

# PLANNING COMMISSION

August 21, 2012

Planning Commission meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Dennis Manthei. Commission members present: Walter Baltz, Diana Engel, Judy Long, Jim Morzinski, and John Johnson. Excused: Scott Guthrie. Also present: Village Attorney Bryant Klos, Andrew Bremer of MSA, Jackie Eastwood for La Crosse County, Village Trustees John Lautz, James Leicht, and Scott Schumacher, and Village Administrator Teresa Schnitzler.

The purpose of the Planning Commission meeting was a Coulee Vision 2050 presentation by La Crosse Area Planning Committee and MSA Professional Services.

Andrew Bremer explained Coulee Vision 2050 will create a long-range vision for transportation and land use in the region. Major transportation projects require decades of planning, and the La Crosse Area Planning Committee is seeking community thoughts to help envision the La Crosse-La Crescent area in the year 2050. This vision will be used to inform future planning efforts by the La Crosse Area Planning Committee and individual communities within the region. The vision will attempt to anticipate the needs and wants of area residents in 2050, so that local communities can align long-term land use and transportation decisions with those interests.

Population in this area is increasing. Accommodating this growth requires proactive planning and decision-making about both land use and transportation. All communities in the region face the same set of transportation trends, including decreasing financial resources; rising fuel, maintenance, and construction costs; an aging population; increasing congestion; potentially stricter environmental regulations; and an increasing interest in making communities more "livable" and "sustainable".

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee is working with MSA Professional Services to develop Coulee Vision 2050. Wide public input is vital to the success of this vision. The project will include a public survey, focus group discussions, public

input meetings, and visits with individual community boards, councils, and plan commissions. Mr. Bremer requested West Salem offer a link to Coulee Vision 2050 on the West Salem website, allow information and surveys to be placed for public distribution, and notices hung on public bulletin boards. The Commission agreed to assist in information distribution.

Chair Dennis Manthei informed the Commission that Scott Guthrie has resigned as a Planning Commission member effective September 1, 2012, due to relocation to Minnesota. Joseph Burke has been recommended by Chair Manthei to fill Mr. Guthrie's unexpired term.

Motion by Walter Baltz, seconded by Diana Engel to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator