

SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

7:00 pm Wednesday, February 14, 2007

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Sign In**
- 4. Introductions**
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
- 6. Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2006 meeting**
- 7. Regional Plan – Mark Robey
SWWCOG & LIAA 2007 Draft Work Plan**
- 8. Roundtable Discussion – Manchester Schools, Sharon Township, Freedom Township,
Bridgewater Township, Manchester Township, Manchester Village (time permitting)**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Adjourn**

The next regular meeting will be March 14, 2007, Manchester Community School

SWWCOG
February 14, 2007

List of Shared Services/Activities:

1. Fire Services Contract (5 of 5 local jurisdictions)
2. Construction Authority (4 of 5)
3. Recycling Authority (3 of 5)
4. District Library (4 of 5)
5. Water/Sewer (2 of 5)
6. Cell Tower Ordinance (2 of 5)

List of *Potential* Shared Services/Activities:

1. Create a Governmental Services Authority
2. Common Zoning Ordinances or Zoning Ordinance Matrix
3. Zoning Administration/Zoning Enforcement
4. Regional Police Services
5. Common Assessor Services
6. Common Legal Services
7. Common Planning Consultant(s)
8. Common Mineral Extraction Ordinance
9. Pooled Insurance (Municipal Risk Management Pool)
10. Common orientation/educational packet to new residents
11. Road Commission Right of Way Plan integrated into regional planning
12. Common Natural Features Overlay
13. Reconcile inconsistencies in Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances across the region
14. Common Parks and Recreation Plan
15. Common Trash Hauler

SOUTH WEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

February 12, 2007

To: Bridgewater Township Board and Planning Commission
Freedom Township Board and Planning Commission
Manchester Community School Board President
Manchester Township Board and Planning Commission
Sharon Township Board and Planning Commission
Village of Manchester Board and Planning Commission

Today many communities are looking back and saying “if only we would have” or “why didn’t they”. We all see areas where farmland and open space is disappearing to development while downtowns struggle to survive. Now, after many years of saying growth will come and having countless hours of discussions, we as planners and elected officials have a unique opportunity to take actions that will help preserve our community.

As you are probably aware, the South West Washtenaw Council of Governments (SWWCOG) has received a grant to hire a professional firm to assist us in creating a regional plan. This plan can define a community growth area, preserve our rural open space and protect our downtown. We can, as a group, define our areas of high density, industrial and commercial growth. Areas in the townships can be planned to receive Village water and sewer to help minimize the size and impact of developments. We can establish combined services that are a financial win/win for all of us. We can truly have a Manchester Regional Plan that protects us and is legally defensible. Washtenaw County has committed to providing valuable resources for facilitation, coordination and research to help us reach our goals.

The time has come, as they say, to “fish or cut bait.” As community leaders we will be making a decision on whether or not to **seriously** participate with our neighbors to develop a regional plan. We have a very narrow window in which to take advantage of this opportunity. SWWCOG meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The February meeting is at the Manchester Township Hall. I encourage each of you to get involved and be a part of planning for the future of our Manchester Community.

Sincerely,
South West Washtenaw Council of Governments

Pat Vaillencourt, Chair

SWWCOG/LIAA
AGENDA
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TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- I. What do we want to accomplish?
 1. Each municipality has a legally defensible plan
 2. Maintain rural community character throughout the region
 3. Direct growth where municipal services already exist
 4. Protect open space
 5. Preserve agricultural land
 6. Shared services & Cost savings

- II. What are the options?
 1. A joint regional master plan addressing all land uses: pros and con
 - A single master plan for four Townships and the Village
 - A single joint planning commission with representation from all 5 jurisdictions

 2. A joint area plan (e.g. "Manchester Services Area") directing growth to a jointly agreed upon designated area
 - Joint review by participating jurisdictions of proposals within the designated area
 - Jurisdictions have their own planning commissions
 - Jurisdictions have their own master plans, but each has the same section or chapter addressing the use of the designated area

 3. Status Quo: Continue SWWCOG as is. What if SWWCOG does nothing?
 - How will the area respond to growth pressures? Every jurisdiction for itself?
 - Will growth pressure come and where is it likely to be?
 - Are there things about the Manchester area that are worth trying to preserve?
 - Is it desirable to go from a Village-Rural landscape to a Suburban landscape?

- III. Communications with Elected Officials and Planning Commissioners:
 - Is your elected Board/Council in agreement with SWWCOG's regional approach?
 - Is your Planning Commission in agreement with SWWCOG's regional approach?
 - If not, what will it take to gain their agreement?

- IV. List of current and potential activities/services
 - Distribute list

- V. SWWCOG/LIAA 2007 Draft Work Plan
 - Discuss and Agree on Draft Plan for the Year

- VI. Commitment to Tasks before the March 14 Meeting
 - Zoning Exercise
 - Communication about SWWCOG with boards of trustees/village council and planning commissions.