

Shaping the region's future in the 21st century

Welcome to our ninth quarterly update on the regional comprehensive planning process. Since the last edition of Rapport, we have completed Milestone Report #2, Issues / Opportunities and Visioning. In June, we held a second round of regional public information meetings in the Fox Cities, Shawano, and Waupaca. The seven Technical Advisory Committees have continued to meet.



What's New? Milestone Report 2: Issues/ Opportunities and Visioning

Milestone Report #2: Issues/Opportunities and Visioning will be adopted by the Commission in July. This report was produced for three main reasons.

- Clarify our aspirations for how we want the region to look in the future, specifically: What would we like to be preserved? What would we like to be changed? and What would we like to be created?
- Explore the impact of current and projected trends on the region. This enabled us to identify the match and/or mismatch between our envisioned and probable future.
- Identify core goals to help us work toward the future we envision for ourselves and the next generation.

The full text of this report will be available on our website in August. In addition, a 13-page Summary of Milestone Report #2 will be available. If you want to receive a copy of the Summary, please contact Dolly Haney at 1-920-751-4770 or by email at ghaney@eastcentralrpc.org.

Regional Public Information Meetings

The purpose of each public information meeting was to update the public on the status of current planning activities, specifically Milestone Report #2, and to seek public input, comments, and questions, on what we've done so far. We want to ensure that you have the opportunity to put the issues that are important to you on the table for discussion, as well as clarify and seek agreement on the strategic goals that we have established. Issues discussed included the impact of education on economic development, the importance of considering alternative energy sources, the need to promote the benefits of clustering, especially within the retail sector, the high costs of ser-

vice provision in rural areas, and the importance of linking different aspects of the plan, especially cultural resources and transportation. The concerns raised, were by and large, a re-statement of topics brought up at previous public meetings, and we have examined these in the Milestone Report #2 Fact Sheets. These provide information on each issue and outline why action is necessary.

What's Next? - Milestone Report #3

The envisioned future and core goals, identified in Milestone Report #2, provide the starting point for the next report: Milestone Report #3: Goals and Strategies for Action. Between May 2004 and January 2005, staff, working cooperatively with stakeholders, will develop strategies and policies for action to help move the region toward the envisioned future.

There are, of course, many different ways to achieve the goals that have been established. There is no one right answer. This stage of the planning process requires us to consider and discuss all the possibilities, affording each the same respect. The ultimate objective will be to reach a well-reasoned conclusion on how to achieve the goals. To achieve real progress, development of policies will need to be pursued in an integrated way. There is a need for close cooperation and partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors at the regional, county and local levels. As we develop policies and strategies for action, we will also develop targets, or performance measures. This step is essential to enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of our policies over time. Plans are useless without targets, but they must be the right ones.

The policy choices that are made will have long-term impacts on residents' quality of life: socially, economically and environmentally. Consequently, it is crucial that you let us know what you think!