



AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP Meeting 2

October 8, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Bourbon County Extension Office, 603 Millersburg
Road

Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Attendees:

Anna Allen-Edwards
Tom Coward
Anne Fuller
Lee Hopkins
Vanessa Logan
Lindsie Nicholas
Catesby Simpson
Patton Slusher
Stephen Swisher

Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK

Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office

Micki Sosby, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office

Agenda

1. Welcome Presentation: Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Bourbon County Joint Planning Office
2. Bourbon County Environment: Friends of Stoner Creek, Bluegrass Greensource
3. Refining our draft goals: Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK
4. Considering Objectives: Daniel Kahl, University of Kentucky CEDIK

Welcome presentation by Andrea S. Pompei Lacy, Planning Administrator, Bourbon County Joint Planning Commission:

What is comprehensive planning?

What is planning? Vision for the community.

Who plans: Everyone

Who do we plan for? Everyone - Equitably

Why do we plan? Good health, economic well-being, public safety. Sustainability. To be equitable. Required by KRS 100.183-.197.

Timeline of progress in comprehensive plan.

What is the role of a working group member? Draft goals, objectives and action items.

What have we learned from the community?

Community Strengths: Natural resources, community facilities, local business, people, schools, history/architecture, small town vibe, community events, community groups.

Challenges: Housing, infrastructure, Blighted and vacant properties, mindset, economic sustainability, drugs and crime, entertainments activities, education and training, health care, local businesses.

Methods of Decision Making: Voting activity and/or Modified consensus.

Environment:

Water Quality

Geology

Energy

Low-Impact Development

Natural Hazards

Flooding: 16 flood events since 2015 with one fatality in the fall of 2018. Flood prone areas: 15% of Paris is in the flood plain.

Karst/sinkholes: LiDAR flyover technology is used to map karst/sinkholes.

Other weather-related hazards, such as ice storms and tornados

Non-Natural Hazards: Stormwater runoff

Tree Canopy: Bourbon County is the 4th least tree covered county with 9% tree cover.

Paris has 10% tree cover.

Green Infrastructure

Land Conservation: Bourbon County has the 2nd highest number of land acres under conservation easements in the Commonwealth with 9,126 acres and 33 easements. (1st is Harlan County)

University of Cincinnati "Core of Bourbon County Urban Design Report identified for the City of Paris:

Strengths

Space available

Not totally developed

Sewers are below capacity

Weakness

Lack of Sinkhole Ordinance

Development in flood areas

Lack of public awareness about Green Infrastructure

Lack of collaboration (county-city). (It was noted that this has improved)

Lack of trees in downtown Paris

Small tax base

Opportunities

Mitigate impervious surfaces

Increase tree canopy

Streetscape beautification

Riparian restoration

Flood Insurance qualification

Passive Land Use

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer – system update. Comments that this is in theory; actual occurrence is that when there is a lot of rain, sewer overflows into streets and ends up in the water supply.

Solar Energy. P&Z office receives calls weekly regarding solar farms.

Education

Threats

Flooding

Sinkholes

Nonpoint-source water pollution

Difference between Goals and Objectives.

Introduction of Catesby Simpson, representative from Friends of Stoner Creek.

She described Friends of Stoner Creek as a small, local organization with not a lot of people or money. They work in conjunction with Licking River Water Watch to do three water testing's per year. Sites are tested by trained volunteers. They observe the flow rate, recent rainfall, turbidity. They test for oxygen ph, temperature, conductivity, E. coli. These samples are collected following the QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan). She said Houston Creek tests 'nasty' due to the high amount of e. coli. Reasons for this are leaky sewers, septic tanks. Annual cleanups by the Boy Scouts, but they do not work on Houston Creek because of the e. coli. They donate money for art supplies, sponsor field trips to the local middle schools. They sponsor an art contest each year at the middle school level. The art is displayed at the spring Art walk and voted on by the community. There is a fundraiser held each year to benefit the Friends of Stoner Creek. Stoner Creek is a valuable asset to the city and county. Currently the official rating of Stoner Creek is that it is high quality.

Introduction of Lindsie Nicholas, Bluegrass Greensource

Bluegrass Greensource is a non-profit environmental education and outreach program for a 20-county area. They can provide 319 water quality grants to people located in the Hinkston Creek Watershed. These are non-point-source water pollution grants to pump out or repair septic tanks. Paris is nearing the MS4 level. When the population reaches 10,000 or more, Paris will be required to obtain a permit to discharge treated waste water into the waterways. BG Greensource also is involved education by setting up at festivals to get information out to the communities. They sponsor the "Main Street Clean Sweep" each Earth day.

Introduction of Daniel Kahl, Associate Director, Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK), University of Kentucky.

What is a goal?

Current 2017 Goals related to Agriculture and the Environment:

- To maintain or improve air, water, and soil quality throughout Bourbon County.
- To recognize agribusiness as one of the important industries in Bourbon County and plan for its future vitality.
- To support and follow the Paris Pike Corridor Small Area Plan and Transition Zone Ordinance.
- To provide park facilities and greenspace to meet the recreational needs of all Bourbon County residents.

GOALS UNDER CONSIDERATION (with votes from the first meeting)

1. Protect and promote the local agricultural economy – 8 votes

2. Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's natural resources. Changed to: Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's agricultural land resources – 7 votes
3. Preserve, protect, and enhance the environment. Changed to: Preserve, protect, restore and enhance the environment and natural resources - 6 votes
4. Protect and enhance the natural environment and integrate it with the built environment as development occurs - 4 votes
5. Support publicly accessible green spaces, parks, and trail networks. Reduce Bourbon County's carbon footprint. 2 votes each
6. Support hazard mitigation efforts in Bourbon County - 1 vote
7. Support the remediation of areas with potential for redevelopment. Promote a more energy efficient Bourbon County. No votes for either goal.

Modified Consensus was used to vote on Goals. The method was for each person to vote by a show of hands – number of fingers held up is the score for that goal.

5 – Excellent

4 – Good

3 – OK

2 – Low Support

1 – Lowest Support

0 – Unacceptable

Goals (as determined by Modified Consensus)

1. Protect and promote the local agricultural economy. Received 4s and 5s
2. Encourage and promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of Bourbon County's agricultural land resources. Received 4s and 5s
3. Preserve, protect, restore and enhance the environment and natural resources. All 5's
4. Integrate development with the natural environment by providing access to greenspace, trail networks, and parks. (This was reached by combining #4 and #5 from the Goal under consideration list.) Received 4s and 5s

The group was given Homework: For each goal, come up with objectives for that goal – using either the handout supplied or come up with their own. Either bring them back to the next meeting or email to Micki Sosby and she will make a list.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 12th from 6-8 pm

Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Office

603 Millersburg Rd.