

PRESS RELEASE – COMMUNITY INPUT VITAL TO FUTURE PLANNING

Dear Citizen:

Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" legislation requires that by January 1, 2010 any program or action of a local government that affects land use must be consistent with a locally-approved comprehensive plan. An approved Plan will guide land use decisions over the next 20 years, and the planning process offers the county a priceless opportunity to discuss the shared values and goals that should shape its shared future. Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin State Statutes requires that a comprehensive plan will, at a minimum, address nine required elements, including: housing, transportation, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, agricultural, cultural and natural resources, utilities and community facilities, issues and opportunities, and implementation. Juneau County has been working for several months to develop a Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive plan is intended to provide a rational basis for making local land use decisions and to serve as a blueprint for a county-wide effort to achieve its vision.

A **public open house** will be held on **Thursday, July 16, 2009 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm** at the **Mauston City Hall Community Room located at 303 Mansion Street** to provide the public with updates on the Comprehensive Planning process for Juneau County. The first open house was held May 21, 2009 to introduce the process. It also allowed people to provide comments about what they would like to see for the future of the County. Since that time, the County has been working to develop inventory materials, a vision statement, goals and objectives. This second open house will provide an update on the background information that has been gathered. We will also ask you to comment on the drafted vision statements and goals for each element, and we will ask for your input on desired future conditions.

This open house is the second in a series of public involvement opportunities to allow interested community members to become engaged in the planning process. The intent of this open house is to provide members of the County with the information that has been developed and gain *feedback*. *The format of the open house will be casual with no formal presentations planned, and attendees may stop by at a time that is convenient for them.* Members of the Ad Hoc Land Use Committee, which was appointed by the County Board to manage this process, will also be available to answer questions. One final open house will be held after a full draft of the Juneau County Comprehensive Plan has been completed. This last open house will provide an opportunity for interested community members to view the full draft of materials and provide comment prior to a public hearing, which will be held by the County Board prior to document adoption.

It is important that interested community members continue to be involved in developing the county's Comprehensive Plan. This will ensure that the plan adequately addresses the needs of its residents in the future. We hope you will be available to attend the open house and encourage you to stop by to review materials that have been drafted and provide us with your feedback.

John Wenum, Chair, Juneau County Ad Hoc Land Use Committee