

Report for Leelanau County

Describe the process. How did the process go? Who was involved? What did you learn?

The issue identification process for Leelanau County occurred on March 16 & 23, 2006 with 13 citizens representative of the community and 4 staff. The first evening the process for both sessions was explained. During the evening, we viewed the four segments of the Strengthening Michigan's Economy CD and then after each segment the participants identified issues in a small group format which were later shared with all of the participants. A take home worksheet and the Leelanau County Profiles handout were given out at the end of the session. On March 23, we reconvened and handed out a consolidated list by topic area for all the issues that surfaced during the first session. The participants were then divided up into 3 groups with a staff member in each group for recording. Group 1 dealt with issues in Family, Youth and Health. Group 2 dealt with issues in Community and Economy. Group 3 dealt with issues in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Water and Land Use. Each group then identified and drafted issues of interest which were posted around the room and shared by all. At the close of the evening, all participants were given sticky dots to prioritize the issues, resulting in the 13 top issues listed later in this report.

Describe broad priority community issues and opportunities identified?

The broad areas of issues very closely followed the major programmatic areas that the Leelanau County MSUE office programs in. These areas are supported by staff, research and funding from the county, the community, MSUE and MAES. These areas are: 1. Community/Economic Development/Land Use, with a strong emphasis on Government Cooperation, Broadband/High Speed Internet, Quality Employment, and Smart Growth/Planning. 2. Agriculture and Natural Resources, with a strong emphasis on Value-Added Agriculture, Farmland Preservation, Water Quality. 3. Family Consumer Science with a strong emphasis on Quality and Affordable Day Care, Health Care Coverage, Substance Abuse, Emergency Preparedness. 4. Youth and Volunteer Development, with a strong emphasis on Declining School Enrollment, and After-School Activities.

Were any research needs identified during the process? If yes, please describe.

Three research needs were identified: 1. A Government Economic Impact Study on Governmental Cooperation. 2. Regional Based Zoning Models. 3. Development of Better Day Care Standards for Licensing. More research needs will likely be identified as work on the various issues proceed.

How many specific programmatic goals has MSUE set in your county to work on in the future?

Goal 1

State Goal:

Address the lack of governmental cooperation by doing an Economic Impact study on what it costs for what is provided by local government units. The Economic Impact Study would be the basis for driving reform like cost sharing of services rather than each unit providing capacity to do doing various services separately.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

New

Describe expected change and outcome.

Do planning on a Regional Basis providing opportunities for sharing of services and reduction of cost of community services while providing the services and quality of life the community desires.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

The lists of individuals, groups, organizations, agencies and partners to address this issue needs to be developed yet.

Goal 2

State Goal:

Achieve Smart Growth and Land Use Planning by doing planning and zoning on a regional basis so that multiple planning and zoning jurisdictions do not stymie smart growth and that the type of development people want gets provided.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing

Describe expected change and outcome.

Planning and zoning on a regional basis to achieve smart growth.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

The lists of individuals, groups, organizations, agencies and partners to address this issue needs to be developed yet.

Goal 3

State Goal:

Provide adequate funding for the county schools beyond our problem of declining school enrollment by seeking statewide equity from the State Legislature so that the county schools can have a positive impact on kids, families, communities and the local economy.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

New for MSUE, ongoing for the schools

Describe expected change and outcome.

A modification in the method of funding schools so smaller rural communities get adequate funding to educate our youth for the jobs and challenges of the future.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

The lists of individuals, groups, organizations, agencies and partners to address this issue needs to be developed yet.

Goal 4

State Goal:

Identify and assist the implementation of high value-added products and ventures for agricultural producers and producer groups thereby improving the economy of Leelanau County.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing.

Describe expected change and outcome.

That more ag producers and producer groups will embark in the development and achievement of value-added products and ventures to improve the profitability of agriculture in Leelanau County.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

MSU Extension , MSU Product Center, MSU Product Center Ag Innovator Counselors, Small Business Technology and Development Centers, Northern Lakes Economics Alliance, Michigan Land Use Institute, C S Mott group on campus, Northwest Michigan College, Fresh Food Partnership and other partners interested in this goal.

Goal 5

State Goal:

Provide public funding for Farmland Preservation in Leelanau County to preserve farmland, help make farming sustainable and transferable to the next generation, preserve and grow the ag economy and tourism/ag tourism while keeping the county's scenic beauty and natural character.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing

Describe expected change and outcome.

Adequate funding for Farmland Preservation to enable all farms to voluntary enroll that are interested, with a goal of reaching 10,000 acres in 10 years.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

MSU Extension, Farmers, Leelanau Farmland Preservation Board, Leelanau Conservancy, Save the Leelanau Farmland citizen groups, local government and other interested groups and individuals.

Goal 6

State Goal:

Protect our water quality and avoid contamination of groundwater and surface water so that the County has a healthy environment and it's water assets can have a positive affect on it's economy.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing

Describe expected change and outcome.

To maintain and improve the county's water quality.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

Leelanau Conservancy, Groundwater Stewardship program, Soil Conservation District, MSU Extension, MDEQ, citizens, farmers, local government.

Goal 7

State Goal:

Seek more quality knowledge based employment opportunities for existing/new county residents and develop supportive planning and zoning to attract businesses that fit.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

New

Describe expected change and outcome.

New knowledge based and value-added product/venture jobs that are year around with good wages along with more tourism and ag tourism businesses with good job paying opportunities.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

County Economic Development Council, MSU Extension, Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Technology and Development Centers, MSU Product Center, Entrepreneurs, Local Government, Grand Traverse Band and other interested parties.

Goal 8

State Goal:

Provide Regional Broadband High Speed Internet for county residents, businesses and local government.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

New

Describe expected change and outcome.

The availability of broadband high speed internet in the county would have a positive impact on current businesses, schools, local governments, residents and could be a major element in attracting new knowledge based businesses and jobs.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

Leelanau EDC, Regional EDCs, Local governments, State, NW Michigan College, Chambers of Commerce, local satellite and cable companies and other interested parties. Perhaps MSUE to facilitate.

Goal 9

State Goal:

Provide Quality and Affordable Daycare for young families. Develop better standards for licensing daycares.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing and New

Describe expected change and outcome.

Quality and affordable daycare will result in safe, ready for school children as well as more connected families, better parenting, and stronger social networks. It positively affects young families, schools and communities.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council and many of its partners, MSUE, local governments, Grand Traverse Band, schools, families, and other agencies.

Goal 10

State Goal:

Provide more After-School Activity opportunities like jobs, service, sports and music for kids impacting kids, parents, businesses and communities.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing and new

Describe expected change and outcome.

With After-School Activities, kids would be more connected to their communities, have improved pro-school behavior, learn new skills and communities would be safer.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

Schools, MSUE, Leelanau Family Coordinating Council partners, local governments, parks and recreation departments, county planning, chamber of commerce, sports groups and other to be determined parties.

Goal 11

State Goal:

Provide Adequate Health Care Coverage for families and individuals in the county without burdening businesses and causing high prices for products.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing and new.

Describe expected change and outcome.

Improve the health care coverage for all, including the working poor, the uninsured and the under insured by providing a uniform universal health insurance/health care coverage. This is crucial for families and the economy.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

The lists of individuals, groups, organizations, agencies and partners to address this issue needs to be developed yet.

Goal 12

State Goal:

To Reduce Substance Abuse in the county and positively affect kids, families, businesses, schools, and worker productivity.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing

Describe expected change and outcome.

Reduced substance abuse will lead to less crime, less absenteeism, increased involvement/participation in school, improved worker productivity, less people in jail, less community services and cost, more productive citizens.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

Courts, schools, chambers of commerce, churches, AA, Prosecuting Attorneys, County

Sheriff, local governments, Leelanau Family Coordinating Council and partners and others to be identified.

Goal 13

State Goal:

To lessen the impact of emergencies or disasters beyond the immediate damage by having a multi-level preparedness plan to improve security and safety for families and communities.

Indicate whether the goal is new, modified, or current.

Ongoing and new

Describe expected change and outcome.

Development of a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan that will improve security and safety for families and county residents beyond the immediate damage in the event of an emergency or disaster. i.e. dealing with communications, water and food supplies in the home, evacuation/emergency plans that are understood by families, plans to use all available resources with or without communication, electricity, water etc.

Who will provide leadership for this goal?

County Emergency Services Coordinator, County Administrator, County Safety Committee, Family Coordinating Council and it's partners and others to be determined.