



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

February 2, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chair Solowczuk at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comms. Bergman, Brackenbury, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Ouimet

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; David Behen, Ken Schrader, Information Technology; Gordon Burger, Finance; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Nancy Thelen, Terry Jones, Joan Miller, Bob Bricault, Eric Fischer, Caton Gauthier, Peter di Lorenzi, Mike Score, MSU Extension; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### **Roll Call**

#### **Citizen Participation**

None.

#### **Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation**

None.

#### **Discussion Items**

#### **MSU Extension Video**

Nancy Thelen and Dan Pretus introduced the video shown to the board. [Video on file at Clerk's Office]. MSU Extension members responded to commissioner questions.

Comm. Sizemore thanked Nancy for the program. He asked about money at the state level for bore ash. Bob Bricault responded that there is matching grant money available, most of which is for replanting. He added that some of the available grants were not sought out by Washtenaw County communities. Comm. Sizemore asked if communities chose not to participate. Mr. Bricault replied that this is the case. Comm. Sizemore asked about the demographics of the participants in the various programs. Nancy Thelen replied she does not have the statistics with her but she will make them available.

Comm. Gunn stated that this video is a wonderful way to market the MSU Extension.

Comm. Irwin stated that it is amazing how much work the 14 staff members accomplish. Comm. Irwin asked about the Strengthening Agricultural Opportunities program and what sorts of results were expected from this program. Mike Score responded that they are conducting a feasibility study for creating a meat processing facility in western Washtenaw. He stated that he is working with entrepreneurs to create businesses that convert commodity into consumables. He stated this area has a lot of potential. Comm. Irwin asked about community supported agriculture and what involvement MSU Extension has with this. Mr. Score responded that MSU Extension would be able to help farmers create business plans to use community supported agriculture. Nancy Thelen stated that MSU Extension provides education for community supported agriculture.

Comm. Kern stated her support for helping make agriculture commercially viable. Comm. Kern asked about publicizing the demographics of the customers of this program. She stated that it would help residents understand exactly how county funding impacts their life. Comm. Kern asked about Vermaculture. Bob Bricault stated that he offers a course in this.

Comm. Brackenbury stated that it was an excellent video and service they provide.

Comm. Bergman thanked the group for the work that they do. She stated that the work done to empower urban parents is especially beneficial.

Comm. Prater asked whether they collaborate with Meijers. Mike Score stated that they have not met with Meijers, they have interest in contacting them. He stated that they work with Cisco. And have had discussions with Busch's. He stated that as time goes by they will partner with many more businesses.

Comm. Smith stated that the MSU extension created an excellent video. Comm. Smith stated he would like to help MSU Extension take an important role in governmental and non-governmental collaboration.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the program that works with at risk teens. Nancy Thelen stated that young people from the court system often are involved with this. Comm. Sizemore asked how they received names for the program. Nancy Thelen stated that community leaders often help them contact the ones they help. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to help Doug Lewis get money to expand his program. Doug Lewis stated his horse program is the only multi-cultural program in the county. Mr. Lewis spoke about his program and its successes.

Comm. Kern asked Mike Score about approaching restaurants to advertise Michigan grown products. Mike Score stated that they are looking at creating a "local food" label for restaurants.

Comm. Solowczuk stated that he has past involvement in many of these programs and has seen the benefits the whole county. He stated that the commissioners should be involved the council.

### **Space Plan Overview**

Bob Guenzel and Gordon Burger presented the space plan overview. [Report on file]

Comm. Smith asked who the project team will be for the space plan review. Bob Guenzel stated that Gordon Burger, David Behen, Jason Fee and Mary O'Hare will be involved. Gordon stated they will be meeting with communities of interest to determine space needs. Comm. Smith asked if preliminary concerns would be capacity. Bob stated customer needs and capacity needs would need to be considered. He stated issue of centralization and decentralization will be factors as well. Comm. Smith asked about the land use implications of the space plan. Bob Guenzel stated that both land use and structure of buildings will be discussed with commissioners.

Comm. Bergman said that the plan may be hampered by an unpredictable economy, but demographic trends can be reliably predicted. Bob Guenzel stated that the point is well taken and the next 5 to 10 years will be crucial.

Comm. Irwin asked that the inventory would make clear what inventory is owned and what is rented. He asked if the Chevron Texaco project recommendations could receive a priority. He stated that governments have the unique possibility to make long term energy plans. Comm. Irwin asked what happens to the unused portion of the 1/8 mill for capital improvement. Gordon Burger stated that the money is rolled forward. Comm. Irwin asked for the current balance. Gordon Burger stated approximately 400,000. Comm. Irwin asked to what extent the need for technology will be accounted for in the study. David Behen stated that there are wide range ramifications and it will be part of the conversation.

Comm. Kern asked that the personnel issues affected by space changes be addressed. Bob Guenzel replied that these issues are at very important and will be addressed.

Comm. Solowczuk stated that it is important to address community concerns through this process.

Comm. Peterson suggested using intergovernmental facilities to better use governmental financial resources. He stated that cooperating with other governmental units to share space should be analyzed. Bob stated that this idea will be incorporated in the plan.

Comm. Irwin stated that his ideal would be to implement something like what Comm. Peterson suggested. He stated that he believes that the City of Ann Arbor has progressed away from this idea, but he would like to pursue this option.

Comm. Peterson stated that government needs to give the taxpayers their money's worth.

**Commissioner Items**

Comm. Smith stated that ACES will be starting in March and he has cards regarding this program available at request.

Comm. Solowczuk stated there are Police Services meetings on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and Feb 16<sup>th</sup>.

**County Administrator Report**

None.

**Items for Current/Future Discussion**

None.

**Pending**

**Status of Annual Activities/Goals**

No report.

**Citizen Participation**

None.

**Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None.

**Adjournment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved that the meeting be adjourned until February 16, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Stephen Solowczuk, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Stephen Kirschner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: