

Chapter 4. Watershed Land Use Vision

4.a Land Use Vision Purpose

By coming together to work on a vision for the Bonne Femme Watershed, the Stakeholders laid out the ideal for how the watershed should look in 2030. The vision acted as a central guiding statement of where the Stakeholders want to go in their planning.

4.b Land Use Vision Methodology

The Stakeholders' "visioning" occurred at their October 10th, 2005 meeting. They split into three groups, each having its own table and flip chart. The tables were separated to ensure discussion at one table would not influence discussion at another table. A professional community development specialist, John Tharp, led the Stakeholders through the visioning process. It was stressed that it is very important for people to create an ideal situation. Since the group's effort will only rise to the level of the members' expectations, it was stressed that they should aim high in order to create an excellent plan.

Each group had thirty minutes to make a list of what lessons can be learned from the watershed's history. Next, each group spent thirty minutes discussing what is occurring in the watershed that needs immediate attention. Finally, each group spent 30 minutes listing all of the elements of their vision for how it should look in the year 2030 (see the lists below). After every thirty minute session, each group reported their list to the larger committee.

The entire committee agreed to the basic elements for the vision statement, but there was insufficient time in that meeting to finish the statement. The group concurred that a subcommittee could draft a statement. The subcommittee narrowed the elements to five basic components: quality of life, economics, water resources, a mixture of land uses, and agriculture. The subcommittee drafted a vision statement for the entire committee to work from at their next meeting. At their December 2005 meeting, the Stakeholders discussed the visioning work and agreed to the following vision statement. The vision statement passed with one member in dissent.

4.c Vision Statement for the Bonne Femme Watershed

In the year 2030, we envision a watershed where quality of life and economic vitality are fostered by maintaining or improving the current conditions of the water resources, having a mix of land uses and development types, and maintaining thriving agricultural activities.

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Following are the elements each group listed for their vision for the watershed

Group 1. (George Montgomery, Glen Ehrhardt, Steve Cheavens, Amelia Cottle, Robin Crane)

In the year 2030, the Bonne Femme Watershed will be a ...

- Blend of developed and undeveloped areas with special protection for certain areas (i.e. recharge areas)
- Will contain viable (profitable) agricultural operations
- More new style livable communities (residential/commercial/office)
- All of this will be done with minimal change and degradation of the watershed

Group 2. (Ben Londeree, Carol Van Gorp, Stephanie Smith, Carolyn Terry)

- Mixed Use (farming, urban, public land) with tolerance, respect, considerateness
- Quality of life
- Creek stability—gradual changes
- Safe level of pollutants—chemicals and bacteria (clean water)
- Minimal silt in creeks
- “no” flooding of structures

Group 3. (Steve Sapp, Donna Dodge, Dave Bennett, Jane Travlos)

- We won't recognize it
- Still enjoyable to live in
- Parks are similar
- Clean water
- Fire, police protection
- Wildlife control
- Good roads
- Economics
- Agriculture
- Tax base
- Jobs, retail
- BALANCE

The entire Stakeholder Committee:

- Clean, safe water
- Mixed land use (housing, farming, commercial, recreation)
- Viable economic base
- Creek stability (maintain water resources)