

Infrastructure Committee Meeting
4/2/08

Greg Christian
John Vanek
Delayne Reeves
Bridget Holcomb
Tom Grant
Vicky Ranney (by phone)
Jim Braun attended part of the meeting

Greg called the meeting to order

Agenda accepted
Minutes accepted

Work Matrix

In looking at Warren's work matrix, Greg noted that we are lacking in people and time dedicated to economic impact. John Vanek offered to work on it, and Greg will ask Irv C. as well

Vicky will do a story on ag preservation from Prairie Crossing and use an economic angle.

We will also need Interviews and stories from regulators/inspectors. Greg volunteered himself and Warren to make a list of both people to talk to and what we want to talk to them about and provide that to Delayne. This will give Delayne the information she needs to set up meetings with the appropriate regulators/inspectors. Committee members are asked to provide recommendations to Warren and Greg for the list of people and questions.

John Vanek noted that for smaller markets the hurdles are smaller, and as markets get larger the hurdles get bigger. Will need to look at what hurdles we will be looking at in the future that will get bigger as we look to access larger markets

Questionnaire

Under groups to be interviewed it was suggested that in addition to government officials we include commissioners for the elderly, state corrections, health and family services, and central management services (state purchasing). Also, schools should be added to this list.

No changes were suggested to the interview questions, but it was noted that the committee agrees that no questions on health are needed.

Action Planning

Bridget Holcomb

Interviews – livestock producers
Participate in the meeting with regulators
Background info on current regulations
Will contact Roger Brown on asset map

Tom
Interview two people for stories
Look into interviewing big ag lenders
Work on asset map
Work on recommendations,
Data gathering, focusing on south of Champaign

Delayne
Coordinate meeting with regulators
When website is back up, going to look at GIS capabilities and what already out there
Will look into procurement options that the Dept of Ag might be behind

Greg
Interview himself, a distributor, Chartwell Thomson, Louise from CPS, and a commissioner for the elderly
Set up meeting with regulators
Run an ad for interns
Present at DePaul class

John Vanek
Interview Jason Eckert about his company and other companies, Green Earth Institute
Will try to find out if there is a contact for the prison system to interview

Vicky
Will interview herself

Jim Braun
Will do stories on processing plants and ISU wanting to buy locally

Interns

It was asked in the larger Task Force meeting that committees provide ideas for work that interns could do that would be beneficial to the committees. It was noted that in the matrix economic impact and data gathering were areas that currently do not have enough hours dedicated. This work could lend itself well to internships.

Greg adjourned the meeting.