

**Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday November 17, 2009
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

1) Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller, Ann Harris

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell

York Township: Jane Kartje

LIAA: Heather Seyfarth

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study: Ryan Buck

2) WATS Overview – Ryan Buck

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) is able to provide assistance in regional planning activities. WATS is required to produce a travel demand forecast model; this is partially based on the growth plans within the county. WATS can provide planning resources to local communities and organizations such as SSC.

WATS is not under county jurisdiction. WATS is a multi-jurisdictional agency responsible for transportation planning in Washtenaw County. The agency is mandated by Federal law to provide a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process, which guides the expenditure of state and federal transportation funds in Washtenaw County. WATS annually establishes project priorities for consideration by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) when programming transportation funds. In addition, WATS continually monitors the current condition of the county's transportation system, including roads, bicycle and pedestrian paths, bridges, and public transit. Municipalities, universities, AATA, county, road commission are members.

A summary of WATS mapping and modeling capabilities may be found at http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/WATS_111709.pdf.

3) Review and Acceptance of Minutes from October 20, 2009

Motion by Steeb, supported by Fuller, to approve the October 20 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Urban Growth Boundary Discussion

Heather Seyfarth of LIAA reviewed the draft work plan for developing an urban growth boundary. The draft plan may be accessed at

http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/102009First_Steps_Report.pdf. Page 5 of the report details the steps required to develop a Growth Management Area (GMA) plan.

- Step 1 – Preliminary planning
 - Determine who needs to participate
 - Education plan
 - Establish education plan
 - Determine communication method(s)
 - Develop and sign agreements to plan
 - Find resources to help (e.g. student interns)
- Step 2 – Gather initial data
 - Gather demographic, land use, environmental, and economic trend data
 - Roads
 - Master Plans
 - Review example regional growth management plans
- Step 3 – Community Visioning
- Step 4 – Develop preliminary Plan
- Step 5 – Seek preliminary approval of Plan
- Step 6 – Finalize Plan

A draft brochure describing the need for a Saline Growth Management Area was also presented.

It may be accessed at

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

Discussion:

Need to consider the name of the organization; “Saline Sustainability” appears to limit the scope to the city. Saline Area, Greater Saline are possibilities.

Need each jurisdiction take ownership and become involved in the activity. Need a resolution of support from each jurisdiction. Send representatives to each Board/Council to sell the process.

How do we proceed if not all jurisdictions participate? It was agreed to proceed with the possibility of bringing non-participants in later.

Perhaps use unpaid interns from UM, EMU as resources to help with the process.

Develop education materials

Communicate with elected officials

Lead to material to be included in Master Plans, Zoning Ordinances

Take notes and record results at meetings

Need resume, sample of writing

Ann Harris, Gretchen Driskell volunteered to contact the universities.

City or Schools agreed to provide office space.

First task for the intern: Develop communication plan/materials

Need one or two people to help select the intern(s). Todd Campbell agreed to be the point person.

Next meeting: develop the process and criteria for selecting intern(s).

Need to set target dates for the steps that were presented by LIAA.

Step1: Spring 2010 develop plan, communication materials, communicate with local officials.

We need to handle situations like York Township that have multiple urban focal points: cities of Saline and Milan.

The Saline Sustainability Circle expressed its thanks to Heather Seyfarth and LIAA for their considerable help in moving us to this point. The meeting and process facilitation were especially valuable, as were the summary documents.

5) Announcements and Meeting Notices

- Saline Area Schools budget problems
 - Community meeting about budget issues was held Monday, November 16.
 - Schools lost 60 students this year, project a loss of 90 students next year
 - State aid reduction of \$292 per student this year, \$256 to \$600 next year, possibly more to come.
 - Cost of living increases add to budget problems
 - Asking unions to reopen contracts
 - Presentation is on the Schools website – Superintendent’s blog
- State needs high quality of life to attract business, knowledge workers.
- Schools had a meeting to decide options for use of Union School.
- Pittsfield Township is working on its Master Plan; an online survey is available for anyone in the region, not just Pittsfield residents.
- Pittsfield had recognition ceremony for citizens that have contributed their time to the Township.
- Pittsfield has new website developed with internal resources:
<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.org/>.
- Pittsfield Township and Ann Arbor have agreed on responsibilities for inspections at the airport.
- Movie “Cedar Rapids” filmed in City of Saline (Rentschler Farm) and Pittsfield Township (Cody farm).
- Pittsfield Township submitted proposal for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grants – energy audit, public education
- Pittsfield Township held Fall festival – more than 400 people
- York Township is reviewing its Zoning Ordinance regarding wind energy systems. The Braun farm is looking at installation of a wind energy system.
- Downtown Saline merchants are seeing increased traffic and sales at special events.
- Chamber of Commerce has resources to aid businesses and organizations.
- Lodi Township Master Plan is near completion. Expect to submit it to the Township Board this month.
- Lodi Township is dealing with the relocation of the WWWW radio antenna.
- City of Saline is seeing significant reduction in tax revenues; it is starting its budget process earlier than normal. A goal-setting session was held last week.
- Applying for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grants: LED street light project; solar voltaic panels on City Hall.
- Saline is considering solar powered trash cans – self-compacting so fewer pickups will be needed, saving labor.
- Saline has a new marketing website: <http://www.besaline.com/>. Check it out.
- Downtown Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be at 7:00 pm on December 4.

- ACH in Saline is doing well; newspaper reports indicate it has recently added 400 workers.
- JAC Products is expanding.

6) Upcoming Meetings

- December meeting will be a dinner meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce at Brecon Village. Dinner will be at 6:00 with the normal business meeting at 7:00. Date to be announced.
- January 19, 2010: Union School

7) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

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