

SUMMARY OF COUNTY BOARD BRAINSTORMING SESSION APPENDIX D

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BRAINSTORMING SESSION: NOVEMBER 2ND, 2017

In 2015, the Washington County Board of Supervisors identified a Vision, Mission, and five Strategic Goals for County services that are provided directly to citizens along with a set of objectives to achieve each goal (updated by the County Board in 2018). The adoption of the County Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals made it necessary to revisit the comprehensive plan goals, objectives, policies, and programs adopted by the County Board as part of the year 2035 plan. A brainstorming session was held with County Board Supervisors to provide direction in revising the goals, objectives, policies, and programs for the plan update. Results of the brainstorming session by plan element follow (a number in parentheses appears if a comment was received multiple times):

Land Use Element

- Five acre minimum lot size in rural areas is too large.
- Lands with potential for nonmetallic mining should be preserved. (2)
- Preserving agricultural land is important.
- Designating an adequate amount of land for future industrial development is important.
- Continue existing land use patterns in the County.
- Land use regulation should be a local government responsibility. (2)
- Support Visit Washington County.

Transportation Element

- Washington County Commuter Express serves the County's transit needs well.
- Better connections are needed for both the on-street and the off-street bicycle network. (2)
- Accidents are a concern at the intersection of STH 60 and STH 83 because of truck traffic/Support for STH 60 reliever route. (2)
- There should be user fees for bicycle facilities. (2)
- Affordable workforce transportation is a concern.
- Increase shared-ride taxi service across County boundaries. (2)

- No support for rail transit. (4)
- Airports could become a County function to support further economic development in the County.
- Major businesses need an airport with corporate jet capacity nearby.
- Explore public/private partnerships for the Washington County Commuter Express.
- The potential for driverless cars makes long-range transportation planning difficult.
- Washington County Commuter Express ridership is low.
- Explore a shared service agreement with local governments for road maintenance.
- Pursue a Greyhound Bus Stop at the Richfield Park-Ride.
- Do not support the STH 60 reliever route.
- Maintain and expand road infrastructure to promote quality of life and economic development, doing so in a visionary and strategic manner.
- County should assist cities and villages with Quiet City Designation (related to rail traffic).

Housing Element

- Eliminate the program that states “Consider waiving review fees for all proposed subdivisions that provide affordable housing that are reviewed under the Washington County Subdivision Ordinance.” (2)
- Reword program that states “Consider waiving review fees for all proposed subdivisions that provide affordable housing that are reviewed under the Washington County Subdivision Ordinance” to reflect more flexibility in assigning review fees in correlation to the present economic climate.
- Remove all goals under the housing element since the County doesn’t have much authority in developing housing. (2)
- Continue to maintain an adequate housing stock for elderly/people with disabilities. (3)
- Support programs that help to construct and maintain affordable housing units.
- Support the creation of homeless shelters in the County.
- Encourage the development of more starter housing.
- Discourage low-income housing from being constructed in the County.
- Encourage more workforce/market rate housing. (3)
- Encourage quality housing options commensurate with employment opportunities.
- Promote distribution of a variety of housing structure types and sizes for all income and age groups.

Economic Development Element

- Encourage the expansion of a skilled workforce by promoting available apprenticeship and tech programs. (4)
- Identify and make more land shovel-ready for commercial and industrial development.
- De-regulate at the County level to attract more businesses to the County.
- Promote the higher quality of life amenities to attract new businesses to locate in the County.
- Remove references to commuter rail in all goals, objectives, policies, and programs addressing access to jobs.
- Remove “promote tourism” at the County-level.
- Change goals to reflect the desire to maximize and maintain existing parks and not create new parks.
- Promote, Promote, Promote.
- Encourage the development of more agri-business in the County.
- Continue and stimulate Waukesha-Ozaukee Washington Workforce Development Board (WOW) and Workforce Development Center (WDC) training.

- Ensure County residents are receiving the appropriate education and training for the future economy. (2)

Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element

- Preserve and enhance County natural resources including agricultural land.
- County needs to decide how much priority to give preservation of farmland and rural character and what the County's role can and should be. (2)
- Continue to work with UW-Extension and other groups to educate farmers on the most current techniques and practices.
- Not enough incentive for farmers to opt in to farmland preservation zoning.
- High priority should be given to groundwater management. (3)
 - Protect and enhance surface and groundwater quality.
- Monitor the effects of road and softener salt on water quality.
- Monitor and manage invasive species in County's lakes and streams.
- Wetland delineation needs more local input. (2)
- Shoreland and floodplain zoning should not be more restrictive than State regulations.¹¹⁰
- Non-metallic mining regulations should have sunset clauses and be reevaluated as new technologies and practices have made some regulations obsolete or too restrictive.
- County should reaffirm the recommendations of the park and open space plan. (2)
- More local government control of parks within a municipality's boundaries needed.
- Park and open space site acquisition should be done by non-profits and private sector, not the County.
- Encourage preservation of historic or cultural structures and archeological sites.
- Promote strategies and responsible growth policies, which protect the County's natural resources.
- County government should not be in the business of protecting open space. Open space should be protected solely through land trusts.

Utilities and Community Facilities Element

- Access to Lake Michigan water should be determined on a countywide basis, not municipal.
- No wind farms in County.
- Ensure the County has access to the most current internet and telecommunications technologies.
- County should be prepared to meet the energy needs of future technologies such as electric vehicles.
- Maintain dialogue between local governments in the County, as well as with Ozaukee County, on shared services. (2)

Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

- Consolidate nearby counties into one.
 - Customized, flexible State mandate to consolidate counties, including incentives.
 - Consolidation might be the last step of a process under which the number of specific shared services are incrementally increased.
 - Educate the public on the benefits of intergovernmental cooperation. (2)
- Combine 911 service areas and unify dispatch.
- Combine Washington County and Ozaukee County shared-ride taxi service (long-term goal).

¹¹⁰ *Counties may not regulate a matter more restrictively than the matter is regulated by Chapter NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.*

- Consolidate park systems.
- Share services such as law enforcement and public works.
- The County would operate all law enforcement under the Sheriff.
- Non-critical municipal maintenance can be completed by the County.
- Cooperate with other cities and communities to share equipment.
- Existing goals in intergovernmental cooperation where appropriate and the County should stay the course.