

POLK COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS ALL FOCUS GROUPS – QUESTION 4

Amery Focus Group February 26, 2007

35 people signed in.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Conservation design (cluster in larger system).
- Change structure – rotate & stagger elections of county officials – more continuity.
- Reevaluate/study other models of government structure, involve citizen groups, consultants.
- Create planning department and outside assistance.
- Be proactive not reactive in development/defined use planning.
- Prioritize and make sure have financial resources.
- Access to technology “wireless” internet.
- Alternative transportation options.
- Use current resources create transportation (rr:ie).
- Light rail – commuter line to cities.
- Economic development from regional standpoint.
- Take advantage volunteer opportunities – neighbors helping neighbors – working together – create some sense of community.
- Inventory natural resources.

Town of Apple River Focus Group March 12, 2007

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Team approach.
- Towns need to be proactive in planning – not county.
- Finish shoreland ordinance.
- Improve communication between board & employees and board & units of government.
- County board take initiative to reduce size before census.
- Ethanol plant initiative.
- Madison treat NW WI equal to SE WI.
- Citizen participation.
- Watch/know neighbors.
- Co-op concept/people work together.
- Ad hoc development committee.

County Employees Focus Group

March 13, 2007

11 people signed in.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Zoning controls – planned development.
- Implement 1 economic development model.
- Local communities joining county plan – inclusive.
- Cooperation, collaboration.
- Re-invest in housing stock.
- Ag incentives; green space.
- Promote existing activities.
- Raise income levels (without raising cost of living).
- Tax breaks – incentives – for home updates and green space.
- Conserve main street.
- Expand health care facilities.
- Hire a planner.
- Sustainable energy – tax breaks.
- Think out of the box.
- Expand capacity of UW – share knowledge.
- Learning opportunities for youth.
- Communication to people in city.
- City to local.

Luck Focus Group

February 12, 2007

27 people signed in.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Greater regulation of immigrants.
- Land use planning.
- Hire a county planner.
- Follow through and continuity and institutional memory.
- Land management/conservation.
- Strict land use policies.
- Greater flexibility in design standards emphasizing sustainability.
- 'Green' goals.
- Incorporate community values into land-use standards.
- Buy local.
- Get involved in community.
- Take personal responsibility.
- Maintain/preserve green space.

Osceola Focus Group

February 22, 2007

26 people signed in.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Fair tax structure.
- Planning.
- Incentives for land stewardship/trusts.
- Impact/user fees replace property taxes.
- TDR – Transfer of Development Right.
- Allow counties to implement local income tax.
- Innovative ways to raise revenues.
- Satellite campus, University located in Polk County.
- Towns have control – Home Rule.
- Universal Health Care.
- Develop alternative energy – sustainable.
- Create supportive entrepreneurial environment.

City of St. Croix Falls Focus Group

March 12, 2007

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- PDR's/TDR's.
- Business incentives.
- Comprehensive marketing plan for county.
- Local land use planning.
- Preservation of natural resources.
- Comprehensive growth plan.
- Renewable energy.
- Sustainable communities.
- Supportive County Board – cohesive, consensus, build.
- Focus learning opportunities for youth.
- Retain youth thru opportunities.
- Economic development standards/guidelines.
- No nursing home business.
- Downsize County Board to 5.

Tourism Council February 2007

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? Shape the path. What are some strategies or possibilities? What can be done, by stakeholders and others, to deal with the trends and issues occurring in Polk County?

- Planning.
- Education – customer service.
- Communication between all stakeholders.
- Imagination/creativity in planning.
- Get young people involved.
- Supportive environment for arts.
- Become active in communities.
- Teach 'customer-friendly' curriculum to communities.
- Identify community assets and promote.
- Embrace your community.
- Outreach to 'have-nots' those who need assistance.
- Build consensus.