

**Comprehensive Planning, Where do we go from here?
August 27, 2010
Survey Responses**

Executive Summary

Respondents indicated that they were either extremely satisfied or satisfied with the speaker's knowledge of the subject. Half indicated that they were satisfied with the location of the conference and the luncheon provided. Over 60 percent felt that the conference was able to answer their questions, while another 28 percent left with a number of questions unanswered. Sessions that people found most useful were the ones on "Legal Changes Associated with Smart Growth" (59%) and the "Panel Presentation on Plan Implementation and Monitoring Methods" (41%). Improvements that could be made next time to make the conference more meaningful would be time for social or informal networking and/or a breakout into discussion groups. Suggestions for future conferences included: intergovernmental agreements, consolidations and boundary agreements; repeat of the comprehensive planning topic; GIS explanation on how to map plans, elemental breakdown of the plan, and breakout sessions on implementation; process by which plan commission and town/village/city boards make land use decisions; ordinance development and plan implementation; and economic development strategies in a down economy.

1. Overall how satisfied were you with the knowledge of the speakers/presenters?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely Satisfied	38.9%	7
Satisfied	61.1%	11
Not satisfied or unsatisfied	0.0%	0
Unsatisfied	0.0%	0
Very unsatisfied	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		18
<i>skipped question</i>		0

2. Overall how satisfied were you with the conference facilities?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Location of Facility	45.5%	5
Temperature of the room	0.0%	0
Lighting	9.1%	1
Luncheon	27.3%	3
Tables/Seating Arrangement	18.2%	2
<i>answered question</i>		11
<i>skipped question</i>		7

3. The content of conference sessions was appropriate and informative.

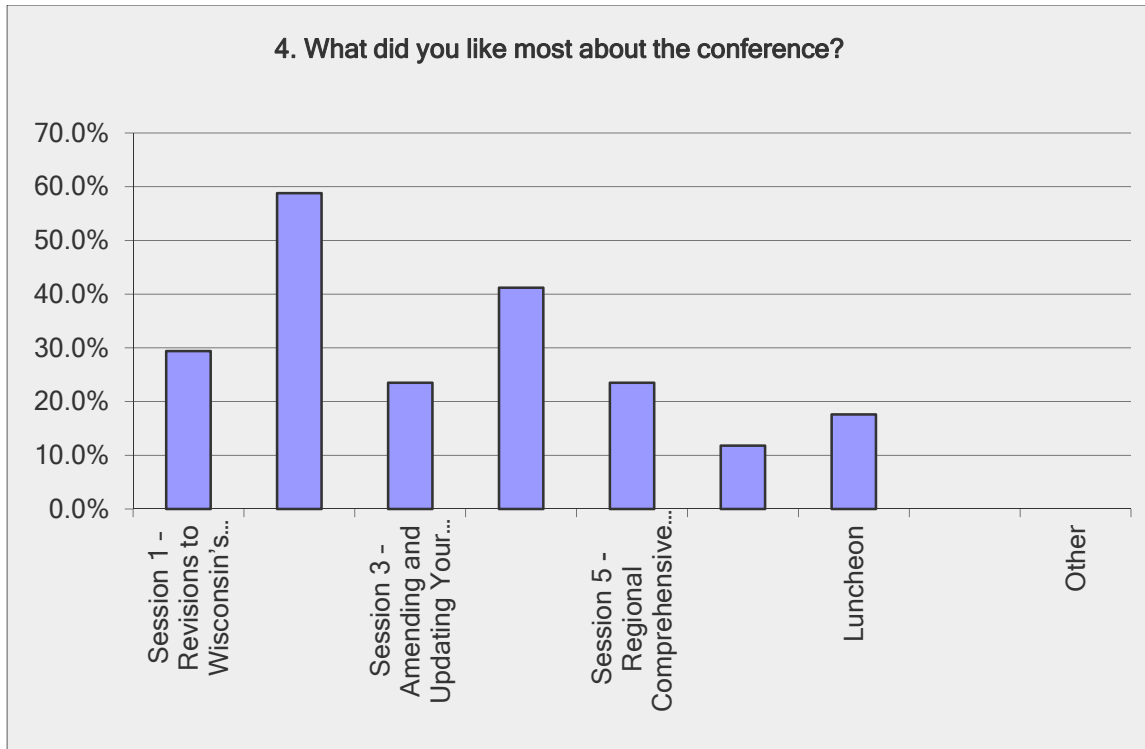
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, all my questions were answered	61.1%	11
Yes, but I was left with a number of questions	27.8%	5
Unsure	11.1%	2
No, I learned very little	0.0%	0
No, why did you bother	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		18
<i>skipped question</i>		0

4. What did you like most about the conference?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Session 1 - Revisions to Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law, Mr. Steve Hiniker, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin	29.4%	5
Session 2 - Legal Challenges Associated with "Smart Growth" Plans, Mr. Rick Stadelman, Executive Director Wisconsin Towns Association	58.8%	10
Session 3 - Amending and Updating Your Comprehensive Plan, Ms. Rebecca Roberts, Land Use Specialist, CLUE, UWSP	23.5%	4
Session 4 - Panel Presentation on Plan Implementation and Monitoring Methods	41.2%	7
Session 5 - Regional Comprehensive Plan Implementation - Eric Fowle, Executive Director, ECWRPC	23.5%	4
Facility Location	11.8%	2
Luncheon	17.6%	3
None of the above	0.0%	0
Other	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		17
<i>skipped question</i>		1

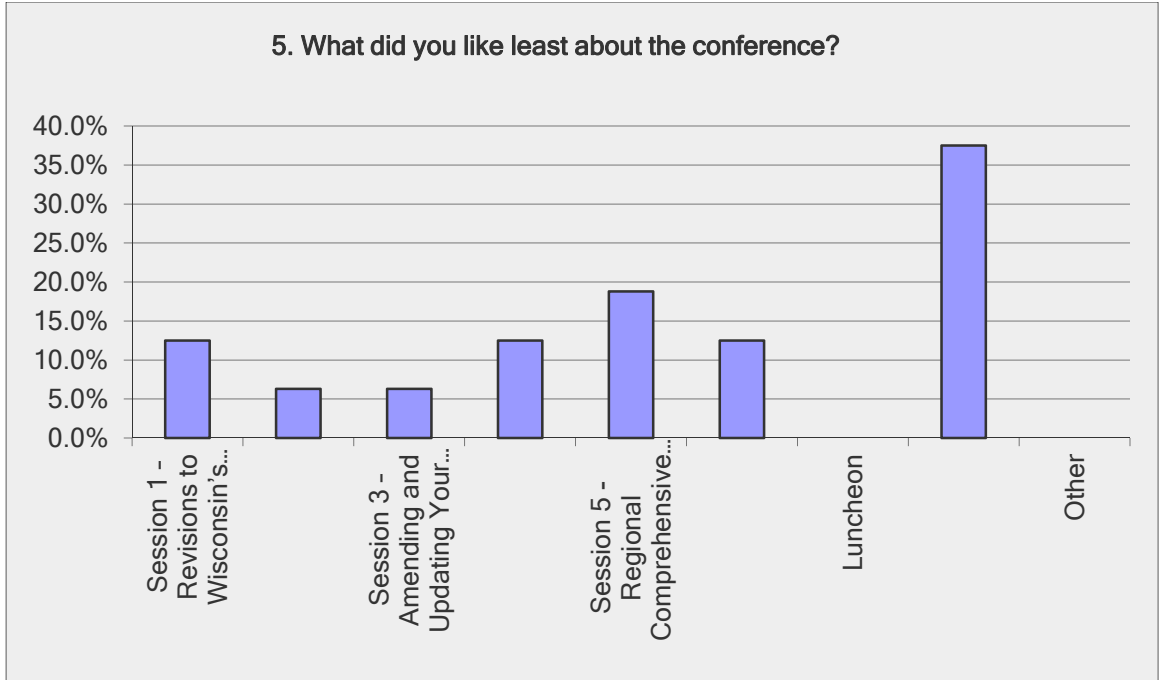
Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
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Each built on the other, were inseparable; Impossible to select one over the other. All were stupendous.



5. What did you like least about the conference?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Session 1 - Revisions to Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law, Mr. Steve Hiniker, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin	12.5%	2
Session 2 - Legal Challenges Associated with "Smart Growth" Plans, Mr. Rick Stadelman, Executive Director Wisconsin Towns Association	6.3%	1
Session 3 - Amending and Updating Your Comprehensive Plan, Ms. Rebecca Roberts, CLUE, UWSP	6.3%	1
Session 4 - Panel Presentation on Plan Implementation and Monitoring Methods	12.5%	2
Session 5 - Regional Comprehensive Plan Implementation - Eric Fowle, Executive Director, ECWRPC	18.8%	3
Facility Location	12.5%	2
Luncheon	0.0%	0
None of the above	37.5%	6
Other	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		0
answered question		16
skipped question		2



6. In what ways could this conference be improved?

Answer Options	Response Count
	5
<i>answered question</i>	5
<i>skipped question</i>	13

- Somehow, have conferees breakup into discussion groups @ sometime during the day. This interaction is more realistic, as there will always be a percentage of us who will NOT ask questions during a "question and answer" post-period.
- This conference provided good background knowledge on the comprehensive planning processes. The conference could have had a social or informal networking session where participants can discuss their comprehensive planning efforts.
- I am not sure. I think the timeframe for speakers is good. I appreciate the fact that it only takes a little over a half a day, and that it is usually held in the Fox Cities.
- No change needed
- Real live cases of people in attendance with handouts/specifics.

7. What topics would you like to see included in future conferences?

Answer Options	Response Count
	8
<i>answered question</i>	8
<i>skipped question</i>	10

- Intergovernmental agreements, consolidations, boundary agreements, etc.
- I would like to see this exact session revisited, at the very least in a summary form-half day, preferably whole day. Then the natural follow up to this session.
- W/budgetary concerns at or on the horizon, it should be imperative that dealing w/these responsibly and effectively needs to be continually addressed.
- Many of the participants seemed to be town and community representatives who had tight budgets and limited staffing to develop a plan. Further topics could include GIS explanation on how to map plans, elemental breakdown of the plan, and breakout sessions focused on implementation.
- Maybe a training session for Plan Commission and Town/Village/City boards regarding the process by which they make land use decisions so that they can "stand up in court" if challenged. This means formulating reasons for approving or denying land use decisions based on the goals and objectives of their comprehensive plans and Land Use plan, their zoning ordinance language (purpose of zoning districts), county farmland preservation plan (if they are a town) and monitoring their base farm tract map (town conditional use permits under chapter 91 regulations).
- How can smaller farms get involved?
- The comprehensive plan is an "overarching document". Specifics for the ordinances, etc. that must follow and how best to implement.
- Economic development strategies in a down economy. Educating city councils/town boards on the importance of planning and investing in economic/community development in a down economy.

8. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?

Answer Options	Response Count
	7
<i>answered question</i>	7
<i>skipped question</i>	11

- Appreciated the legal aspects and the more "hands on" how to information.
- Thank you so much for providing an outstanding educational opportunity. My deepest, heartfelt regret is the lack of attendance by county officials!
- Are there subjective conferences dealing w/ethical concerns for public officials?
- Nice work setting up the conference, it went smoothly and covered the appropriate material.
- Quarterly seminars are a great way to raise awareness of local politicians regarding the importance of good land use planning practices. It seems that local politicians spend more time and money on infrastructure (roads and utilities) than they do on land use issues that impact their infrastructure.
- No
- Many towns are finding the "smart growth plan" and its outcomes too challenging for the talent within the towns. We are not big, rich towns. Yet, most of us are hiring expensive consultants. Kind of like legislating in place professional tax preparers after making the tax law so complicated a "normal person" cannot do it. Is there some way this trend can be slowed down??