

**APPENDIX B**

**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
TASKFORCE ASSIGNMENTS**



## REGIONAL ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS

The Regional Action Plan which follows has been grouped into four categories as assigned to Implementation Task Forces by the newly restructured Implementation Steering Committee (see Figure 13, page 30 in the Regional Growth Summary Report)

These Task Forces include:

- Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life;
- Public Involvement and Education;
- Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; and
- Funding.

A coordinating council will also be formed of task force officers, MPO transportation committee officers and selected Implementation Steering Committee members. This council will meet to assure proper coordination among the Task Forces.

The charge of these task forces, coordinating council and newly restructured Implementation Steering Committee will be to identify priorities on action steps below, develop work plans, budgets, schedules and responsible agencies to accomplish each of these goals and objectives.

Seven regional vision statements follow. Each of these groups are charged with accomplishing all seven of these vision statements. After these vision statements, the goals and objectives assigned to each task force are then listed. Task force members (drawn from Stakeholders and other community organizations) are in the process of being identified from an initial listing of organizations which is being compiled by the Implementation Steering Committee.

### REGIONAL VISIONS

**Promote preservation of natural, non-renewable resources in the region.**

**Utilize resources wisely and guide growth to achieve the regional vision.**

**Promote and maintain a high quality of life for residents of the region.**

**Use a regional approach to planning and development which includes inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination among the seventy-five jurisdictions and Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties.**

**Establish a regional approach to parks and recreation services that emphasize natural resources.**

**Enhance the regional economic development engine to provide sustainable services and employment for current and future citizens.**

**Include formalized, facilitated and broad-based public involvement in planning.**

#### Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life

**Goal**

Protect groundwater aquifers, natural recharge areas and surface water resources.

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create new regulations and incentives to encourage shared water, septic and other infrastructure through clustered and planned unit developments.</li><li>• Revise ordinances and set standards to reduce impervious surfaces in subdivision and commercial site design.</li><li>• Revise local ordinances when needed to ensure protection of groundwater and surface water resources.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Use storm water best management techniques to reduce pollution.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote open space through planning, zoning and site design.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Preserve and enhance wildlife corridors and habitats to improve and protect the natural environment.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify key wildlife corridors and habitats in each community.</li><li>• Revise ordinances and site plan review standards to protect significant wildlife corridors.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Implement education programs and regulations which recognize impacts of future development on energy consumption and air quality.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local governments should cooperatively address regional air quality issues by working with TCRPC, State and Federal agencies to develop an action plan.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Provide planned public water services in areas where well water quality threatens public health.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure coordination between jurisdictions on water service planning.</li><li>• Locally review and amend future land use plans to ensure compatibility with the regional land use policy map and principles.</li><li>• Promote development in areas with existing water services.</li><li>• Revise zoning ordinances and policies to encourage preservation of natural features.</li></ul>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Goal</b> Preserve and protect open space and farmland with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• appropriate zoning regulations;</li><li>• education programs;</li><li>• transfer of development rights;</li><li>• purchase of development rights;</li><li>• tax codes; and</li><li>• other tools.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Give top priority to encouraging development, preservation and use of existing structures to promote urban revitalization as a primary means of accommodating economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create brownfield redevelopment policies and programs.</li><li>• Promote quality of life through walkability and downtown revitalization.</li><li>• Establish urban service boundaries to enhance redevelopment of existing downtowns.</li><li>• Conduct fair and equitable development approval processes.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Improve existing public education and facilities in all communities.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emphasize enhancing existing schools.</li><li>• Encourage regional cooperation, partnerships and strategic planning between school districts.</li><li>• Complete a regional inventory and capacity analysis.</li><li>• Advocate for adequate facilities laws.</li><li>• Expand existing facilities as a first priority to meet present needs and future growth.</li><li>• Ensure communication and agreement between local government and schools on future development.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Site regional public facilities, services and major developments in population centers in or adjacent to existing infrastructure and service areas.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooperate on a regional basis in developing public facilities.</li><li>• Locate public facilities in proximity to public transit.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Discourage large lot, low density as a primary zoning category.</p>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide incentives (density bonuses, special assessment districts, etc.) for cluster development and Planned Unit Developments (PUD).</li><li>• Change zoning ordinances to limit low-density, single family as a use by right.</li><li>• Implement state and local access management guidelines to preserve the transportation network and community character along collector and arterial roads.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage high density development in areas served by public utilities.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage urban service boundaries.</li><li>• Develop local design and community character guides to ensure quality in high density development.</li><li>• Revise ordinances and regulations to pass the true installation and long term maintenance costs on to property owners requesting utility expansion.</li><li>• Coordinate new development with public transit.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create or designate a regional growth advisory organization to facilitate coordinated development and encourage compatible land use plans.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate alternatives for the make up and empowerment of a regional growth advisory organization.</li><li>• Review existing plans for compliance with Michigan Public Acts (MPA) 263 Township Planning, 264 County Planning and 265 Municipal Planning of 2001 and zoning ordinances with MPA 110, Zoning Enabling Act of 2006.</li><li>• Consider use of intergovernmental agreements to establish a regional growth advisory organization.</li><li>• Monitor benefits and impacts of regional development.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage growth patterns which make use of existing infrastructure and investments.</p>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify future land use maps and local zoning ordinances to implement the regional land use policy map and principles.</li><li>• Prioritize federal and state grant monies to communities consistent with the policy map and principles, including Tri-County Regional Planning Commission review and approval of grants.</li><li>• Utilize quasi-public agencies (economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, Board of Realtors, Home Builders Association, etc.) to encourage growth consistent with the policy map and principles.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Ensure that development occurs at an appropriate scale, pace and in locations suitable for that type of development.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use visioning to update local comprehensive plans and define quality of life.</li><li>• Develop programs and other measures to build regional consensus on quality of life.</li><li>• Update local ordinances consistent with the regional land use policy map and principles to direct and manage growth.</li><li>• Program capital improvements with local community vision and the regional land use policy map and principles.</li><li>• Annually review local communities' asset management forms and report on consistency with the regional vision.</li><li>• Promote businesses which are compatible with local communities.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage a greater variety of housing styles and types to accommodate a wider range of housing preferences, income levels and household types (singles, seniors and empty-nesters).</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a regional housing needs assessment based on socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population.</li><li>• Develop local design and community character guides to ensure quality in high density development.</li><li>• Revise local zoning ordinances and future land use maps to reflect the regional housing needs assessment.</li><li>• Use existing state and national programs such as Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's), Federal Housing Administration (FHA), etc. to meet housing needs.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Preserve and protect cultural, historical sites and resources.</p>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create an updated local database of historical and cultural sites.</li><li>• Encourage local jurisdictions to implement national and local historical districts.</li><li>• Encourage partnerships among preservation organizations.</li><li>• Establish relationships with the State Historic Preservation Office to leverage resources.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Enhance the region's visual appearance.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create an updated local natural features/resource inventory.</li><li>• Perform a regional inventory of gateways, corridors, focal points and vistas.</li><li>• Foster continuation and expansion of community based home repair and beautification programs.</li><li>• Encourage development types, design standards and infrastructure systems that enhance pedestrian circulation.</li><li>• Work with local merchant groups to identify programs, policies and markets that support viable businesses in existing locations.</li><li>• Develop strategies to retain economic wealth for reinvestment in the community.</li><li>• Support the Chamber of Commerce's effort to cross market regional businesses, products and services.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage joint efforts, shared services and/or costs between communities.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utilize existing sub-regional planning areas (e.g. - Williamston/Williamstown Twp., Eaton Rapids/Hamlin Twp., etc.) as models for intergovernmental cooperation on land use and services.</li><li>• Analyze fiscal impacts of consolidating services.</li><li>• Develop a regional composite map showing shared service boundaries and identify potential contiguous expansion areas.</li><li>• Develop a regional composite map (by jurisdiction) showing where taxpayers of record live.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage regional coordination of economic development efforts.</p>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use and expand Regional Economic Development organizations to encourage cooperative economic development.</li> <li>• Continue the RED Team and Capital Choice’s “do not compete” policy between jurisdictions for economic development and business retention in the region.</li> <li>• Use the Capital Choice Program to enhance business attraction efforts.</li> <li>• Strengthen relationships with local chambers of commerce.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage and identify funding for physical linkages (e.g., bike, pedestrian and equestrian pathways) that connect important regional assets, parks and community services.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a regional greenways plan.</li> <li>• Consider the adopted regional non-motorized systems plan to create local non-motorized transportation plans</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create an inter-jurisdictional equity system to balance costs and benefits of development and services.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an evaluation of the impacts this would have had on the region over the past five years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Use and/or enhance community foundations to fund and promote joint public and private ventures.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study benefits to areas using community foundations</li> <li>• Identify sources of capital for a community foundation.</li> <li>• Investigate consolidating existing foundations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create a regional data clearinghouse to monitor indicators and benchmarks on an annual basis.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize growth benchmarks.</li> <li>• Identify responsibilities for maintenance and analysis of indicators.</li> <li>• Identify costs and sources of indicator data.</li> </ul>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage adoption of the regional land use policy map and principles by all jurisdictions.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify mechanisms (e.g., goals and objectives, compacts, policy guides, principles, resolutions of support, etc.) for local jurisdictions to adopt the regional vision.</li> <li>• Prioritize federal transportation dollars to communities and projects which support the regional vision.</li> <li>• Approach each jurisdiction’s legislative body and request adoption of regional vision, land use policy map and principles.</li> <li>• Identify incentives for coordinating regional parks and recreation and encourage cooperation among jurisdictions and school districts.</li> <li>• Develop a regional parks and recreation systems plan to support funding proposals for MDNR grants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Develop a supportive environment for small business.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use and expand existing career development programs for a skilled work force.</li> <li>• Expand work force training and mentoring programs.</li> <li>• Implement a high-tech infrastructure to support business attraction, retention and expansion.</li> <li>• Expand mechanisms for small business financing.</li> <li>• Use chambers of commerce to promote marketing and trade.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage adaptive reuse of existing structures and in-fill development.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify barriers to adaptive re-use in building codes, ordinances and regulations.</li> <li>• Include adaptive re-use and redevelopment guidelines in local comprehensive plans.</li> <li>• Advocate for legislation and/or ordinances to create new incentives for adaptive re-use and in-fill development.</li> <li>• Develop fast track and/or reduced permit fees for adaptive re-use or redevelopment projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Make the region a competitive location for business rather than emphasizing financial incentives for development.</p>

**Task Force: Regional Growth, Development and Quality of Life (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage competition and/or consolidation between utilities and introduce new service providers.</li> <li>• Identify joint service areas which could reduce utility rates.</li> <li>• Audit local jurisdictions to mitigate/eliminate constraints on doing business with government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Use visioning, planning and information programs that include broad-based public involvement to achieve consensus on implementing the regional vision in each local community.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication through early, continuous involvement to develop a clear vision and expedite project implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Review land development proposals using reasonable, predictable and fair procedures for applicants, neighbors and the community.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with developers, business owners and community groups to identify strengths and weaknesses of development review procedures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create a mechanism to involve the public in updating, promoting, monitoring and implementing actions adopted as a result of the Regional Growth project.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create task forces as needed to implement the Regional Growth action plan.</li> <li>• Develop indicators and appropriate data to monitor growth.</li> </ul>

**Task Force: Public Involvement and Education**

<p><b>Goal</b> Protect and enhance groundwater aquifers, natural recharge areas and surface water resources.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify, educate and involve the public regarding existing groundwater and surface water issues and programs in Michigan and the Tri-County region</li> </ul>

**Task Force: Public Involvement and Education (continued)**

<p><b>Goal</b> Preserve and protect open space and farmland with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate zoning regulations;</li> <li>• education programs;</li> <li>• purchase of development rights;</li> <li>• transfer of development rights;</li> <li>• tax codes; and</li> <li>• other tools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a manual or information guide for education on these tools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Give top priority to encouraging development, preservation and use of existing structures to promote urban revitalization as a primary means of accommodating economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a tool kit to inform local officials and citizens on benefits and programs for urban revitalization and its impacts.</li> <li>• Encourage utilization of new cluster zoning provisions provided for under Michigan Public Act 110, Zoning Enabling Act of 2006.</li> <li>• Develop an information program for local communities regarding true costs and impacts of large lot development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage growth patterns which make use of existing infrastructure and investments.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b> Inform citizens and local officials on the impacts of existing growth trends and patterns to contrast to adopted regional vision.</p>
<p><b>Goal</b> Ensure that development occurs at an appropriate scale, pace and in locations suitable for that type of development.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a thematic map of community assets to promote the region.</li> <li>• Develop an information program for asset management planning (GASBE 32) and how to conform to federal law.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Preserve and protect cultural, historical sites and resources.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an information program on benefits of historical and cultural preservation.</li> <li>• Coordinate with the Michigan Department of History, Art and Libraries as appropriate.</li> </ul>

**Task Force: Public Involvement and Education (continued)**

<p><b>Goal</b> Enhance the region’s visual appearance.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote programs which enhance, develop and protect gateways, corridors, focal points and vistas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create and sustain a sense of place and community where people live and work.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use local visioning to create material that promotes the unique image of each community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop informational material on various mechanisms allowed through state legislation on the regional approach.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage adoption of the regional land use policy map and principles by all jurisdictions.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop “ambassadors” to approach local units of government with support from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission staff and members.</li> <li>• Re-affirm adoption through an “add a year” plaque, similar to that of the wellhead protection program.</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive video to market the regional vision.</li> <li>• Encourage citizen groups to “carry the torch” and advocate implementing the regional vision.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Encourage adaptive reuse of existing structures and in-fill development.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on the process, policies and benefits of adaptive re-use and in-fill development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Emphasize regulating rural lands to create synergy between the regional economy and agricultural production.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information on successful economic development concepts for agriculture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Emphasize equitable and accessible public participation on land use and transportation issues</p>

**Task Force: Public Involvement and Education (continued)**

<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtain public relations support for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.</li><li>• Provide an informational program on benefits and best practices of public involvement.</li><li>• Establish regular methods of communicating with the public.</li><li>• Establish regular methods of communicating with regional leaders.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Use visioning, planning and information programs that include broad-based public involvement to achieve consensus on implementing the regional vision in each local community.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct extensive public involvement during updates of all community plans.</li><li>• Develop partnerships with service organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary, NAACP, churches, etc.) to provide broad-based community outreach to all socio-economic and demographic groups.</li><li>• Identify appropriate media (newsletters, web page, door-to-door, etc.) for community outreach.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Review land development proposals using reasonable, predictable and fair procedures for applicants, contiguous neighbors and the community.</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare a guide on development review and community participation which includes decision making timeframes and appeals procedures.</li><li>• Work with local chambers of commerce and business associations to educate the development community on any changes in review procedures.</li></ul>
<p><b>Goal</b> Create a mechanism to involve the public in updating, promoting, monitoring and implementing actions adopted as a result of the Regional Growth project.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and fund a regional data clearinghouse to monitor regional development and its relation to growth indicators.</li></ul>

**Task Force: Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation**

<p><b>Goal</b> Protect groundwater aquifers, natural recharge areas and surface water resources.</p>
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**Task Force: Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (continued)**

**Objectives:**

- Inventory locally significant water resources.
- Regulate stormwater run-off from residential lawns, parking lots, roads, farms, golf courses, etc..
- Use existing TCRPC and Groundwater Management Board programs and create local wellhead protection programs.
- Concentrate growth near existing sewers and infrastructure.
- Work with TCRPC and the Groundwater Management Board to create and adopt best management practices and planning principles.
- Develop action plans which reduce or eliminate environmentally contaminated areas.

**Goal**

Use stormwater best management techniques to reduce pollution.

**Objectives:**

- Regulate stormwater run-off from construction sites.
- Develop a stream buffer ordinance to reduce run-off and erosion.
- Develop erosion and sediment control requirements.
- Identify and eliminate illegal run-off.

**Objectives:**

- Use state and federal endangered species lists to identify threatened species in the community.
- Identify failing septic systems.

**Goal**

Protect scenic areas, stands of mature vegetation and other natural resources which contribute to a sense of community.

**Task Force: Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (continued)**

**Objectives:**

- Identify locally important scenic areas.
- Develop action plans to protect important scenic areas.
- Establish a tree nursery for native street trees.

**Objectives:**

- Inventory regional park assets.

**Goal**

Create a regional network of parks that preserve natural corridors and open spaces.

**Objectives:**

- Identify natural corridors and open space conducive for parks.
- Compare existing parks and recreation facilities with socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the region.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance existing parks and recreation facilities. When appropriate, acquire additional parkland or facilities to meet regional needs (e.g., open space preservation, wildlife habitat protection, skateboard parks, etc.).
- Approach the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding prioritized funding for the Tri-County region based on the regional parks planning efforts.

**Goal**

Identify, promote and encourage public access points to rivers and lakes where water quality is suitable for recreation use.

**Objectives:**

- Identify water bodies suitable for recreation use.
- Inventory land suitable for public access to water.

**Goal**

Emphasize regulating rural lands to create synergy between agricultural production and growing the regional economy.

**Task Force: Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (continued)**

**Objectives:**

- Identify critical components of the regional agricultural economy.
- Complete an economic census of the region's agricultural sector.

**Task Force: Funding**

**Goal**

Use and/or enhance community foundations to fund and promote joint public and private ventures.

**Objectives:**

Leverage national foundation dollars with community foundation funds.