

Interest Group Survey Results

SUMMARY

In March 2003, Public Sector Consultants (PSC) created a survey of land use interest groups. The survey was sent to 205 groups representing a broad range of interests through out Michigan. The survey asked respondents to name the three most important land use issues and then propose three government actions for each issue. PSC received 76 responses representing 39 groups. Thirty-seven of the responses did not contain an organizational identifier and therefore are categorized as “anonymous.” The list of organizations that responded is provided below.

From these responses, PSC identified five issue categories (in decreasing order of emphasis by respondents): coordinated planning and zoning; natural environment; land resource-based industries; urban revitalization; and infrastructure and community services. These categories are very similar to the issue areas identified by the Land Use Leadership Council member survey, although the emphasis varied. Council members identified the following issue categories (in order of greatest emphasis): urban revitalization; land resource-based industries; coordinated planning; and infrastructure. Natural environment issues were emphasized by council members but were placed within the land resource-based industries category.

Although council member and interests group responses are very similar overall, the interest groups did emphasize with greater frequency the following points:

- The impact of fragmented decision-making structure on land use policy
- The impact of large lot zoning, which promotes low-density development
- The intersection of land use decision-making and environmental quality, particularly water quality
- The need to strengthen urban schools to aid in revitalizing cities
- The encouragement of urban trails and greenways to improve the quality of life in Michigan cities (Natural Resources Trust Fund)
- The need to maintain existing transportation infrastructure and to balance this against the cost of new development
- The lack of quality urban/regional public transit
- The need to improve the walkability/rollability of community centers

PARTICIPATING GROUPS:

- American Farmland Trust
- American Water Works Association–Michigan Section
- Anonymous (37)
- City of Ferndale
- City of Owosso
- Conservation Resource Alliance

- Disability Advocates of Kent County
- Environmental Law & Policy Center of the Midwest
- Environmental Management Association
- Frey Foundation
- Great Lakes Commission
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- Leelanau Land Conservancy
- LINC
- Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Inc.
- Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Association of Realtors
- Michigan Association of Timbermen
- Michigan Chapter of American Institute of Architects
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (2)
- Michigan Forest Association
- Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council
- Michigan Resource Stewards
- Michigan Road Builders Association
- Michigan Society of Planning
- Michigan Suburbs Alliance (2)
- Michigan Townships Association
- Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy
- MOSES-Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength
- Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
- Pere Marquette Watershed Council
- Pulte Homes Inc.
- Rotary Charities of Traverse City
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision Project
- State Bar of Michigan (2)
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- West Michigan Region Environmental Network
- West Michigan Tourist Association (2)
- Western Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Survey of Land Use Interest Groups



Survey Questions

- Your three most important land use issues
- Possible government action (for future discussion)



#1: Coordinated Planning and Zoning (87)

Advocated the need for strategic, long-term, coordinated planning at the local, regional, and state level

- Lack of state vision
- Examine local governance structure
- Lack of intergovernmental coordination
- *Fragmented decision-making*
- *Large lot zoning that promotes low density development*



#2: Natural Environment(38)

- Preserve open space
- Protect habitat
- *Protect water quality*



#3: Land Resource-Based Industries (35)

Protect land resource-based industries for economic and quality-of-life reasons:

- Preserve farmland and protect agriculture economy
- Protect other land-based industries: forestry and tourism



#4: Urban Revitalization (32)

- Redevelopment tools and incentives
- Lack of investment
- *Quality of urban public school districts*
- *Encourage urban trails and greenways (Natural Resources Trust Fund)*



#5: Infrastructure and Community Services (31)

- Urban infrastructure is antiquated and underutilized
- Infrastructure for new development
- *Maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure*
- *Lack of quality urban/regional public transit system*
- *Walkability/rollability of community centers*
