

Kearny Visioning Workshop Summary Report

Date: August 8, 2007
Time: 6 – 8:30 pm
Location: Church of the Good Shepherd
508 Senator Chastain Street

Handouts

The Future at Pinal Executive Summary
Comprehensive Plan Fact Sheet
Vision Handout
Vision Worksheet

Attendees (25):

J. Peter Armenta, Katie Balogh, Gayle Carnes, Leon Chamberlain, Aaron Crossland, Ettie Crossland, Gwendolyn Dinwiddie, Glenn Drew, Bill Dunn, Mary Louise Eck, Gary Eide, Ramon Esquivel, Margaret Gaston, Angela Gotto, Edwin Grant, Zola Hall, June Henderson, Jerry Henry, Carol Hosler, Sam Hosler, Joyce Hughes, Leandra Lewis, Olga Lopez, Joe Martinez, Barbara McGuire

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the Visioning Workshop was to gather feedback on draft vision themes, largely defined through the nine previous Road Show events. The event initiated with a PowerPoint presentation that described the Comprehensive Plan process, provided results from the Road Show events in July, introduced some realities about the changing America, and defined the process of community visioning. The PowerPoint is available on the project website at: www.PinalCountyPlan.com.

Participants were provided a Vision Handout which was a draft compilation of vision themes derived from the nine Road Shows. These themes included: open spaces and places, sense of community, economic sustainability, quality education opportunities, mobility and connectivity, and environmental stewardship. Participants were asked to review the draft Vision Handout prior to the meeting. After the PowerPoint presentation, participants were asked to complete a Vision Worksheet which asked them to answer the following question for each vision theme: "If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future. What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?"

Participants were then asked "What do you think about the emerging vision themes? Are there any themes missing? Could any additional theme fall under an existing theme?"

Participants responded as follows:

- I agree with Sense of Community
- These themes capture the importance of our history and heritage
- Theme capture what is important to Pinal County
- Themes are important to maintain sense of 'place' and how not to become Maricopa County
- I think the important items are captured

- Perhaps we're missing health services and medical services
- Small town and quality of life are important to me
- Are we missing multi-generational housing, or is this part of something else?
- We need to learn how to celebrate our differences
- Transportation corridors are important
- I want my grandkids to stay here
- One junior college is not enough; we need to train our residents to bring more jobs
- Is law enforcement missing, or is this part of Sense of Community?
- Sense of Community stands out for our community
- We need to address our drug problem
- I don't want ranching to disappear
- We need schools and doctors
- We need to preserve the environment
- Sometimes East County seems to be neglected
- We need to address opportunities for our youth; gangs and drugs are taking over
- I enjoy the lifestyle of Pinal County and Kearny
- There are not enough places for agriculture or industrial activities
- Pinal must control development!
- We need to begin to understand that mining companies are not going to provide the same benefits as they once did
- We need economic diversity
- We need transportation options—more parkways instead of freeways

Participants were then asked for each of the emerging vision themes, and any additional themes identified, “If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future. What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?” Participants comments for each theme are as follows:

Open Spaces and Places

- We would have left our pretty areas pretty
- We would provide access to outdoor recreation
- We would ensure year-long agricultural spaces are maintained
- Wildlife corridors are maintained
- Development would be concentrated and infill development would have occurred
- We would provide places to escape
- Pinal would have had thoughtful planning
- Pinal would have required developers to preserve open or green space (such as greenbelts) and adhere to strict ‘green’ codes
- Zeroscape landscaping would be embraced and residents would stay true to the natural environment
- Pinal would use the steep topography in Pinal County in its building restrictions, but also to maintain the variety of topography in the County
- Pinal would keep our mountains *mountains*
- Pinal would maintain open spaces to maintain a good environment

- Pinal would stay a bedroom community
- Pinal would prevent growth from happening in the County
- We would have access to recreational opportunities and open space
- Our open spaces would be large enough not to just be a park but also to serve as wildlife corridors
- Pinal would focus growth near the freeway
- In order to see Pinal, we would have trails and recreational opportunities throughout the County, including ATV opportunities
- Pinal County would preserve its open space and make it accessible, mimicking the National Forest and Park service mission
- Bedroom communities would be embraced in Pinal
- Pinal would have kept agriculture viable so that it could also serve as open space

Sense of Community

- We would develop a system of open (not gated), unique communities; exclusive, gated developments are not a solution for creating a Pinal-wide sense of community
- Pinal would not be a collection of Homeowner Associations (HOAs)
- We would maintain our annual celebrations which celebrate our history
- Communities would partner for solutions rather than compete
- Our older and younger generations would work together, including having developed mentoring programs
- Schools would remain local and small
- Pinal would provide critical services to all of the County
- We would have kept the “everyone knows your name” feeling in Pinal County
- High quality education would exist in Pinal
- We would have used the ‘sense of community’ that exists in our schools as a template for creating a sense of community in Pinal
- Pinal would be a place full of volunteers, from social services to our schools
- We would create programs for our elders to share their talents, mobilizing this experience in our schools specifically
- Pinal would be a place where citizens would be proactive

Economic Sustainability

- Pinal would better utilize our railroads, using our infrastructure to have brought in companies
- Pinal would have created career centers which have educational opportunities as well as industrial/office space options so that people can make a living in Pinal
- Pinal would create research opportunities through establishing activity centers
- Pinal would have used incentives to bring employers to the County
- Pinal would be able to be flexible enough to embrace whatever kinds of industry or economies come along
- Pinal would create something unique that supports our values
- We would have businesses that support our values, including open space, allowing open space to become an economic resource
- Pinal would use/encourage use of renewable and alternative energy sources

- Like Ireland, Pinal would have concentrated on education so that employers come to us
- We would have created business/education partnerships
- Pinal would be the leader in solar and alternative energy
- There would be jobs in Pinal County (not Pima County or Maricopa County)

Quality Education Opportunities

- Pinal would exhaust all state funding for education in Pinal
- Community colleges, or satellite locations, would be in every Pinal County
- Pinal would create a program that gives post-secondary education scholarships for those who return to Pinal (loan forgiveness)
- A university would exist in Pinal County so that we don't lose our brain trust
- Pinal would provide life-long education/learning opportunities
- Workforce training would exist in Pinal, starting in high schools and extending to post-secondary opportunities
- Pinal would have a dedicated community vocational center

Mobility and Connectivity

- Pinal would use existing railroads
- Pinal would have more roads connecting communities
- Pinal would have park and ride facilities, lightrail and other multi-modal forms of transit
- Shopping and services would be close to residents
- Pinal would address traffic coming from Phoenix
- I-10 would be expanded and multimodal options would exist in the same combined corridor
- Pinal would use existing rail for commuter rail options
- Improved telecommunications options would exist in Pinal, especially east County
- Pinal would have investigated the potential of having a airport for freight and commuter
- Consistent cell (phone) service would exist throughout Pinal County
- Pinal would serve as a transportation hub for Arizona

Environmental Stewardship

- Pinal would have various kinds of natural preserves and parks
- Pinal would ensure a long-range water supply County-wide
- Companies would adhere to a strict environmental code
- Pinal would have set aside sustainable, permanently protected places
- Legislators would understand community desires
- County-wide curbside recycling would exist
- Pinal would have plastic bag-free deserts
- Pinal would repair and protect waterways
- Riparian areas would be protected
- Pinal would have established incentives to promote green building and developed codes that include gray water systems for residential irrigation purposes
- Pinal would have developed a County-wide conservation plan
- Pinal would have a County-wide code that dictates solar orientation of homes

- Pinal would have a light pollution code

Potential Theme: Health, Safety and Welfare

- 30 minute healthcare rule would exist in Pinal County—healthcare would be within 30 minutes away from all Pinal residents
- Urgent care facilities would exist throughout Pinal County
- Primary care physicians would exist in Pinal communities
- Pinal would address malpractice insurance constraints which prevent physicians from working in Pinal
- Pinal would create incentives, including paying off loans, for physicians to work in Pinal
- Long-term, elderly and adult living facilities would exist throughout Pinal County
- Home healthcare options would exist in Pinal
- Affordable healthcare would exist in Pinal

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future? What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?

Open Spaces and Places

- Plenty of open space with growth clusters rather than sprawl
- Required a place to escape the hurry and hassle of everyday life to the quiet and seclusion of nature
- Gains and losses, historically, fight for balance.
- Those who enjoy “going out in the hills” are already hit hard by “No Trespassing” that was not there in recent decades. Open spaces may be better tended in looks, tech, use.
- We would achieve maintaining connecting open spaces and wildlife habitat.
- Areas dedicated and protected that are as natural as possible—not just small park areas—more of a dedicated wilderness area—spaces between towns.
- Trails to expose the general public, hiking, ATV, picnic areas.
- Maintain land for joint use—ATV, parks, trails, cattle
- Final creation of Copper State Park
- More planned access to open spaces, with a corresponding decrease in destructive access (four-wheeling, etc). Roads should be highways along which we stop and linger—not mere throughways to another place.
- Open spaces will have been preserved. Special places will have been protected so that, while being needed, they are not destroyed. We can still see an occasional bobcat on the desert outskirts of town.
- Health services
- Parks—open spaces—areas to hunt in. Separating cities in Western Pinal County—the terrain in Eastern Pinal County helps, but that has to be preserved.
- A county dispersed with open spaces between communities for recreation—and farming/hunting.

- Let people “of the community” have some control over the “dollar-minded whims” of developers and tax hungry councils, to say what should be and what is reasonable for open space and wildlife.
- A sound open space plan that not only preserves and protects open spaces, but makes these spaces accessible, functional, and diverse. Open spaces should lend themselves to varied recreational, tourist, and preservation/conservation uses.
- Need health systems
- Outdoor recreation – Families still need a place to go where they can have get-togethers that is free of housing and fences. Leave open areas alone.
- This is what makes Pinal County unique. That is why I choose to live here. Preserve.
- Maintaining space between cities, areas for hunting, fishing, OHVs, outdoor trails.
- Enforce cleanup and care of our open spaces.
- Large areas should be set aside for agriculture. Wide transportation easements should be established. Park & recreation areas secured.
- No crowding or large developments demanding resources
- If we can keep agriculture viable here, we will have open spaces.
- Continued access to outdoor recreation hunting, camping, fishing, etc.
- Biking, parks, walking paths, private nature centers, secluded yet wild
- Maintain open areas for wildlife and places of uniqueness. If this is done, then we have managed to preserve what we have now for the future residents and visitors to enjoy.
- Maintain areas developed into areas which are pleasing and useful. Spaces _____ recreation, pack-type areas that have use and to attractive town scenery.
- Control wildcat developments! Lack of government control.
- Open spaces eastern part of county. North/central and western already in throws of urban growth. I-10 corridor and building associated.
- Future growth will cause the loss of some of our open spaces. We must be careful to “set aside” areas for wildlife and also recreation for our population. We have space in Pinal County for growth and also for open space, if managed.
- The plan for preserving the open spaces
- We would still be able to go out in the hills and hunt and picnic like we have before. Also enjoy our environment.

Sense of Community

- Transportation is the key, along with jobs to keep people near home, so that the hassle and frustration of commuting can instead be used toward activities that enhance communities and add to the quality of life. It may be the ____ of the future, and our connectivity may be strengthened through electronic media. We will protect our environment, wildlife, corridors and promote clean industries.
- An incorporation of combined communities without giving up the original. In history, to Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin in the creation of the United States of America.
- Strong sense of community. This is subject to change with growth. Possibly negatively.
- Law enforcement. Even as each community grows and new ones are created, we remember the history of the old communities and imbibe the new communities with a sense of history and being individual, while all communities work together for the good of the county.

- For each community to be able to maintain its history and identity while working with each other. Law enforcement—activities and jobs for youth
- Instill pride.
- Menning (?)/history must be documented.
- All ages will be valued, not segregated. There will still be discreet communities with open space between. Slurs will be avoided so that communities still have distinct identifiers and stories. Diversity will be valued as adding important colors to the community pallet.
- Preserving the uniqueness of each community. We can all work to preserve our heritage. I feel this is the community's responsibility.
- Communities that are diverse in age with programs that involve all ages and interests
- Let the people "of the community" have "real" input to development rather than the "dollar" ban (?) out by developers.
- Fostering a sense of belonging through community activities, services and programming. Enable citizens to be active and responsible for the decision-making process.
- Knowing your neighbors, government officials, and having a secure feeling of belonging needs to stay as is
- All of Pinal County has history, heritage, and culture. Being a native, have seen much change. Do not want to destroy Pinal County's identity, and this area.
- Maintain the uniqueness and integrity of each community, while giving it the opportunity to become more sustainable.
- Encourage more public involvement in the community.
- More diversity of people and lifestyles
- Smaller towns have closer sense. Clustered areas may be better.
- Neighbors knowing neighbors. No elite gated California islands.
- Growth inherently stifles a sense of community. Rapid growth kills it.
- Not become a bedroom community
- Community unity through cultural exchange
- Establish pride in where you live.
- Maintain and preserving each community's heritage, which is important to residents of Pinal County. Providing a legacy of the past and keeping it alive. The uniqueness of each community and their resources.
- Historically a "mining town" with an attractive community with diverse ethnic population. Strong sense of Hispanic southwest flavor.
- Diversity is championed by the jobs that are provided by the mines. Allows a wider economic range and with it a wide range _____.
- Communities will be drawn closer together as growth takes place. We can draw from the best and still keep individuality of each community.
- A plan to maintain small communities
- We need to have a good doctor and clinic where we can stay here when we're sick, instead of traveling 100 miles for a decent doctor.

Economic Sustainability

- Using the primary employers we have, i.e., agriculture, mining, prisons, and more evenly distributing those so as not to have a dense population in our small area.

- Has the CAC at Maricopa Economic Development for Eastern Pinal County been examined? It will be sustained.
- Health services. I see two issues as being strongly tied together. If we are not providing a quality education with basic and secondary four-year college, how can we provide the manpower to build a sustainable economy? This is a circle—one feeds the other.
- Available jobs for all populations, including high tech medical services, should also be included in this area, especially in smaller communities.
- Need more than one place of employment—the mining is the area where our income in Western Pinal people are employed (?). Small industries could help.
- Diversification. Government, employment dominates.
- Good local health services will be necessary for economic sustainability.
- Medical services will be available locally (referred out for unique specialties only), so people don't have to go to the cities all the time for that purpose. The Walmarts of the world won't destroy local businesses.
- Need enough economic diversity to support the infrastructure of Pinal County—not just homes and developments. Develop the railroad system.
- Better choice of employment with diverse opportunities—not all mining—farming. Some technology, manufacturing on side of Tucson and Phoenix.
- Yes, Pinal County needs more employment stability. Pinal County needs to communicate better with its rural towns and areas. Support our medical needs.
- Establishing a diverse economic profile which allows for multiple career opportunities, economic opportunities, and the ability for these different opportunities to pay for needed services through a stable tax base.
- We need to have job centers, as our major economic source won't be here forever.
- Mines opening up will help in this area. They should mine in this area. Trains.
- Pay to enter rock climbing parks, etc. Jobs that allow families to remain in Pinal County instead of traveling outside of Pinal. Less retail jobs. More industry that can help sustain the communities, so we're not building bedroom communities. More health services, long-term care facilities.
- Would become more stable with better medical facilities
- Business development
- We are very short sufficient land to support industrial, railroads, airport future needs.
- We have the mining industry. Pinal County as a bedroom community for metropolitan industry works well here now.
- We have an economic engine less than one hour from here if we have growth here (Eastern Pinal County). I hope we are bedroom communities for Phoenix and Tucson.
- Promote ecotourism and IBA (?), arboretum expansion, medical center or hospital
- Employment providing a sustainable living wage
- Jobs close to home—no long commutes
- Develop the viable economic growth within the communities utilizing each community's resources and networking with surrounding communities. Outcome would be economic growth for establishing revenues to aid in the development.
- Has historically been effected by the price of copper and union contract with the mine
- Need industry/business or just be a bedroom community. Agriculture is using water—planned depletion will end agriculture. What will replace the agriculture lands? Houses?
- Transportation system—railroad highway

- Not only jobs but an upgrade of available healthcare needs to be addressed at several locations, i.e., Kearny, San _____, Oracle, Casa Grande—regional.
- We must encourage business and employment as population increases. This will encourage young people to remain in the area.
- We also need more business places, so if we need a new frock, we don't need to go to the Valley.

Quality Educational Opportunities

- More programs outside of education, i.e., Young Marines (?), to give children alternatives to street gangs, drugs, and negative behavior. Look into incentives to celebrate positive behavior.
- Still in infant stage up beyond 12th grade
- College that offers four-year programs, as well as multicultural and multigenerational classes.
- K through 12 education being the best possible, including vocational and technical opportunities. Expanding the community colleges and possibly going to four-year colleges.
- Transportation to and from our junior colleges
- Funding? Arizona is near the bottom.
- The smaller (mostly Eastern Pinal County) towns would have the same level of educational opportunities as the more developed regions.
- K-12 programs will encourage global thinking and higher education aspirations. Young people will want to return home and give back to their vital, interesting communities.
- Would be wonderful to be able to expand all the school programs, even in smaller communities. Training programs offered by employers in Pinal County.
- Colleges within reasonable distance for all—four-year colleges with classes galore for seniors, too!
- Education should always be important to community development and, yes, in-county education possibilities.
- Make quality education available and accessible. Improve secondary and pre-secondary education, and establish a strong post-secondary structure. This structure should enable Pinal County residents to stay in the area and establish a new local pool of talent.
- All high school students should have the right to further their education without financial straights putting things to a halt.
- We need more businesses in this area—Kearny—college, trade schools.
- Schools need more programs; some smaller communities aren't given the same opportunity for certain programs that other schools in the county do. More variety of degrees offered at colleges in the county.
- Often strong unions with their equal pay/equal work policies prevent rotating shift workers for pursuing additional education at the facilities we do have.
- Continued growth of our community college system. Sat. campus(s), well-funded vocational programs
- They are about an hour away.
- Vo-tech schools, community center, lifelong learning. Must challenge the world (?) economy, per the book, "The World is Flat," by Friedman.
- Community college partnering with major universities making a higher level of education more accessible

- Schools and colleges
- Working partnerships with business, organizations, and the schools in identifying career opportunities and maintaining a viable workforce. Outcome would be attraction of workforce to communities and interest in living in the communities.
- Has a good solid local public school and community college (Central Arizona College) just a few minutes away
- More community colleges
- Adequate with sufficient funding for one and _____
- As growth continues, so must areas of higher education and healthcare.
- Education needs to be given more consideration.
- We used to have (less than 10 years ago) one of the best schools in the state and shouldn't have to have dinners, so the kids don't have to pay for meals when going on athletic or band _____.

Mobility and Connectivity

- More water troughs for the horses. I don't know, but I really don't like buses.
- At present, a major problem—narrow and vertically challenged roads, lack of maintenance—yet s_____ the almost unique beauty of our area might be lost if roadways are improved.
- We have a railway—why not make use of it? Also, for short-term, consider Park 'n Rides and carpool locations.
- Very much needs to be more than just new highways. Buses, trains, light rail should all be utilized. Highways are needed and should be planned for future growth instead of playing catch up.
- Better roads in and out of our Kearny community. An alternative.
- Transportation can stagnate growth, whether commercial business or new housing.
- Public transportation to the cities will be available, affordable, and convenient.
- Good roads throughout the county, a good freeway system like Maricopa County/Phoenix metro area. Not like Tucson metro area, which is behind. Expand roads to parkways and connect all of the county.
- Transportation to medical facilities made easier: better roads, public transportation.
- Give the rural roads a fair shake in funds for building roads, etc., rather than being taken by the more influential areas surrounding metro Phoenix. Build a decent Florence Kelvin Highway, i.e., we need it.
- Establish a feasible open transportation and transit network. This network should make all 5,000 square miles easily accessible and include different modes of transportation.
- Transportation methods must improve to alleviate the traffic jams we now have and the time factor in getting there.
- The corridor from Route 60 (near Ellsworth) to Florence Junction, then between Florence and Coolidge should be completed. Kelvin-Florence Road also.
- Roads need to meet community demands and future growth. Corridors need to be planned where necessary. Light rail, more commuter transit.
- Better roads (without bypassing our communities), commuter rail (existing lines), improved telecommunications.
- I never saw a road that reduced congestion for more than three days.
- Rail high speed and intercity connecting/scenic rail. Various people movers.

- Healthcare and ranching?
- Buses, light rail, trains, bike paths, etc. Necessary shopping close to house (walk)
- Develop roads and means of transportation for easy access to employment. Also for commuters into our communities, plus opportunity to provide necessities to residents.
- Point of contention—somewhat isolates, and on the outer edge of the county
- Too spread out—how?
- Adequate
- Highways will be inadequate as growth continues.
- To maintain reasonable access to hospitals and shopping areas
- Well, I don't exactly know what you mean by this, except to be able to go to other of our Pinal County towns to get to a doctor or shop.

Environmental Stewardship

- Never take more than you need. Don't be too fast to zone out farms and ranches for houses. Think twice before selling BLM land, State Trust land, etc.
- Either sparse and limp or overwhelming at present. Can be and will be useable universally. Varied uses.
- We must not waste our environment; because once it's gone, we can't get it back. The plan for land use and water use to support our growth without killing our wildlife.
- Needs to be done in a way that doesn't change with each change of administration or at each election. Curbside recycling.
- Enforce already in place, the laws for littering; dumping in the desert is outlawed.
- Maintain the beautiful river valley.
- Is it possible for Pinal County to enact a bottle deposit law similar to Michigan's or Oregon's?
- Recycling will be a natural part of living, or curbside pickup will be in place. Pinal County could be a national leader in solar development.
- Enough water to support growth. Preserving open spaces comes into play. In Kearny, we see the stars, but also see the lights of Phoenix. Preserving this will be the difficult part.
- We plan on water being plentiful—good water shedding principles—less garbage.
- Very important. "Think Green." Very few developers really do think "Think Green" on a long-term basis. We need to do that.
- What Kearny needs is recognition by the County. Pinal County, Kearny is over here! Also, a drivable hard-top road, Kelvin to Florence. Also, complete medical facility.
- Work with various agencies to preserve and protect environmental issues. This should include the smart use of natural resources, replenishment, and revitalization of resources, and a plan to enable citizens to take responsibility along with government agencies.
- If people like small communities with their open environment, then this has to be a major consideration for future planning.
- This is one of the most important. We need road (rail?) service, health services, home health, bedroom community.
- Preservation of wildlife habitat and nature trails. Conservation of water and our county parks. Water planning to support Pinal County's growth and development OHV trails and hiking trails.
- Ensure that water is kept in good quality.

- Do not exceed our water capacity!
- The farther people get from their connection to the land for their livelihood, the less they understand about environmental stewardship.
- Code enforcement. Broken window philosophy as form of enforcement.
- Those who do it best are those whose livelihood depends on the land.
- Take control from corporations.
- Maintain the beautiful environment—mountains, wildlife, clean air, starry nights. If achieved, even growth would be a positive effect on the communities.
- Green, pretty town for those who like small communities.
- Parks and wilderness areas—preserved! Health services, entertainment.
- What steps do we need to take regarding adequate and clean water and air?
- A reasonable amount of consideration needs to be given to our environment.
- We all love to go out and smell the fresh air, but we need to see that the mines and other factory places are environmentally clean.