

Indiana Land Resources Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28th, 2010
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The Nature Conservancy

Present: Nancy Cline, Bruce Everhart, Eric Kelly, Joe Kelsay, Mary McConnell, Gene Schmidt, Fred Walker

Absent: Bob Burke, David Compton, Jon Craig

The meeting began with a motion by Gene Schmidt to approve the August 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Fred Walker and passed unanimously.

The council then received an update from Amy Cornell regarding county assistance provided on behalf of the ILRC since the last meeting. She also provided the council an update on feedback from the *A Cost of Community Services Study for Indiana Counties and School Corporations* presentation at the Association of Indiana Counties Conference. At the AIC conference, the audience asked thought provoking questions regarding follow-up research that might be needed, including further analysis of the transportation ratios and the impact of universities and government owned land on the cost of community services. On December 1, Amy Cornell will serve on the panel on behalf of the ILRC for the *Cost of Community Services, Land Use and Your County* presentation at the Indiana Association of County Commissioners conference.

The next item of business was a discussion of additional follow-up research or materials for planners to build on the tools provided by *A Cost of Community Services Study for Indiana Counties and School Corporations* by Dr. Larry DeBoer. Eric Kelly suggested a how-to-do planning handbook modeled after a guide to rural planning project that he worked on for Minnesota. The council discussed the importance of talking about planning with counties. For example, communicating to constituents that planning doesn't necessarily mean zoning and a comprehensive plan can be a very basic document. They also discussed getting permission from counties to highlight individual success stories in planning and smart growth. For instance, Purdue Extension puts out a document every year of projects that fulfilled Extension's mission. The council also discussed the importance of media outreach during the comprehensive planning process. Further, the council discussed the need for an education process for realtors and consumers to explain the unique issues associated with purchasing property in an agricultural area. The council also considered developing an electronic bulletin board of planning and zoning questions and answers.

The next item of business was a discussion of smart growth incentives. Amy Cornell briefly summarized several approaches, including statewide planning policy programs (e.g. Oregon and Florida), grants/loans, revolving funds, preferential taxation, tax credits, preservation incentives, sanctuaries for existing uses, density bonuses for land conservation and educational and informational programs. Sarah Simpson highlighted goals, strategies and policy tools for rural smart growth in the ICMA report *Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities*. Bruce Everhart expressed an interest in exploring programs and incentives that would allow communities to reuse or clear blighted and abandoned properties. The council also requested Amy Cornell to provide more information regarding the Historic Savannah Foundation revolving fund and prepare a draft timeline of goals for the ILRC. The council discussed the value of smart

growth incentives and decided that they should continue to discuss what additional research should be done to promote smart growth in rural communities.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. Mary McConnell made the motion and it was seconded by Bruce Everhart.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy K. Cornell
Executive Director