

APPENDIX 1-2 KENOSHA COUNTY KICK-OFF MEETING AND CAFÉ SUMMARIES

On March 21, 2007, Kenosha County hosted a countywide kickoff meeting to inform citizens about the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process, legal requirements and planning timeline. Meeting participants also took part in a SWOT workshop, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the County. The SWOT results are shown in Figure 1-2a. The kickoff meeting was recorded by Time Warner Cable, and aired on Channel 14 from April 30 - May 21, 2007.

The Kenosha County Café was held on May 12, 2007. Approximately 35 citizens came together to explore the question: *What do we want Kenosha County to look like in 30 years?* Based on the World Café conversational process, the Kenosha County Café was a countywide visioning session designed to encourage meaningful conversation between people from various communities, backgrounds and experiences through small group discussion. The Cafe was recorded by Time Warner Cable, and aired on Channel 14 from May 29 - June 21, 2007. A report on the Cafe is shown in Figure 1-2b.

**Figure 1-2a
SWOT ANALYSIS RESULTS**

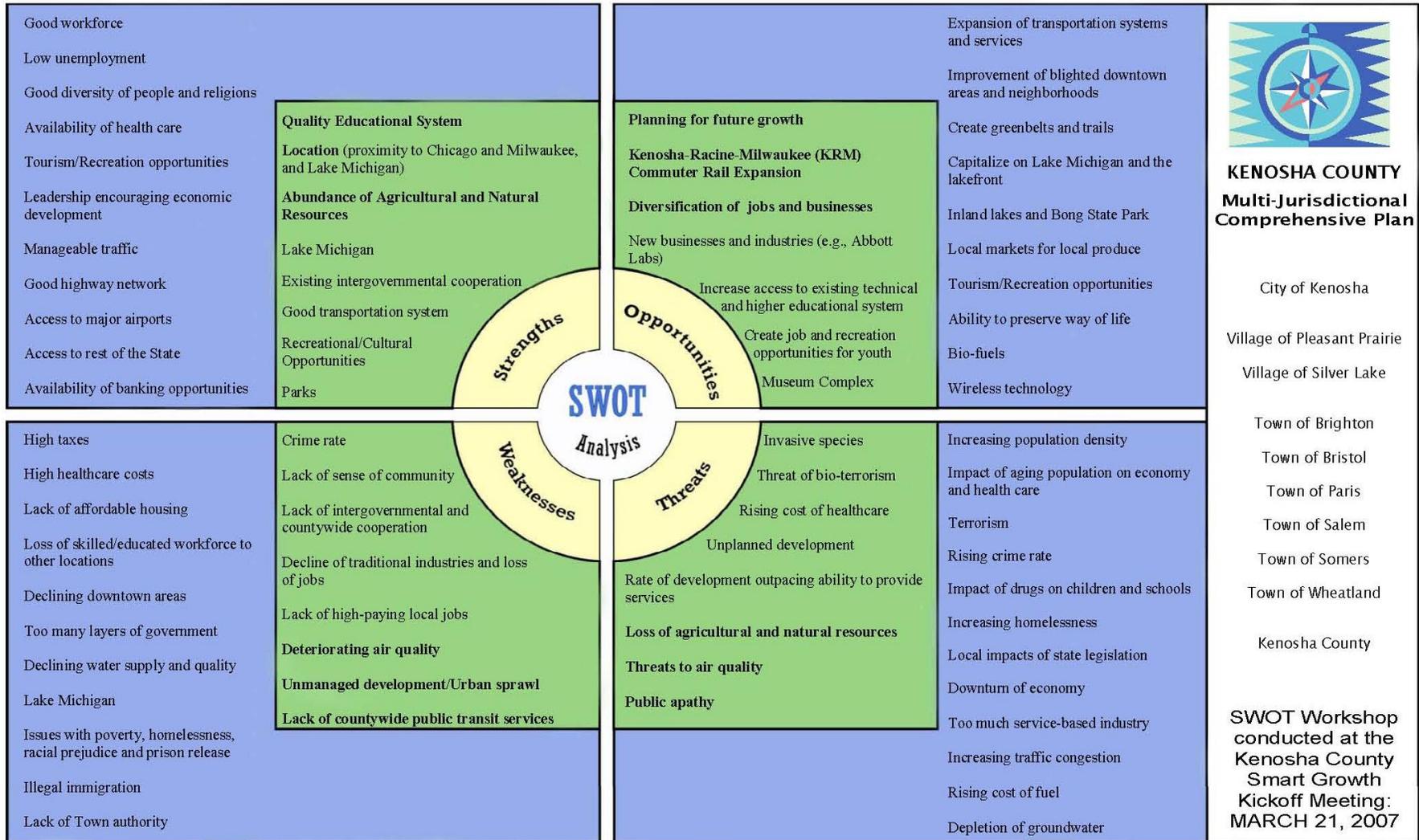
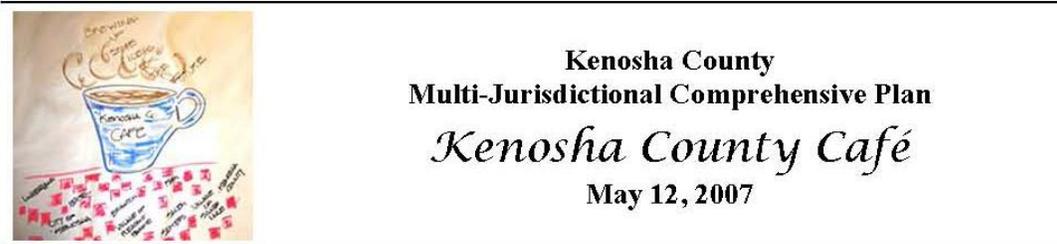


FIGURE 1-2b
SUMMARY OF THE KENOSHA COUNTY CAFÉ



Kenosha County
Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan
Kenosha County Café
 May 12, 2007



Q1. What makes Kenosha a great community?

- Diversity – cultural, recreational, geography
- Location – accessibility/proximity to other locations and amenities, including lakefront, Chicago and Milwaukee
- Good size compared to Chicago and Milwaukee – small community atmosphere w/Big City – arts, transportation, airports, entertainment
- City of Kenosha redevelopment – lakefront and Harbor Park
- Education
- Schools on local level
- Pro-family
- Civic/volunteerism, active people
- Neighborhoods
- Diverse activities
- Control growth
- Less traffic
- Aesthetic and care of community
- Green space – even in subdivisions, yards are planted
- Natural resources
- Fair society and legal system
- Peaceful and calm
- Good communication
- Bike trails
- Ever-changing
- Good lay-out (grid-wise)
- Services
- Variety of development (urban ↔ rural)

Why is it important to you, personally, that Kenosha County is a great place to live, work, learn and play?

- Proper planning to preserve and promote variety of development
- Future for youth



Q2. What benefits have you experienced from the growth that has occurred in Kenosha County over the past several years?

- Good momentum → increased variety in education, commercial & recreational opportunities
- Countywide library system
- Positive economic benefit from new residents
- Sewer capacity (e.g. Salem)
- Neighborhood level planning in several areas
- Expanded retail – less outflow of local dollars
- Expanded health and public safety resources
- New & renewed interest in Green Preservation
- Schools are good
- Job opportunities – diversity in jobs and business growth
- Cost born to those that want or need by development
- Lakefront revitalization
- Diversity
- Family atmosphere

What negative impacts have you observed?

- Taxes up due to fast growth
- Uncontrolled growth: impact on taxes & infrastructure
- Infrastructure → sewer/water issues, including sewer capacity
- Zoning → existing zoning plans vs. developers
- School taxes and growth concerns
- Jobs → mixed bag (types of industry?)
- New residents searching for employment
- Concerns about impact on environment → water and air quality concerns
- Over-consumption of natural resources (e.g., water)
- Growth requires economic balance and problems with bedroom communities; balanced development
- Housing concerns → less density; waiting lists (i.e., affordable housing concerns)
- Diminishing agricultural base – specifically dairy
- Loss of farmland → change of life; also change in farming methods impacted farmland, even more so than sprawl
- Disappearance of small farmers
- Need for economic balance → residential growth puts too much load on tax base; diversify land use for economic diversity
- Transportation: disconnect of City of Kenosha to freeway → bypass
- Concern with roads and access; Highway 50 the only east-west hwy in County; better East-West system to get into City of Kenosha and Lakefront

- Increase in traffic
- Inconvenient bus system
- Bars, lack of decent restaurants in some communities
- Litter

HARVEST

- Communication helps things happen
- Redevelopment of brownfields and of downtown Kenosha – attracting business and diversity of people with job skills
- Housing – more affordable and higher quality than Illinois
- More apartment houses but less dense
- Impact on farmers – adjacent land uses are incompatible
- Cost of services
- Variety in options – shopping, services, libraries, recreational, fitness
- Festivals in downtown Kenosha bring people downtown
- Colleges draw teaching staff with broader skills and more students



Q3. What conditions and structures will help or hinder our working together to strengthen our Kenosha County?

Help:

- Want local input for planning – home grown planning
- Developing trust between developers, government agencies and citizens
- Tax issues → taxing entities working together → provision of high quality services
- Water divide issues – Great Lakes Annex
- What we are doing now is a step in the right direction. What is best for the whole group. Keep it going → Momentum
- “Think futuristically”

Hinder:

- Too many layers of government → takes too long to get approval
- Time of putting together multi-jurisdictional agreements
- Extra Territorial Zoning creates a war
- Lack of inter-governmental cooperation – political egos (e.g. agencies)
- Self-interest
- Ordinances that discourage development
- Not following through on plans
- People not keeping their word
- Outsiders coming in and “taking over” communities

- Urban vs. rural issues → prejudice and disconnect
- Lack of trust between rural and urban – someone has to win or it's not a good deal
- Focus not on benefit, but on what's missing
- Lack of education and interest
- Large city takes blame and that cascades and trickles down
- Growth is a strain on public services – limited dollars; County has to cooperate with local municipalities
- Density of housing impact on schools → developers don't worry about it
- Pressure from property taxes: relationship to Lake County, IL

As we move forward with comprehensive planning, what can we do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County?

- Focus on the end result –keep eye on the prize
- Consult expertise
- Need strong leadership
- Build and grow communication
- More interest by community leaders
- More participation



Q4. Imagine it is the year 2040 and we've done all that we can do to create the best possible future for Kenosha County.

What is Kenosha County like?

- 2040 – won't be relying on gas-powered cars
- "Healthy" communities/people
- Stay as is now, but with improvements like bike trails
- Traffic movement is independent
- United services: police and fire utilities
- Schools of higher education are greater part of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Somers
- Energy, lively people
- Healthy options: run/walks

What is the one thing we should do together, now, to make that happen?

- Economic development – energy – incentives for solar and wind power and energy-related products – tax
- Generate local businesses – provide incentives – must be done on a countywide basis
- Attract businesses = more jobs
- Creation of jobs/careers
- Bio-fuels – tap into market through growing corn
- KRM
- East-West Transit corridor
- Increase in public transit, trail systems

- Better planning/retro-fitting to reduce dependence on driving – walk and bike to places
- Ecologically balanced development; green space requirements with development
- Keep environmental protection local
- Water issues: we have low H₂O rates compared to others; concerns over infrastructure costs
- Cluster zoning/green development/infill development/mixed use development
- Have investment grow in Kenosha
- Have individuals do more to help their children, becoming involved
- Community involvement

What is the one thing that you will do to make that happen?

- Help youth plan for future
- Walk around, find out about things
- Involvement, fairs
- Be a role model/creative
- Be a part of having government cooperate

LEAVING HARVEST

What is your 2040 vision for Kenosha County?

- Communities must work together to make Smart Growth happen.
- Diversity, Economic Energy Producer 1% in County of Kenosha
- A diverse community with economic diversity, mass transit and strong zoning
- A Green community with sustainability polices to protect the environment.
- Unified services
- Healthy people
- Start providing incentives and training to build industries related to the wind and solar energy
- Diversified economy while protecting the environment
- Keep growth under control. Let's not have another Chicago in 50 years.
- Natural areas/Quality of life
- I see Kenosha County as part of urban sprawl of Milwaukee & Chicago Metro. Public transportation will be more available.
- Together we should create a comprehensive plan for forest preserve and open spaces.
- Keno Cty is a community where people love to live, work, play, etc. and a leader in bio-fuel alternatives.
- Countywide transportation
- Employment opportunities
- Great schools
- Maintain/preserve natural resource bases, esp. environmental corridors
- Healthy
- Mass transit

What is the one thing we should do to make that vision a reality?

- Keep working together.
- Participation is the key
- Governmental leaders and boards need to communicate with each other. Leadership starts at the top.
- More diversified with proper infrastructure
- Stick to the plan
- Keep the lines of communication open – “don’t drop the ball”
- Stricter ordinances in planning depts.: more qualified employees



-
- Change East/West mentality
 - Manage growth
 - Low density land use!
 - How do we make the desirable Kenosha County vision happen? Key is a strong partnership of all cities/villages/towns being knit together by strong, focused leadership anchored at the County level
 - Make the community more attractive to commercial and the industrial business w/o forgetting to hold them accountable and remind them we like our community nice and clean. So that the youth have employment options
 - Proper planning of roads and main arteries
 - Mass transit to get cars and pollution off roads
 - More involvement from County on and with the smaller communities west of 94

What is the one thing you will do to make that vision a reality?

- Get involved
- Participate
- Work well with others!
- We should get involved in community planning and speak out on the issues that are important to our community
- Be a role model
- Continue to attend events like today's to spread the word
- Be a part of intergovernmental cooperation
- Stay active in community government and planning
- I will continue to donate my time to the MJAC and will continue this "conversation" with other citizens