

**Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Suitability Map and Alternative Futures Project  
Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board - Teleconference Meeting Notes  
Wednesday Sept 9, 2009**

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**MEETING TOPICS AND RESULTS:**

**Attending:**

Members: Melissa Kellner, Bob Henszey, Matt Reckard, Deb Horner, William Rice

FNSB Staff: Bernardo Hernandez, Doug Braddock

Consulting Team: Allegra Bukojemsky, Chris Beck, Tomas Jensen, Kelley Hegarty, by tele-conference

**Action Items, Scheduled Activities:**

- Hold a two day workshop on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, to review the final maps and related products, and to kick-off the alternative futures mapping process. Details coming.
- Follow up with CPAB and encourage members to review rankings and maps:  
1) additional thoughts on material circulated on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>; 2) in early October, the consulting team will be sending out a draft package with revised maps and accompanying information, including intro language that will accompany the final product (see below)

**General**

- The CPAB reviewed the “rankings matrix” and draft capability and natural landscape values maps. In general the view was that the mapping process is going in the right direction.
- Questions were raised regarding the ultimate use and application of the maps, with Bernardo and the CPAB wanting to be sure these products provided “instructive information.” This can be addressed by ensuring that the final products are clear, and their purpose is well understood. The final package of map-related information will therefore include the elements below:
  - Intro – purpose of GIS mapping part of the project and relationship to public planning process to follow. (this is key to public acceptance of this material, and needs to make explicit that these are initial rankings, intended as a starting place for public discussion)
  - Base maps (maps themselves, accompanying descriptions)
  - Synthesis map (include better information on the map regarding how and why it was created)
  - Implications and Issues – text to accompany the maps, clarifying the types of issues they raise, to be addressed in the planning process to follow
- Language (needs a bit of further group discussion; suggestions below):
  - Overall project name
    - In the contract - “GIS-based Land use Suitability Map + Alternative Futures Analysis”
    - Suggested revised overall name for the public – “Opportunities and Constraints Mapping & Alternative Futures Analysis”

- Map formats:
  - Add labels on key roads, or other information to help users be oriented.
  - Optional – add a blowup of the greater Fairbanks area so people can more readily figure out where they are

### **Development Capability Map**

- Need a short description, as part of the key, that explains purpose of map, how it was created
- Need to work on color scheme (so rivers and high capability areas are more distinct);
- Need key to better capture intent of map categories, something like: least constraints, most constraints. Also, colors seen on the map aren't clear on the key (e.g., map includes a lot of green areas, but that color isn't on the key)
- Need to make the key big enough to be easily readable at 8 ½ by 11.
- Also as discussed, need to solve no data areas – possibly by identifying those areas with a transparent/hatched layer, but also conveying the idea that these areas are likely areas of generally low capability. This might be done with a short note on the map, and the use of a hatching color that corresponds with a lower capability color.

### **Natural Landscape Values Map**

- Need a short description, as part of the key, that explains purpose of map, how it was created, and also info that briefly I think we also need something in the key that does some very basic public education in each category, e.g wetlands: valuable in maintaining clean water and wildlife habitat
- Need to clarify that lower value areas are still valuable (i.e., even the lower value areas still offer important benefits)
- Consider options to create more visual punch to the upland pixelated areas (upland moose habitat)
- Confirmed – we're not going to push this into a full “green infrastructure” map, with nodes and corridors subjectively identified. This map is a “just the facts ma'm” set of objective data; the planning process to follow.
- Consider options to create more visual punch to natural features that provide connections, for example, stream corridors. This might be done by adding a new, low positive value ranking on a wider corridor on main and secondary streams
- Name for this map - Natural Landscape Values (*or? – needs more thinking*)
  - Natural Features?
  - Beneficial Natural Features?
  - Natural Features to Consider?
  - Natural Values? (though “values” very likely will be perceived as judgment laden and not well received)

### **Alternative Futures Maps**

- The consulting team has agreed it would be helpful to prepare a few additional maps that go beyond the original capability and suitability maps. One is an “extractive resources” map (e.g., showing mining potential). Another might be an existing infrastructure map, showing, for example, road accessible areas and areas on (and off) the electrical power grid.