

## Summary Notes

Meeting: Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group  
 Date: Wednesday May 2, 2007; 6:00 p.m.  
 Location: Pinal County Government Complex  
 Handouts: Agenda, Project Team Organization, Committee Structure,  
 PowerPoint Presentation

Participants:

Chuck Millar, CPAG	Dallas Paulson, CPAG	Gordon Brown, CPAG
Michael Leigh, CPAG	Norrie Burruel, CPAG	Regis Sommers, CPAG
Willie Masters, CPAG	Jerry Stabley, PC Project Mgr.	Peggy Fiandaca, PSA
Curt Dunham, PSA		

The following meeting notes are intended to be a summary of the discussions at the meeting. Any changes or corrections to the meeting summary notes must be received by the author prior to or at the next scheduled meeting. After that date, the Project Team will proceed with the project based on the information outlined in these meeting summary notes.

**Meeting Purpose:** Kick Off the Comprehensive Plan Process

Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:10 p.m.

### **Welcome and Project Overview**

Jerry Stabley, Pinal County Project Manager welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group (CPAG). Jerry gave a PowerPoint presentation about the thought process leading to the initiation of the Vision and Comprehensive Plan update.

Recognizing that Pinal County is one of the fastest growing counties in America, the Board of Supervisors felt the time was right to determine what it would take to be a distinctive, livable, and competitive County. Last Fall, Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University was retained to conduct research to determine the possible future for County residents to consider. The research is intended to be thought-provoking and will assist in developing a county-wide vision to manage growth and preserve the area's quality of life. To take the visioning effort forward, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA), was hired this past spring. PSA will be working closely with residents, stakeholders, landowners, and elected/appointed officials to develop the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Update—a roadmap for the future of Pinal.

The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is a statement of policy and an expression of the county's vision. The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Update will amend the current plan developed in 2001.

When completed, the plan will be a tool to help guide and shape the county's future growth. The intent of the Comprehensive Plan is to achieve a sustainable future for Pinal County. The Comprehensive Plan will include:

- ✓ The vision statement that will guide decision-making;
- ✓ A plan for managing anticipated growth and development including all modes of transportation;
- ✓ Strategies to create employment centers so residents can live and work in close proximity;
- ✓ Goals and policies related to economic development, housing, infrastructure, and environment;
- ✓ An implementation plan to realize the vision.

Jerry introduced Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA) the planning consultants that are leading a team that will be producing the Comprehensive Plan. Peggy Fiandaca, PSA President gave an overview of the company and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She also provided an overview of the team of consultants and professionals that will be working on the planning effort.

### **Comprehensive Plan Opportunities**

Curt Dunham, Co-Project Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of research conducted by PSA. Curt presented a peer-county analysis for three high growth counties in the U.S. and discussed the lessons learned about what they thought they did well and what they thought they would do differently if they could. The purpose of the information was to glean opportunities or ideas for Pinal County.

### **Comprehensive Plan Mission Statement**

Peggy presented the Mission Statement for review by the CPAG. They accepted the statement as presented.

*The Pinal County Comprehensive Update must be both innovative and focused to ensure that county staff, policy-makers, landowners, and residents have a clear understanding of the area's desired future condition while outlining a realistic approach to ensure quality development to maintain and enhance the region's quality of life.*

*This will be achieved through an unprecedented community and stakeholder outreach process, use of cutting edge planning techniques, and taking a comprehensive regional planning approach to critical issues such as transportation, job creation, and environmental preservation.*

### **Plan Process and Schedule Overview**

Peggy gave an overview of the various steps in the planning process. She stressed the tremendous amount of public outreach that will occur throughout the process. It is the hope that everyone in the county will be discussing and participating in the comprehensive planning effort.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

A strong working group structure is critical to the success of a Comprehensive Plan. The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan program identifies three standing committees and two task forces with specific responsibilities:

**Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group (CPAG)** – The CPAG is composed of representatives from each of the county planning areas and serves as the project steering committee. The CPAG will meet regularly.

**Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** – The TAG is composed of agency representatives (e.g., Arizona State Lands Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, Central Arizona Association of Governments, Bureau of Land Management), and utilities that meet at key project milestones.

**Regional Planning Team (RPT)** – The RPT is composed of the municipal planning directors within Pinal County or their representatives, for the purpose of coordinating development planning that will occur during the Comprehensive Plan process.

**Topic Specific Task Forces** – The Economic Development Task Force and the Transportation Task Force consist of individuals representing groups and agencies focused on the particular topic (e.g., various economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce would be represented on the Economic Development Task Force).

### **Public Involvement Activities**

Peggy provided an overview of the public involvement activities planned for the process. Over 100 public meetings are planned to solicit ideas and reach consensus on the future direction for the county. In addition to the standing committees, task forces, and regular updates with elected/appointed officials, the following activities will occur.

- Issue Topic Forums
- Future Tense Road Shows
- Visioning Workshops
- Planning Area Workshops
- Youth Involvement Program
- E-Newsletters
- Decision Theater
- Agency Review

### **Issue Identification**

CPAG members identified the following things that they would like to see addressed in the planning effort.

- Historical areas identified and strategies to preserve them
- Identification of trails and parks
- Infrastructure identified and planned in advance of growth
- Ensuring that the plan has support and can be defended
- Ensure adequate schools to support growth
- Ensure roads are coordinated with growth
- Public safety needs are addressed and coordinated with growth
- Plan should take into account all issues facing the county
- Regional water planning
- Address state trust land issues

### **Next Steps**

The CPAC will meet regularly from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pinal County Government Complex in Florence. Next meeting is June 20, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.