- Low-impact economic development.
- Eco-tourism.
- Tourist-friendly communities and government.
- Regional promotion.
- Sustainable communities.
- Responsible citizens.
- Historical preservation.
- Natural resource preservation.
- Good quality of life.