Food, Land and Water Project
Future of Working Lands Workgroup

Draft Agenda for November 10, 2016 Meeting
Hotel Mead – Wisconsin Rapids

8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast and Conversation

9:00 AM: Plenary Session With Other Workgroups (Jim VandenBrook)
  • Welcome
  • Progress Report
  • Today’s Plan and Next Steps

9:30 AM: Workgroup (Morning Session)
9:30 AM: Getting Started (Facilitator and Co-Chairs)
  • Welcome
  • Introduce New Members
  • Attendance Check
  • Approve Minutes of August 23 Meeting
  • Facilitator and Co-Chair Comments (reflections on last meeting, hopes for this meeting)
  • Plan for this Meeting

10:00 AM: Background Information (Expert Presentation and Discussion)
  • Farmland Trends and Farmland Preservation Program (Alison Volk, DATCP).
    60-minute presentation plus 15-minute Q&A.
  • Can the Farmland Preservation program achieve sustainability goals?

11:45 AM: LUNCH and informal conversation (with other workgroups)

12:45 PM: Workgroup (Afternoon Session)
  • Continue to address questions from workgroup charter (attached). Key task for this meeting is to identify our “bottom-line” working lands preservation and sustainability goals.
  • What progress can our Workgroup report to the Steering Committee at its next meeting?
  • What can our Workgroup reasonably hope to achieve over the course of this project (2 more meetings)? What should be our primary focus?

3:00 PM: ADJOURN

NOTE: Breaks may be scheduled at the discretion of the Workgroup
Questions from Workgroup Charter

- What are the key trends affecting Wisconsin’s “working lands?”
  - Total land in agriculture and forest use
  - Conversion of land to other uses
  - Changing ownership patterns
  - Form and intensity of use
  - Population, housing, development and infrastructure trends
  - Areas heavily affected by land use changes and development

- What are the key Impacts?
  - Agriculture, forestry, recreation and tourism
  - Environment
  - Local government

- Do current trends lead to a sustainable future? How do we define sustainable?
- What are our “working lands” preservation goals, if any?
- What, if anything, are we doing to achieve our goals?
- Are we making progress toward our goals? If not, why not?
- If progress is inadequate, what would it take to achieve our goals? Are incentives adequate?
- What are the trade-offs?
- Where do we go from here?