

Public Participation Plan For The Crawford County Comprehensive Plan

1. Introduction.

Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes requires the governing body of the local government unit to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation, including open discussions, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. These written procedures contained within this Public Participation Plan have been developed to meet this requirement. This Plan will guide public participation throughout the County's Comprehensive Planning Process.

This Public Participation Program offers all citizens, businesses, other units of government, and other parties a range of opportunities to participate through the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of the County. Effective public input is critical for the success of this planning process because it is our citizens, businesses, and other organizations that will experience the results of the objectives, policies, goals and programs of the Comprehensive Plan in the future.

Our participation program is designed to be inclusive. It encourages people to participate in the process and to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions. The opportunities are open to everyone.

Our public participation process will:

- Ensure all planning decisions are open to public comment;
- Produce better planning decisions;
- Support and add credibility to all County decision-making processes
- Provide opportunities to disseminate information about the Plan and process to all segments of the County;
- Strengthen the relationship between our decision makers and citizens; and,
- Develop a shared vision for the future of Crawford County.

2. Public Participation Methods and Opportunities.

Crawford County has established the following list of public participation methods and opportunities.

a. Community Survey.

A community survey will be distributed to Crawford County landowners in unincorporated areas through the annual tax bill. The survey will be designed to obtain public opinions and preferences on issues important to them and on issues related to the nine comprehensive plan elements including the option to provide written comments.

b. Existing Conditions, Key Issue Identification and Goal Setting Meetings.

The County will host at least three of these meetings during the planning process. Research on past and existing development trends will be reported on during this meeting, key Issues will be identified and goals developed to guide planning decisions for the County over the next 20 years. Staff of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) will participate in these meetings and engage participants in a discussion about issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the comprehensive planning process. Participants will also be offered opportunities to provide written comments during these meetings and to prioritize the issues that are of biggest concern to them. These meeting will also have a question and answer period to respond to any questions meeting participants have. The results of these meetings and the survey results will provide the foundation for any objectives, policies, goals or programs that are included in the County's Comprehensive Plan.

c. Review and Distribution of the Planning Documents

Citizens, owners of property or to persons who have leasehold interest in property pursuant to which the persons may extract nonmetallic mineral resources in or on property, in which the allowable use or intensity of use of the property is changed by the Comprehensive Plan may review and obtain copies of proposed, alternative, or amended elements of

the County's Comprehensive Plan at the County U.W. Extension Office. This information will also be distributed through the County's website.

d. Website.

The County will post on its website information related to the County Comprehensive Plan planning process. This information may include agendas, minutes, draft plan elements, amendments, reports, maps, photographs, and survey results.

e. Written Comments

The County will always welcome and consider written comments and will respond either in writing or by public comment during public meetings and or through the media.

f. Meeting Notices.

The County will post meeting notices for each Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee meeting and event in a timely manner at accessible locations, and the notices will meet the requirements for proper notification regarding purpose of meeting, date, time and location. The Land Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee (overseeing the comprehensive planning subcommittee) will also set aside time at monthly meetings to entertain citizen input on the comprehensive plan.

g. Press releases, articles, newsletter, radio spots

The County will inform the public of progress on the comprehensive plan and upcoming events through periodic news releases and radio spots. Articles about comprehensive planning will be published in the UW Extension Community Development Newsletter, local newspapers, and will be made available to townships for publication in their own town newsletters if they so choose.

h. Outreach

Members of the County Comprehensive Planning Sub-committee and the UW Extension Community Development Educator will share progress on the comprehensive plan and gather input from citizens by attending relevant meetings including town plan commission, board meetings, and the annual county towns association meeting.

i. Public Hearing.

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires municipalities to hold at least one (1) formal public hearing with a Class 1 public notice that is published 30 days before the hearing prior to adoption of the Comprehensive Plan' resolution or ordinance. Prior to adoption of the Final Comprehensive Plan, the County will conduct this required public hearing as its third public meeting on the Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will be held in the evening to ensure maximum citizen participation.

j. Plan Recommendation Resolution

The County Land Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee that is authorized to prepare or amend the County Comprehensive Plan may recommend the adoption or amendment of the Comprehensive Plan only by adopting a resolution by a majority vote. The vote shall be recorded in the official minutes of the committee. The resolution shall refer to maps and other descriptive material that relate to one or more elements of a comprehensive plan. Upon adoption of the Plan or of an amendment to such a Plan the Plan and its resolution shall be distributed by the County to recipients listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

k. Plan Adoption by Ordinance.

No comprehensive plan that is recommended for adoption or amendment under h. above may take effect until the County Board enacts an ordinance that adopts the comprehensive plan or amendment. Upon adoption of this ordinance it shall be filed with at least all of the entities specified in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Statutes.

l. Other.

Planning is a continuous process that does not end with the adoption of the Plan. Since new issues and unforeseen circumstances will always arise the County may amend its Comprehensive Plan with proper public input and in accordance with County policies and State Statutes at any time.