

**Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday October 20, 2009
York Township Hall
11560 Stony Creek Road, Milan**

1) Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell, David Rhoads

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Brett Lenart

York Township: Jane Kartje

Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce: Kyle Mazurek

2) Review and Acceptance of Minutes from September 15, 2009

Motion by Steeb, supported by Rhoads, to approve the September 15 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Ann Arbor Region Success Initiative

Kyle Mazurek, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Government affairs, discussed the Ann Arbor Region Success Initiative. The Initiative is trying to determine what various government units can do together to improve efficiency and/or improve services. The project is currently in fact-finding mode with a listening tour with various government units and regional planning groups, such as the Saline Sustainability Circle.

The group identified several areas of successful collaboration:

- Building inspection: various units are sharing inspectors, zoning administration.
- Some smaller townships use the County building department services rather than having to have their own departments.
- Fire department mutual aid is working well except when a community fails to pass a millage to sufficiently fund services.
- Saline Area Fire Department works extremely well for townships and city.
- City uses opportunities for joint purchasing.
- Regionalizing and sharing can save money, but not always.
- City looking at staff duties to see if functions can be combined.
- Saline Sustainability Circle keeps communication open between units.
- Some units use County IT services for website hosting, email services.
- Benchmarking support levels for service levels across the county would be useful.
- Schools are collaborating with WISD.

- School district has recreation millage (CARES) to provide recreation opportunities across the community.
 - Saline public TV station is a partnership with the Saline Area Schools.
 - Schools in Washtenaw County have a list of areas where they collaborate
- Obstacles to collaboration were also identified:
- Different expectations for services depending on location – urban vs. rural.
 - Autonomy issues can trump potential cost savings for shared services (e.g., shared police dispatch).

4) Urban Growth Boundary Discussion

Brett Lenart discussed the draft LIAA report

http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/102009First_Steps_Report.pdf and brochure http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/102009GMA_Brochure.pdf.

Send comments to Heather Seyfarth at seyfarth@liaa.org or Brett Lenart at lenartb@ewashtenaw.org by Friday, October 30. Brett will forward comments to Heather. Heather will incorporate our comments into a final report and present the report at the November meeting.

Next step – establish a growth management area for the region.

Is participation by Saline Township necessary for success? Not necessarily. In an ideal world, all units should participate. However, we shouldn't let the perfect get in the way of the good.

5) Announcements

- Washtenaw Intermediate School District Enhancement Millage Proposal
 - Tom Wall passed out information about the school aid enhancement millage proposal on the November ballot. Information about the millage proposal is available on the WISD web site at <http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/about/millage2009.cfm>. A brochure may be viewed at <http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/files/MillageInfoBrochure.pdf>. A list of areas where local school districts are economizing by sharing or consolidating resources can be viewed at <http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/files/ConsolidationofServicesList80709.pdf>.
 - Projections are that 200 Michigan school districts will be bankrupt next year compared to 20 this year, based on school funding cuts from the State of Michigan.
 - Voters need to know the impact if the millage doesn't pass.
- Lodi Township is finalizing its Master Plan.
- Washtenaw County is planning to adopt a two-year budget in November.
- Saline Chamber of Commerce has a regular Monday morning radio interview. Contact Larry Osterling if you wish to participate.
- Saline Chamber of Commerce Business Enterprise awards are Thursday at Stonebridge.
- Pittsfield Township is working on its Master Plan. A kickoff event was held earlier this month. Five working groups have been formed.
- Pittsfield Township has finalized its budget. It is still working with bargaining units.
- Pittsfield Township looking for funding sources (grants) other than tax revenue.
- A task force is being formed to study the future of Union School.
- York Township is updating its Master Plan.

- The City of Saline working on two Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bloc Grants.
- The City of Saline is working on its Master Plan, Recreation Plan, and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
- The new City web site being done by Design Hub.
- A new instrumental music store should be coming to downtown Saline this winter or spring.
- Still working on establishing a teen center within the Saline School District.
- Part of a movie (“Cedar Rapids”) may be shot at Rentschler Farm next month.
- The County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority may have funds available for brownfield redevelopment. Contact Brett Lenart for information.

Thanks were expressed to Brett Lenart for all of the help he has provided over the past several months. He has helped the group focus its direction and reenergize itself.

6) Next Meeting

- Growth Management Area
 - LIAA final report

7) Future Agenda Items

- Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
- Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

8) Upcoming Meetings

- November 17: Pittsfield Township
- December 15

9) Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

10) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.