

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Team Name: Cass County Planning Team

Geographic Area: Cass County

HCP Round/Years: Round 8, March 2001 - March 2003

Priorities:

Development of an updated Comprehensive Plan through the utilization of volunteer citizen groups, staff and considerable public hearings and review throughout the county.

Project Focus:

The new comprehensive plan will integrate updated versions of the County Water Plan, Youth Plan, Public Infrastructure Plan, Public Lands Plan, and Private Land Plan into one document to better streamline and coordinate ordinances and regulations, while adequately protecting the natural resources which makes the County so attractive to residents and visitors.

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- \$5,000 - Support the Shoreland Management and “Lakescaping” training provided by the Cass County Extension Service. This program will certify 100 local volunteers in principals of native plant cultivation, design and restoration of vegetative buffer strips, and other techniques for preserving sensitive shoreland.
- \$15,000 - The McKnight Foundation contributed to the “Shoreland Management and Lakescaping” project listed above.
- \$5,000 - Community Planning and Marketing Assistance (Cass County EDC) (2001)
- \$12,500 - Cass County Comprehensive Plan Update (HCP) (2001)
- \$20,000 - Healthy Lakes Partnership 2001-2002 (HLRP) (2001)
- \$4,000 - Development of “*Welcome to Cass County: An Environmental Resources and Services Directory for Residents and Businesses.*” (Cass County Environmental Services) (2001)
- \$5,000 - Healthy Lakes Implementation; Barnum Lake (HLRP) (2002)
- \$5,000 - Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Mann & McKeown Lake Implementation (HLRP) (2002)
- \$5,000 - Long Lake Property Owners Association Septic Compliance Survey (HLRP) (2002)
- \$5,000 - Project/Program Support for Norway Lake Association (HLRP) (2002)
- \$5,000 - Septic Inspections/Wabedo, Little Boy, Inquadona, Cooper, Rice Lakes (HLRP) (2003)
- \$2,000 - The Success Connection on Main Street: Technology Workshop (Cass County EDC) (2003)
- \$2,300 - Vista Mileage Support (Faith In Action for Cass County) (2003)
- \$7,500 - Ongoing Support (Faith In Action for Cass County)- (2003)
- \$5,000 - Planning and Assistance (Cass County EDC)
- \$5,000 - Birch Lake Association Implementation (HLRP) (2003)
- \$5,000 - Pleasant Lake Association Septic System Survey (HLRP) (2004)
- \$6,000 - Pine River Teleworker Pilot (Cass County EDC) (2004)
- \$500 - Economic Development Finance Professional Certification (Cass County EDC) (2004)
- \$4,000 - Leech Lake Watershed/Surface Water Use Management Plan (HLRP) (2004)
- \$20,000 - Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program (Cass County Environmental Services) (2005)
- \$1,000 - TRIAD Conference (2005)
- \$5,000 - Blackwater Lake Management Plan Implementation (HLRP) (2005)
- \$1,000 - Cass County Manufacturers Alliance (Cass County EDC) (2005)

- \$5,000- Operations and Coalition Building (Faith In Action for Cass County) (2005)
- \$100,000 - BWSR grant for closing costs on conservation easements for Cass, Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties. (2005)
- \$500 - Baby, Kid, Kerr, Lost, Mann & McKeown Lakes Association Reunion (HLRP) (2006)
- \$4,000 - Conservation Design Workshop (Cass County Environmental Services) (2006)
- \$5,000 - Meth Coalition (Cass County Health, Human and Veterans Services) (2006)
- \$10,000 - Cass County Meth Coalition (Cass County Health, Human and Veterans Services) (2006)
- \$2,000 - Strategic Planning and Goal Setting (Cass County EDC) (2006)
- \$1,000 - Strategic Planning (Cass County EDC)(2006)
- \$56,000 - BWSR Challenge Grant to identify sensitive areas for protection by conservation easements (2006)
- \$20,000 - Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership Program
- \$1,000 - Septic Inspection Program at Sand Lake (HLRP) (2007)
- \$1,900 - Strategic Planning (2007)
- \$20,000 - Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership Program (Cass County Environmental Services) (2007)
- \$5,500 - Faith In Action for Cass County (HOP) (2007)
- \$2,500 - Establishment of Revolving Loan Funds in Cass County (Cass County EDC) (2007)
- \$60,000 - DNR Shoreline Revegetation (2007)

Key Accomplishments:

- Hosted six regional hearings throughout the County to solicit public input and review of concerns, goals, and approaches to emphasize within the Comprehensive Plan.
- Completed draft Comprehensive Plan that was presented to the County Commission and interested public at the annual County meeting at Deep Portage Conservation Center (Jan. 2002).
- Distributed outline of plan to all county residents in a newsletter format.
- Adoption of Comprehensive Plan and Merger of Ordinances (2004).
- Adopted Conservation Development standards in the County Land Use Ordinance.
- Assisted in organizing four lake associations; enrolled 12 lake associations in the HLRP Program.
- Adopted future zoning plan and updated zoning maps.
- Participated in Cass-Crow Wing regional planning project.
- Secured five conservation easements with a total value of over \$5 million, over 13,000 feet of lakeshore and over 500 acres.
- Updated County Subdivision Ordinance.
- Secured “Smartwood Certification” on all County-administered forest lands.
- Developed long-term infrastructure plan including plan for a new courthouse campus at the old Ag-Gwah-Ching nursing home site.
- Completed agreement with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on out of home child placement costs.
- Sponsored Longville area ambulance subordinate service district.
- Expanded website services.

Date Updated: September 19, 2008