

Futures Planning Team – Project Coordinating Team Meeting
8:00 am, February 15, 2008
Black Hawk County Courthouse, Room 204

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Facilitators LaDene Bowen and Bill Wood of the Institute for Decision Making (IDM), UNI; County Attorney Tom Ferguson, County IT Director Kim Veeder, County Supervisor Frank Magsamen, County Auditor Grant Veeder

The Project Coordinating Team met at the above place and time to plan for the next phase of the project. In reviewing the January 30, 2008 forum, where several county department heads spoke to and with Planning Team members, several observations were voiced:

- The departmental presentations were helpful.
- Some Planning Team members are wondering why they are still receiving information instead of planning, which will commence shortly.
- It was a challenge for many of the DHs to project into the future.
- Some DHs weren't forward-looking enough.
- More focus on "green" initiatives was expected. This may need to come from Planning Team members.

Discussion turned to the issue of public input. Bowen said that after the final Planning Team/department head forum on February 20, there will be one more session for integration, then we will seek public reaction. Several observations were voiced:

- The public wants greater integration of public services, but everyone has to agree to that for it to happen.
- Generating ideas from the public could be huge.
- Individuals from the public may have a better concept of how to better spend our money.
- If we expect additional expertise to surface, we need to approach it in a certain way.
- Possible ways to gather public information include advertising a website survey, mailing surveys, putting survey forms on office counters, holding public forums, interviewing key community leaders, and surveying schoolteachers and students. Phone surveys are very expensive.

Ferguson identified five focus areas for future planning: Government structure, "green", technology, business environment and recreation. He explained "business environment" as focusing on planning for the types and locations of potential new businesses in the county, as highlighted by recent ventures by Peregrine, the proposed coal plant, and the proposed Monsanto plant.

Bowen said a subcommittee should be formed to plan the public response initiative, with guidance from IDM. Members for the subcommittee were suggested, but it would be inconsiderate to mention their names before they are contacted.

A meeting for Planning Team members and department heads to digest the exchanges at the two forums will be held March 26 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Possible locations include the Center for the Arts, Allen School of Nursing, and the Emergency Response Training Center on Newell Street.

The Coordinating Team will next meet at 8:00 am on March 10.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

RECAP:

- Second Planning Team/Department Head Forum is February 20.
- Possible Public Input Subcommittee members may be solicited there.
- The Coordinating Team will next meet at 8:00 am on March 10.
- Full Planning Team/Department Head planning meeting will be held 8:30 am-12:30 pm on March 26, possibly at the Waterloo Center for the Arts, Allen College of Nursing, or the Emergency Response Training Center on Newell Street.