COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT

THOMPSON

LYONS

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....June 6, 2007

Members Present..... Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Alan Thompson and Commissioner Howard Lyons

Minutes: Beth Farwell

The Board met to discuss proposed enhancements to the County planning program. Planning Director Karen Hughes was present.

Karen stated the purpose of this meeting is to weigh in on the proposed enhancements to the planning program. Interested parties such as the Brainerd Foundation are coming forward for funding this program. Some of their questions are how much is needed, what the money would go for and how the outcomes would be tracked. Karen stated the Commissioners have seen an initial draft in the budget proposal. The recommendation of the planning program enhancements presented to the Board today is more defined.

Karen discussed the key elements of the enhancements which included the new subdivision regulations. Commissioner Chilcott asked if there was any way to include the design standards, making it more standardized. He would like to see it moved up in the process for a better quality product. Karen replied yes, and brief discussion followed.

Karen stated what they had tried to do is make notes in the narrative explaining how they came up with the numbers, such as man hours, existing operations, approval on existing grants, cost of mailings, etc. She also suggested having a program oversight committee and major financial partners, which would include a County representative, and a Land Trust representative.

Karen discussed the need to implement a tracking program for the benefit of the financial partners which would ensure projects get completed within the timelines and also allow the financial partners to have peace of mind for their investment. Karen stated she had also spoken to the Brainerd Foundation for their input and to inform them the Commissioners will have input as well.

Commissioner Lyons stated he now sees how this all ties in together.

Commissioner Thompson questioned the financial impact with no particular insurances and what they are showing in FY 2007 is in the budget which has been expanded. Karen replied yes. She also noted they will move forward with the countywide zoning project with whatever resources they have; it may not be as "shiny" as it could be with the new enhancements project, but it will get done.

Karen stated they will find the funding. Commissioner Thompson stated his concern is the planning proposal and the Fiscal Year 2008 budget haven't been approved yet. He doesn't want to tell Karen they will increase her budget and then not have the grants come in. Karen stated they realize this is a long term goal. What they are looking for is approval of the concept in order 'to shop around' for the funding. Commissioner Chilcott stated they could approve the conceptual budget. He agrees with Commissioner Thompson, that they all need to recognize the budget is not yet approved. Commissioner Thompson stated there is $50,000 budgeted for zoning next year.

Karen stated the planning part of the contribution is time. The outreach components for the enhancements included county wide mailings, newsletters, training staff and independent facilitators. Discussion followed regarding facilitators.

Commissioner Thompson requested Karen refresh his memory of the open lands bonds. Karen indicated those funds are to be used for real estate and conservation easements. Commissioner Chilcott stated his concern is to have broad spectrum representation.

Citizen Rick Thurman stated he would like to elaborate on Commissioner Chilcott and Commissioner Thompson's comments and discussion. He stated their point is now the integrity of the process.

Commissioner Chilcott made a request for motion.

Commissioner Thompson suggested putting this proposal forward, noting it would be very good for the County if 'friends' stepped up such as the Brainerd Foundation to help fund this. He further stated his problem was promising funding and then not being able to deliver. Karen replied she understands.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the conceptual proposed enhancements budget as presented today. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and all voted "aye".