



Meeting Summary

Michigan Land Use Leadership Council

June 8–9, 2003

James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, MSU
Lansing, Michigan

Council Members Present

William Milliken and Frank Kelley, Co-chairs; Jim Barrett, Patty Birkholz, Liz Brater, Jim Brooks, Keith Charters, Steve Chester, Dan Gilmartin, Gordon Guyer, David Hollister, Colin Hubbell, Gloria Jeff, Ruth Johnson, Robert Jones, Dan Kildee, Chris Kolb, Chris MacInnes, Mick McGraw, Larry Merrill, James Okraszewski, Lana Pollack, Helen Taylor, Kevin Turman, Hans Voss, Brian Warner, Heaster Wheeler, Gil White, Wayne Wood, Dan Wyant

Designees for State Agencies

David Freed/George Bourgoyne, Department of Natural Resources, and Sandra Clark, Department of History, Arts, and Libraries

The meeting was convened at 1:00 PM, Sunday, June 8, 2003.

Welcome from the Co-Chairs and Introduction to the Day and Agenda

Co-chairs Frank Kelley and William Milliken

The co-chairs thanked the council members for their attendance and participation in the meetings of the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council (MLULC) and welcomed the group to the fourth meeting of the council.

Milliken oriented the council to the day's activities, noting that for the remainder of the day the council would be broken into four workgroups to discuss recommendations in the following issue categories: urban revitalization, land resource-based industries/natural environment, infrastructure and community services, and planning and development regulation. These four workgroups were led by moderators from the council—Dan Kildee, Helen Taylor, Jim Brooks, and Keith Charters—with council staff serving as facilitators and note recorders.

Workgroup Meetings

The council members picked their top two choices of workgroups to participate in. Staff sorted these to give each group a balanced representation. Staff prepared a draft set of guiding principles and recommendations for each of the four workgroups (<http://www.michiganlanduse.org/resources/councilresources.htm#june>), which were considered a starting point for deliberations. The groups continued into the evening on Sunday and reconvened Monday morning at 8:30 AM. The following is a list of the workgroup participants:

Urban Revitalization

Moderator: Dan Kildee

Facilitator: Jack Bails

Recorder: Amy Spray

Council Members: Patty Birkholz, Sandra Clark, Dan Gilmartin, Colin Hubbell, Robert Jones, and Heaster Wheeler

Land Resource–Based Industries and Natural Environment

Moderator: Helen Taylor

Facilitator: Bill Rustem

Recorder: Julie Metty Bennett

Council Members: David Freed/George Bourgoyne, Gordon Guyer, Chris MacInnes, Jim Okraszewski, Brian Warner, Wayne Wood, and Dan Wyant

Planning and Development Regulation

Moderator: Keith Charters

Facilitator: Mark Wyckoff

Recorder: Holly Madill

Council Members: David Hollister, Chris Kolb, Mick McGraw, Larry Merrill, William Milliken, Hans Voss, and Gil White

Infrastructure and Community Services

Moderator: Jim Brooks

Facilitator: Paul Zuger

Recorder: Mark Coscarelli

Council Members: Jim Barrett, Liz Brater, Steve Chester, Gloria Jeff, Ruth Johnson, Frank Kelley, Lana Pollack, and Kevin Turman

Moderator’s Forum

A moderator’s forum was held for workgroup moderators and staff on Monday morning at 8:00 AM. This meeting looked at overlapping issues and assigned them to a workgroup if they had not already been addressed.

Workgroup Moderator Reports to Full Council

Each workgroup produced a draft set of guiding principles and recommendations for the full council’s consideration. Each moderator gave a brief presentation highlighting recommendations that had workgroup support and any new additions.

Special Guest—The Honorable Andy Mitchell

Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario

Governor Milliken introduced the special guest for the afternoon, Canadian Secretary of State for Rural Development, Andy Mitchell.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1993, Andy Mitchell has long been a strong advocate for the needs of rural Canada and Northern Ontario within the Government of Canada. During his first term in office, he served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, where he authored the *Think Rural Report*, a comprehensive cross-country study undertaken to promote economic development in rural and remote areas of the country.

After being appointed Secretary of State for Parks in 1997, Mr. Mitchell introduced a new operating framework ensuring that Parks Canada was an effective and efficient agency. Since being named Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario in 1999, Mr. Mitchell has continued to work in the best interests of rural and remote communities. Prior to entering politics, Mr. Mitchell had a long and successful career in the banking industry.

Mr. Mitchell was born in Montreal and educated in Ottawa. He is married to Christine Hodson-Mitchell, has three children, and resides in Gravenhurst, located in the Ontario riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Mr. Mitchell noted that Canada has many of the same problems as Michigan related to urban sprawl. He spoke of the importance of urban and rural relationships, as many issues intersect and must be dealt with in concert. Mr. Mitchell also talked about the importance of tourism to the rural economy and the challenges Toronto faced in merging municipalities.

Discussion of Recommendations

Staff and All

Rustem stressed that the workgroup recommendation reports before the council were still in draft form, and he hoped to have discussion on each recommendation at the next meeting.

Issues brought before the council centered on the Planning and Development Regulation workgroup's recommendations. A cluster of recommendations, tentatively called the "balanced growth strategy," is an effort to strike a balance between the development and environmental communities while maintaining Michigan's local governance. Members of the workgroup emphasized that the components must be taken as a bundle, because the recommendations will be successful only if they are allowed to work together. The plan authorizes new local planning and zoning tools that recognize the desirability of:

- Higher density where infrastructure and community services are adequate AND assurances for long-term protection and/or economic viability of farmland, open space, environmentally sensitive lands, and other high-priority lower density land
- More certainty of outcomes for all involved (local governments, citizens, development community, etc.)
- Encouraging inclusionary zoning and not perpetuating exclusionary zoning
- Plans that recognize that one size does not fit all
- Allowing local governments to choose their community character

- Not requiring all communities to have to provide for every land use if they don't have adequate public services for them and if they participate in a multijurisdictional process to identify ways to meet regional needs

Some council members expressed concern about some of the individual recommendations in the package, but for now they will all be left on the table for further discussion.

There was also discussion regarding the Planning and Development Regulation workgroup's recommendation for a location in state government with responsibility to:

- Advance the goals and vision adopted by the council
- Support regional and multijurisdictional planning initiatives that are streamlined, standard, and promote communication and information sharing
- Reward communities that pursue the "Smart Growth Strategy" and provide technical assistance and education to communities, including case study examples in planning and zoning codes that embrace sustainability as it relates to the environment, social equity, and economic development, among others
- Coordinate interagency decision-making on infrastructure and public lands and facilities, among other duties
- Utilize a mechanism for stakeholder and public input
- Analyze major state grant programs to determine opportunities for furthering the goals and vision adopted by the council
- Administer a program of priority funding areas

Next Steps

Staff and All

Rustem explained that the council would have one week to look over the draft workgroup reports and submit comments via fax or e-mail to the staff and moderators. Staff would incorporate minor edits received and edit each report for quality and consistency. Major changes or additions would be signified by strikethroughs and capital letters after consultation with the moderators. The edited draft reports will be mailed to council members prior to the July 7 meeting; however, the council will determine when after the July meeting the draft reports will be released to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 P.M.

Comment Period

Chaired by Council Member Keith Charters

The public comment was taped and will be transcribed and summarized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for council review and consideration.