

**Fairbanks North Star Borough
Suitability Map and Alternative Futures Project
Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board - Meeting Notes
Thursday November 12 + Friday November 13, 2009**

MEETING TOPICS AND OUTCOMES

The following notes provide a brief overview of the topics discussed; the bulk of discussion outcomes will be incorporated into changes to draft products.

A highlight of this significant multi-meeting effort was the organizational support of the Community Planning Department's Marnie Long-Boehl, not to mention the world class food.

NOVEMBER 12 – CPAB

Attending:

Members & Interested Public: Bob Henszey, Deb Horner, Jennifer Peterson, Merle Jantz, Sharron Hunter, Joe Blanchard, Anna Plager

FNSB Staff: Bernardo Hernandez, Doug Braddock, Jim Lee, Jeff Bouton

Consulting Team: Chris Beck, Tomas Jensen, Kelley Hegarty in attendance; Allegra Bukojemsky, by telephone

Notes:

General comments on all maps & background material

- Use a consistent gradient of colors; clearer colors on rivers; avoid using traditional land use colors
- Make sure value ranges are easily understood; ranges should all go “in the same direction” – from most to least constrained
- Make map keys text bigger
- Review & refine explanatory text on map gearing it toward lay users
- Proof, expand type size on map notes
- Change several map labels: (solar exposure; not “FNSB” on developed areas map)
- Add white on keys (as neutral value on base maps)
- Maintain consistency between rankings on map keys, and in explanatory text (all the levels, same order under each category, same order in text and ranking table)
- Better explain data sources and data limitations; what we have, don't have in terms of available data
- Add statement to maps concerning the accuracy of maps (using an axe, not a razor)
- Add source, date, map unit size for all data sources

Review of Individual Layers

- Hydric Soils
 - Explain the terrain unit as the block of land used in soils map

- Add white areas to legend
- Explain hashed areas
- Make Tanana Flats area hatched as well (survey only done around Blair Lakes)
- Further review with Bob, Doug
- Subsidence
 - Question of why the green areas are only in the Fairbanks area (need to ground truth)
 - Need to better understand the white areas
- FEMA
 - Change floodway color to avoid confusion
- Aspect
 - Add compass to map
 - Come up with short definition for word “aspect”
- Elevation
 - Check with FMATS PM2.5 for what they use for elevation delineations
 - Use 3rd party source for elevation cut-off so doesn't seem arbitrary
- Fire Hazard
 - Add date of survey to map
 - Consider removing layer from synthesis map (?)
- Surface Water
 - Drop term buffer and add language about importance of vegetation
- Wildlife
 - Change title to clarify intention
 - Put water quality, etc. before habitat
- Developed Areas – change map name

Next Step – Review of Synthesis Maps

- Refine process for ground-truthing maps (see notes from following day)

NOVEMBER 12 – ECONOMIC FUTURES FOCUS GROUP

- see separate letter sent to participants, summarizing main themes raised at the meeting

NOVEMBER 13

Attending: (check list – this is just a copy of Nov 12)

Members & Interested Public: Bob Henszey, Deb Horner, Jeff Bouton, Jennifer Peterson, Merle Jantz, Sharron Hunter, Joe Blanchard, Anna Plager

FNSB Staff: Bernardo Hernandez, Doug Braddock, Jim Lee

Consulting Team: Chris Beck, Tomas Jensen, Kelley Hegarty in attendance; Allegra Bukojemsky, by telephone

Notes:

Finishing the Mapping Process:

A. Development Capability Map “Ground-truthing Process”

- Volunteer Assignments

<i>Name</i>	<i>Sub-area(s)</i>
FNSB Planning Department under Bernardo’s leadership	Farmer’s Loop, Two Rivers, Salcha (Mike Cox)
Bob Henszey	Chena Ridge
Jennifer Peterson	Moose Mountain, Spinach Creek, Murphy Dome
Merle Jantz	North Pole, Badger Loop, Moose Creek
Deb Horner	Steele Creek, Gilmore Trail
Matt Reckard	Ester
Tim Mullins	Downtown Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright
Rex Nutter	Harding Lake, Birch Lake,
Doug Braddock	North Fairbanks, Goldstream
Kelley Hegarty/Doug Lammers	Tanana Flats, Fox

- Material available:
 - Sub-districts map
 - Development Capability Map (PDF sent to each member)
 - Natural Landscapes Capability Map (PDF sent to each member)
 - Individual base layers (accessible in hardcopy at the Borough; available on the Biosystems FTP site)
- Process:
 - Look at area you know, determine if the conclusion on the synthesis map matches your knowledge of the character of the area
 - If the conclusions evident on the synthesis map seem reasonable, move on to check another area; if not, review base layers in the same geographic area
 - See which base layer (if any) seems to be the likely “culprit”, that is, the layer that doesn’t match your knowledge of the character of the area
 - Send us a note re conclusions, identify specific area evaluated

B. Finalizing Suitability Maps & Associated Background Material

- Based on the review above, the consulting team will finalize the maps and associated background material
- This will be reviewed by staff, one last time, and then made available on the project website

Next Steps – Alternative Futures Process

- Team discussed and confirmed the general steps outlined on the following page
- Next CPAB meeting – mid-late January (week of 21st or 25th ?)
 - Finalize capability maps; work further into alternative futures
 - Consider adding members to CPAB to fill effectively vacant seats and provide greater coverage from outlying communities for future public involvement ownership of process and outcomes
 - Publicity Activities
 - Refine plan for website
 - Schedule meetings with Assembly, with Chamber (see list on following page)
 - Refine “community-based strategy”

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES PROCESS

(Overall Goal: provide the background information that would be needed at the outset of a public regional land use designation mapping process)

A. BASIC ECONOMY: TRENDS BY SECTOR (mining, timber, tourism, etc.)

- For each, short written summary of size of sector, trends
- For select land uses, maps showing existing and potential use areas (e.g. mineral potential areas)

B. LAND SUPPLY

- Land ownership/special designations (e.g. parks, military bases)
- Land use management intent – institutional owners with potential to sell; current plans (e.g. DNR, University, Borough, Mental Health Trust)
- Private land – vacant areas, prime redevelopment areas
- Infrastructure – roads, power, (gas line? - check with Kent)

C. DEFAULT/ “HANDS OFF” GROWTH TRENDS

- Amount of growth – 3 scenarios (organized as “shopping cart” of options)
- Possible locations – generalized annotated map, different “growth rings” as well as specific “hot spots

D. INFORMATION SHARING – SETTING THE STAGE FOR LATER PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Right language & clarity of presentation: ensure, for example, that words associated with capability maps stir up no unnecessary controversy
- Website – post background material, include an overview of project purposes
- Engage more groups in discussion of alternative futures:
 - Why?
 - To share preliminary, factual background information and get feedback
 - Side effect: begin to create a set of people and institutions who understand motivations for planning
 - Who?
 - Focus group (quarterly or less frequent advisory group to mayor?)
 - Chamber – full group or committees
 - Assembly and Planning commission
 - Interior Issues group
 - What?
 - Info on economic sectors & maps of land supply
 - Preliminary findings re amount, location of growth
- Develop preliminary suggestions for strategies for getting people engaged in planning (e.g., stakeholder mapping)