

Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update
Initial Meetings
2/4/10

Major issues facing Floyd County:

- Development Pressure
 - Residential Development
 - Subdivision Activity
 - Sprawl
 - Parking and moving around within Town
 - Maintaining Authenticity (Preserving Floyd County's "Charm")
 - Increase need for Education Facilities
 - Increased Crime
 - Accommodating Population increase
 - Access Management regulations from VDOT
 - Need Clustering of units
 - Zoning
 - Ordinance differences between Jurisdictions (Town/County)
 - Current Incentive for building is outside Town Boundary where no zoning
 - Directing Growth to Infrastructure
 - Ridgeline Protection
 - Fulfilling the Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Revising Subdivision Ordinance
 - Need to tightening Family Provision
 - Need to End road-side stripping
 - Check for adequate water first
- Actions:
 - Subdivision Ordinance review
 - Time limits for holding land before and after Family Subdivision
 - Concern about cluster development—can that work with our private water and waste water situation
 - Require test well before residential division
- Water and Natural Resources
 - Preservation
 - Erosion and Sediment Control enforcement
 - Failing Drain Fields
 - Increasing groundwater Recharge
 - Ecological Preservation
 - Forest/Marsh Protection
 - Conservation
 - Creating real Policy
 - Tax structure should reward environmental preservation
 - Energy Efficiency: get government behind it
 - Livestock in streams

Projects:

- Improving Water Quality and Quantity
- Explore additional Public Water Providers/Sources (any streams that could be used?)
- Idea of a reservoir, perhaps many small ones (ponds) at residences
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- Employment/Business Opportunities
 - Need for local employment opportunities
 - Keeping people in Floyd County/ reducing need to commute outside of the County
 - Attracting “High End” Employers
 - Attracting Large Businesses and Manufacturing
 - Increased Labor Market Analysis Data
 - More childcare needed
 - Improvements to economic well-being
 - Business disadvantages when operating in Town as opposed to the County
 - Keeping dollars local; promoting buy local
 - Sustainable Economy
 - Education/Training Programs (adult and high school); closely connect education system with actual jobs
 - NRCC would offer classes here if enough interest
 - Developing a Green Economy—energy is part of diversification
 - Diversification in employment sectors
 - Utilizing existing Infrastructure
 - Local “wage” data does not reflect self-employed, like artisans
 - Difficult to buy local organic food on local wages
 - The one “flat” age population (20-44 years old) is when getting first real job; no jobs for young people
 - Need to take advantage of broadband
 - Medical transcriptionist and other home-based jobs
 - Online training opportunities
- Health and Human Service
 - 24-hour Urgent and Emergency Care
 - Reducing Doctor Turnover
 - Senior Services
 - Senior Center
 - Medical Center
 - Aging in Place
 - Adequate space for governmental facilities, including regional agencies that serve Floyd (like Agency on Aging)/lack of Centralized Location for services, no place for certain agencies to call home.

- Health and wellness can be a new cluster for economic development (including alternative wellness)
- Expanding on Alternative Medicine Availability
- Encourage increased services via economic development
- Communicating Services Available
- Decentralizing necessary services (increase services Countywide)
- Getting services to people who need them or Getting people to the services they need
- Partnerships with agencies and businesses
- Childcare
- Adult Daycare
- Don't over accommodate for elderly, as their families here or not, usually prepare for this
- Health and Human Social Services
 - Financial strain on Local Governments
 - Increase space for Human Services

Projects:

- One-Stop Shop for Health and Human Services
- Community Center
 - Could include commercial code kitchen
 - Could include One-stop-shop for Health and Human Services
 - Would include activities for seniors and youth

- Recreation and Wellness
 - Facilities (Active Use Fields and Swimming Facilities)
 - More Programs needed (including soccer and swimming)
 - Bikeways/walkways

Projects:
See Community Center above.

- Transportation
 - Pedestrian Traffic
 - Walkways, Greenspace
 - Parking
 - Extremely High Number of Lane Miles
 - Snow Removal
 - Need mode of transportation to get people out to see Round the Mountain sites and other activities (limits on using transit dollars?)
 - Can school buses be used for special purposes?
 - Need for Trails—pedestrian and bicycle
 - Pedestrian Corridors
 - Roadway Management
 - By-pass: managing local traffic versus pass-through traffic in town (town is not dependent on through-traffic.)

- Keeping Rural Road Character
- Bicycle Paths
- Transit System
- Multitasking County Vehicles
- Agriculture
 - Keeping the industry active in the community
 - Make agriculture profitable
 - Value-added (e.g. grass-finish beef)
 - Encourage buying locally
 - Increasing Processing facilities
 - Places to package vegetables and meat
 - Recognizing connections and capability of Cooperative Extension to train
 - Facilitate leap from part-time to full-time farming
 - Education: convince community that local agriculture is good
 - Help make local food affordable to local residents
 - Recognizing Heritage
 - Increasing Community Efforts
 - Seeking additional Ag Opportunities and Provide Assistance
 - Market Identification
 - Work with institutional buyers, e.g. Universities in the area (large market that increasingly needs local foods per student demands)

Projects:

- Community Food Assessment
 - Mapping out Foodshed
 - Look at season extenders
 - Agricultural Processing Facility
 - Regional Agricultural Coordination Programs: finding large scale buyers of local goods and balancing supply and demand for those goods (Institutional buyers for Ag products)
 - Helping businesses improve or expand their services
 - Farmer Training (school programs or additional training programs)
 - Creation of a Community Commercial Code Kitchen
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- Energy
 - Analyzing efficiency of County School Busses (stops to frequent)
 - See Housing and Transportation
 - Library Services
 - With expanded library need additional operating and maintenance dollars
 - Use is going up, especially with bad economy
 - Solid Waste Management including Recycling
 - Efficiencies to be gained in current operation

- Have a day to pick up hazardous wastes, etc. at community sites
- Need more Recycling Drop off sites
- Need clarification on Glass recycling
- Reducing Cost
- Increasing Recycling

Projects:

- Increasing Recycling programs and analyzing the Floyd Waste Stream
 - Utilizing School sites for temporary Recycling Drop-off Programs
 - Utilizing Waste for other Commercial/Industrial projects (Waste-to-Energy)
 - Assign community service people to do recycling work

- Waste and Septic Disposal (higher fees for septic pumping because must haul outside the County)

- Housing
 - Affordable Housing
 - Properly weatherized housing
 - Habitability of dwellings
 - Lack of housing oversight (rental housing conditions)
 - Identifying Community Needs
 - Increasing the Range of Housing opportunities Available
 - Mixed-income Communities are preferable
 - In some popular western cities, real estate value are so high that “worker housing” had to be established for local workers