

Intergovernmental Communication and Cooperation Committee Meeting Notes November 7, 2008

9:00am lower level of the Benzie County Government Center
Probation Officers Conference Room

Attendees:

Kathy Ralston-Benzie County Planning Commission Chair
Sharron May-Resident, Crystal Lake Township
Susanne Glynn- Frankfort City Council; Economic Development and Renewable Energy Task Force; Benzie Housing Council
Phillip Kitley -Resident, Lake Township
Ted Curran-Resident, Lake Township
Dave Neiger-Benzie County Planning Director
Anne Damm-Benzie County Commissioner, County Planning Commission
Mark Roper-Benzie County Commission Chair
Karen Roberts- Benzie County Commissioner, County Planning Commission

Susanne Glynn introduced herself and gave a brief update on affordable housing issues from the perspective of being a member of the Housing Council.

October meeting notes reviewed and approved.
Agenda approved with changes

Focus Group Report (Karen Roberts) – The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force formed to update the Comprehensive Plan was a focus group, structured around four questions about intergovernmental relations and the quality of intergovernmental communications. Based on the information collected during that meeting, we have decided that the next meeting will include some sort of exercise designed to match some of the communication barriers mentioned during the focus group with specific solutions. Because there is an existing comprehensive plan white paper on intergovernmental communication, it is hoped that what we learn from the next meeting will be useful both in updating the goals in that paper and in coming up with specific ways to improve communication between the different units of government.

Renewable Energy/Economic Development Task Force (RE/ED)

Kathy Ralston reviewed the history of the Renewable Energy/Economic Development Task Force as one of the most active task forces immediately following the summit. The group, chaired by Jim Sheets, began to focus on Wind Energy shortly after they began to meet. There was much discussion within the group and a flow of ideas as to how Benzie County could attract entrepreneurs

who were interested in wind energy production here. It was recognized that a wind energy friendly ordinance within the county ordinance is necessary to encourage this type of growth. The county ordinance does not currently contain a section on commercial wind energy production. Ted Curran suggested that the focus of a task force could now be to figure out how new language for the county ordinance can be friendly towards innovation. He suggested that there could be a focus on a currently proposed wind project as the ordinance is crafted. He recently spoke to Frankfort Schools Superintendent Tom Stobie. The Frankfort/Elberta School District owns a large piece of land opposite Walton's Orchard on M-115. If capital can be assembled, a cooperative agreement can be formed between the school district and the county. The concern is that the ordinance not dispirit innovation but welcome it.

Karen Roberts envisions a process where the sample ordinance for wind energy systems is scanned so that people can go through it item by item to move it around in a way that makes it relevant for Benzie County. If we bring in knowledgeable people with expertise, it is quite doable. Ted added that we should footnote that a real life wind project is happening at the same time.

The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Committee (ZORC) is a subcommittee of the county planning commission. This group is meeting next on December 4 at 5:30pm in the commissioner's room at the government center. Work on the wind energy ordinance is at the top of the agenda. The plan is to notify the public about this meeting and solicit input from anyone with interest and or expertise in wind energy. Kathy Ralston (chair of the planning commission), Mike Moorman (chair of ZORC), and Dave Neiger will be putting a list together of people in the county to notify. It will also be advertised in the Record Patriot. Anyone interested in wind energy is also encouraged to attend a workshop on the subject on December 2 at the Holiday Inn in Traverse City. Contact Dave Neiger for more information. Susanne has contacts from the original RE/ED Task Force and will email information on the workshop to these contacts.

Susanne mentioned the possibility of looking into wave energy. Ted discouraged writing an ordinance before you have adequate information and expertise. Mark agreed and asked if there are people in the commercial industry that could attend the next ZORC meeting.

At this time the RE/ED Task Force can participate in the ZORC meeting to work on the ordinance. Susanne Glynn will chair the resurrected RE/ED Task Force and will start by encouraging attendance at the December ZORC meeting. Dave Neiger will maintain a list of key contacts and place an ad about the meeting. Mark says that people are waiting in the wings and that townships can duplicate the completed ordinance and place it in their own ordinances.

Intergovernmental Publicity Report (Sharron May) - Sharron passed out a

handout of Dani Horvath's article. Dave will confirm if she was paid. Sharron is working on a press release: a brief update of the ICC, task forces, and announcement of the dates for the Summit. She will also publicize Task Force meeting if she receives sufficient notice and details. Mark re-emphasized that we should get the information for the website to Dawn. Sharron and Kathy will collaborate on this. Susanne asked about getting the same information for Frankfort's website. It was suggested that a link to the county website would be sufficient, such as "Upcoming County Events".

Review Mission Statement Objectives and Implementation- tabled

2009 Summit Report (Kathy Ralston) - The 2009 Intergovernmental Summit will be held on Saturday, February 21st from 9-4pm at the Platte River Association Hall in Honor. Kathy Ralston proposed that the agenda focuses on the task forces with presenters for the various areas. She has biographical information on the speaker suggested by Steve Fouch. Her name is Bonnie Zoysia. She is from Michigan State University and has a background in Grant Writing. This could be an asset since funding is such a big issue. A discussion followed over the pros and cons of potential speakers, topics, and formats. It was decided that the Summit would feature presentations on Broadband Communication, Alternative Energy and Local Agriculture under the umbrella of Economic Development. There could also be group work on the 8 task force topics with a facilitator at each table. Sharron requested that the caterer try to use local foods wherever possible. Phil suggested approaching Crystal Mountain when considering caterers. Anne Damm will be coordinating a presenter for Broadband. Dave Neiger will approach Jim MacInnes about Alternative Energy, and Sharron May will work on getting a speaker on Local Agriculture. Kathy, Dave and Phil will be working on the details of the Summit. A draft agenda will be presented at the December meeting. Mark and Kathy worked with Chuck Clark to set up a Trust and Agency Account through the county.

Dave provided an update on the Oil, Gas and Well Leasing workshop to be held on Saturday, December 6th from 10am-12pm, tentatively at Benzie Central High School Auditorium. One focus of the presentation will be about preparing property owners on how to protect their property when leasing oil or gas rights. The other focus is on wind energy purchasing rights. Kurtis Talley will present on the boilerplate lease information and Joseph Quandt will cover how property owners can protect their property. A Pamphlet will be mailed out to contacts and advertising will begin soon. The workshop is landowner oriented but it is important for local government to have this knowledge about owners, lessees and any negotiations taking place when working with developers.

ICC Presentations - Kathy presented the mission and objectives and update of the ICC to the Board of Commissioners and the Benzie chapter of the Michigan

Townships Association (MTA). Other possible venues: Anne will talk to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Kathy will also use the BOC and Planning Commission (PC) to make announcements at township meetings, as the time gets closer. How to engage citizens will be on the agenda next month.

Formalizing the ICC- Mark suggested that we appoint a chair and vice chair and solicit an appointment from the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to the ICC. He also suggested that there should be at least 2 appointments from the MTA, one from the EDC and one from the Benzie Chamber of Commerce. It was concluded that this would best be done after the Summit. The summit itself will provide a good opportunity to make an announcement and appeal for appointees.

The next meetings will be posted at the Government Center: December 5th, January 9th, February 6th, and March 6th.

Guests at next meeting/ Comments/Feedback:

At the October ICC meeting we decided to resurrect the languishing task forces by inviting stakeholders to subsequent ICC meetings. The December focus was going to be Affordable Housing. This led to a discussion about who to invite and why. It was decided that the ICC focus on the Summit and let dormant task forces resurrect through the Summit process.

Comments/Feedback-Mark underscored the need to focus on the Summit and agenda rather than try to resurrect task forces.

Adjourn