



# Grand Vision Growth & Investment Areas Regional Network Meeting

Monday, February 13th, 2011: 10a.m. – 12p.m.  
852 S. Garfield Ave.– Traverse Area Association of Realtors (TAAR)

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*Mission Statement: Facilitate the growth and entrepreneurial culture of unique cities and villages that strengthen our region by encouraging business development, removing barriers, utilizing incentives, and fostering public and private improvements.*

## Proposed Agenda

### I. Welcome & Introductions (10:00 a.m.)

Wally Delamater (Suttons Bay)	Kathy Egan (Suttons Bay)
Jack Kelly (Elmwood Twp)	John Sych (GT County)
Sarah U'Ren (Watershed Centre)	Marc McKellar (GTRC)
Kurt Schindler (MSU-E)	Debbie Stanton (Mesick)
Jan Kellogg (NLEA/NWMCOG)	Patrick Kilkenny (Acme Twp)
Mary Faculak (East Jordan)	Tom Stephenson (MI Connect)
Hugh Campbell (Ellsworth)	Connor Miller (Northsky)
Bob Carstens (Acme Twp)	Jaclyn Sanborn (NWMCOG)
Joe Myers (Antrim County)	Patty O'Donnell (NWMCOG)
Jim Lively (MLUI)	Carrie Bourdages (NWMCOG)
Carol Karas (Kalkaska DDA)	Mike Woods (NWMCOG)
Marty Dillon (Baker College)	

### II. Seizing Green Opportunities (10:15 a.m.)

#### A. Green Infrastructure Benefits and Techniques

Green Infrastructure is associated with a variety of environmental, economic, and human health benefits, many of which go hand-in-hand with one another. Some of these benefits and techniques are outlined in the New Designs for Growth "Planning with Green Infrastructure" publication is a program designed to help guide the region's growth and development according to the ten tenets of smart growth.

#### B. Low impact Development (LiD)

LiD is a management/engineering strategy that helps reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features such as ponds/wildlife, rain gardens, detention basins, etc. Several LiD projects are being implemented throughout the Northwest MI region.

#### C. Discussion

- ❖ Retrofitting infrastructure with LiD equipment is difficult but can be effective. Concerns with engineers who don't think it's worth the trouble, or lack the skill set to retrofit existing infrastructure.



- ❖ Some communities within the region have changed their zoning ordinances to enact stronger stormwater buffer requirements, while other communities have or attempted to relaxing requirements in their zoning ordinances to allow for more flexibility with regards to LiD.
- ❖ Municipalities around the state are adopting LiD strategies for their administrative offices ex: installation of “green roofs”. It was suggested that the local Drain Commissioner should be included when discussing LiD implementation.

### III. Ongoing Business (11:15 a.m.)

#### A. G&I Placemaking Subcommittee Update

The committee met on February 13<sup>th</sup> and proposed slight schedule changes to the Traverse City Placemaking Summit agenda.

### V. Community Growth Grantee Updates

Elmwood – Adopted a Gateway plan through a corridor task force. A corridor plan will be completed by the end of September. A master plan process will begin in April/May

Mesick – There was a public forum on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Mesick Master Plan.

Acme –The RFP for a Placemaking study is finalized and has been distributed. Mid-summer is target completion date for the study.

Ellsworth – Sharon Fender is the new market master coordinator ([ellsworthfarmersmarket.net](http://ellsworthfarmersmarket.net)).

Kalkaska – Finalizing an RFP for a contractor to design a logo for wayfinding signs throughout the village. Also working with MDOT to get electricity to signs.

Elk Rapids – Shorts Brewery expressed interested in developing the old mustard factory.

### VI. Community Updates, Sharing, and Public Comment

Tom Stephenson (MI Connect) – 19% of MI residents are tele-working which is about the size of Muskegon, which also translates to a 19% reduction in the carbon footprint.

Marty Dillon (Baker College) – Baker is in the beginning stages of building a sustainable institute

Jim Lively – (MLUI) - The 2012 NW MI economic summit will take place March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Haggerty Center, featuring Gov. Snyder.

Jaclyn Sanborn (NWMCOG) – The amount of dollars from the Federal Government available for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is decreasing and will be limited in the future.

Mike Woods (NWMCOG) – The annual Rural Elected Officials meeting took place in Kalkaska on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> with larger than expected attendance. The meeting provided local officials the opportunity to raise questions directly to MDOT officials about the state’s project funding and selection process.

### VII. Adjourn (12:00 p.m.)

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*This meeting is open to all who wish to attend.* If you are planning to attend and have a disability requiring any special assistance at the meeting, please notify the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments – Matt McCauley (231-929-5061/E-mail at [mccauley@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:mccauley@nwm.cog.mi.us))