

**Black Hawk County Futures Planning
Rick Smyre Presentation
6:30 pm, October 17, 2007
Waterloo Center for the Arts, Petersen Town Hall**

Tom Little, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, welcomed the audience and introduced Supervisor and Planning Team Co-Chair Frank Magsamen, who briefly detailed the process for the Futures Planning Team and introduced Futurist Rick Smyre of North Carolina.

Mr. Smyre gave an audio-visual presentation that stressed the need for open-minded, collaborative efforts involving physical communities and broad networks that exist electronically. He spoke of “weak signals”, or trends in their early stages that are not fully understood because they don’t follow traditional models, and urged us to be alert for them and to be willing to ride the crest of the wave. He encouraged the reading of several books that suggest new ways of thinking, such as Thomas Friedman’s The World Is Flat and Richard Ogle’s Smart World. He gave examples of cutting edge technologies and the astoundingly creative ways in which they are being used. He made suggestions for the types of leadership, planning and learning needed to optimize a community’s ability to transform itself in concert with the changes it must ultimately face.

Attendees were then asked to volunteer thoughts or ideas generated by the presentation to foster a little dialogue. There was some discussion about the paucity of students studying science and technology, and the need for alternatives beyond the gas tax for transportation funding.

Planning Team Co-Chair Dave McCalley introduced Bill Wood and LaDene Bowen from the Institute for Decision Making from the University of Northern Iowa, who described the future meetings and activities of the Planning Team, which will meet with community representatives and county officials to devise broad goals to help in making short-term strategic plans.

Mr. Magsamen thanked members of the Coordinating Team and adjourned the meeting.