

**Department of Planning and Development  
McHenry County Government Center - Administration Building**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**First Rounds of McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Meetings a Success**

The McHenry County Regional Planning Commission held four interactive sessions on the McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan this past week. When completed, The 2030 Comprehensive Plan will establish a long range vision and serve as a general guide to regional policy making for the County over the next two decades. The finalized plan is intended to set the direction for future development of the County and the preservation of its natural resources.

The meeting format of the meetings included many multiple discussion tables, where participants discussed for each of the plan's six chapters: Community Character and Housing; Agricultural Resources; Greenways, Open Space, and Natural Resources; Water Resources; Economic Development; and Infrastructure. The meetings facilitated very engaging dialogue that was high energy and fast paced.

The review sessions involved great turnout, including more individuals than pre-registered, with 43 attendees at the June 26<sup>th</sup> session, 48 at the June 29<sup>th</sup> session, and 39 at the morning session of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The final meeting held on the evening of Monday, June 30, included a capacity crowd of 50 attendees. The organizers and the attendees were both delighted to see the large turnout at these sessions.

The Regional Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dennis Dreher stated "The sessions went very well and it was very gratifying after putting in two years of work as a Commission member to get as much impassioned feedback as we did. The forum allowed feedback to develop in a way that engaged the participants in a way that was meaningful to them and us."

Attendees also found the format of these sessions to be very encouraging for input and stimulating for discussion by the small group atmosphere.

Meyer Materials representative Randi Willie commented on how it was beneficial for individuals in the small group discussion to hear different points of views on the plan. Dunham Township Planning Commissioner Pat Kennedy expressed thanks “for the opportunity for we the people to have a chance to comment and have dialog on the 2030 draft.”

Prarie Ridge Administrator Jeannine Smith recounted, “It was a very well run meeting and all participants were active. There was also a good cross section of County, township, municipal, private sector, special interest, and the public. It is important to have feedback from all these stakeholders since it is a plan that will impact everyone.”

With the first round of successful meetings completed, the Regional Plan Commission will conduct additional meetings to gather further information on the Future Land Use Map component of the plan, which has not yet been completed. The McHenry County Board will also conduct public hearings prior to final adoption of the plan, which is anticipated for this fall.

The draft 2030 Plan can be reviewed on-line at [www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com](http://www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com). Comments on the draft plan can also be submitted via email to [2030plan@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:2030plan@co.mchenry.il.us) or in writing to: McHenry County 2030 Plan, Department of Planning and Development, McHenry County Government Center, 2200 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock, IL 60098. All comments must be received by 4:30 PM, Friday, July 10, 2009.

For more information visit the 2030 plan website [www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com](http://www.mchenrycounty2030plan.com) or call the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development at (815) 334-4560 ext. 1.

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*“McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County’s residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice.”*