

1994

KEN'S BASICALLY UNEDITED NOTES FROM THE 8/15 FUTURE VISION MEETING.

Attending: Chair Freiser, McLain, Textor, Lynch, Lei, Stewart, Stevens, Magnano (no quorum). (These are notes, not complete, not minutes. **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**)
Others in attendance: Seltzer, Shaw, Bolen, Gervais

Ethan had Ken review a request from previous meeting prepared from Robt. Liberty's notes. Copy circulated among those present. Ken also related an earlier telephone conversation from Robert saying he could not attend but related four areas for consideration re: implementation. They are 1) bringing Clark County voters into Metro by interstate compact, 2) widening to include a regional advisory committee for 9 counties (probably outside of MPAC, which is Charter defined), 3) tax base sharing or some other real discussion of a regional approach to the costs of growth and 4) a greater role for Metro in regional facilities planning.

Textor on no incentives for locating business here, we offer livability exclusively
Lynch frame in terms of sharing opportunities and burdens

Textor reasons for not giving tax breaks: equity, government picking winners, favoring suburbs over central cities

Stevens Houck and Robt were trying to get to an alternative def. of carrying capacity that relates more to the region, eg. relationship of natural system carrying capacity to urbanization

Ethan right, that is what Wim says - key is what are we willing to do about the trade offs?

Stevens asking about background material on landscape ecology

Ethan it is a whole, inseparable parts which we don't fully understand, but are moving toward. Noting appendix of Wim's paper showing Benchmarks, but not inter-relating elements

Chair with unlimited \$ and commitment can we manage growth?

Lei yes, for example Hong Kong

Textor carrying capacity + sustainability are each continuums, build in some statement about crowding

Lynch 2 problems w/carrying capacity : what is position re funding and what are people willing to accept? eg where we get our water etc?

Lei discusses Wim's paper, ref. tables in the back in trying to consolidate ideas, proposes to go through each table, value is in the process, will not indicate the effect of one or half a million more people.

Ethan using Wim's last matrix how are we doing for today's population, what about another 1.5 million people?

McLain need to have specificity in local terms, talk about links which Benchmarks aren't able to explain relationships between terms, then move to tables

Ethan begin with environmental elements then go to social, and work way up

Lei nothing is impossible

Lynch these statements are so important because they are the point at which we will or will not get local govts. to actually do things or make change happen

Lei agreeing with 3/4 of Robert's implementation points, raising doubt only about tax base sharing.

Chair passing out one page on Metro lobbyist in Washington, DC , because of Metro's unique nature in line for money, also describing regional intern program.

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McLain continuous presence in Washington.

Ethan on who we should talk to, eg. 9 counties? Wim says purpose is dialogue,

Chair asking is carrying capacity a euphemism for slowing growth?

Ethan No

McLain Metro critics who say we have not had the conversation and we need to

Ethan we have 6 levels, ask how we are doing on each, and what would happen w/ more people

Lynch possible for next session to put together the beginning of this discussion,

Ethan where are we?

Lynch think we are all on the same wavelength

Stevens put in things which will give direction to the framework plan so we maximize our influence on the RFP

Lei can't make this happen unless there is a bigger area for consideration

Ethan what should RFP say about carrying capacity?

Magnano what is kicker for policy makers for any of these policies? eg parks cost big bucks, is it enough to say what we would like without talking about paying for it?

Stevens hold boundaries may conflict with costs of greenspace acquisitions, would it make sense to let boundary increase more and extract some greenspaces in the process

Lynch pointing out that green belts are not recreation areas or openspace as such

Magnano both active and open space costs. land costs are related to how many minutes they are away, ccosts are skyrocketing, how do we pay for it?

Ethan it is not our job to say how to finance specifics, but to set guidelines such as not passing costs on to next generations,

Magnano point out the costs of doing nothing

(break in notes)

Lynch should we have another category for public finance, cost now later, who pays?

Ethan one of the most difficult things to communicate is time and money over time.

Future Vision has a real role in helping to create a broad base of understanding about costs.

Like Bob says we need to talk about cultural perspectives.

McLain need the moral imperative to move ahead

Lei Wim has this in level 2, use 1940s view of the waterfront to illustrate how much change can take place

Textor it is important to create a moral climate for futurism eg future interns (Len's idea)

one for each city in the region, advance the kind of monitoring we have talked about

Chair on being concerned about others, interns take our view back to their own places

McLain we need to show that if you don't do these things, this will happen

Ethan we will put together a summary document saying how the commission will use the term "carrying capacity" then examine the draft to see how it is doing

McLain restates what Ethan said (check tape on this point)

Stevens asking if work could be done in committees?

Ethan Lets work together as a whole for awhile, urging thinking about what should go into their own tabloid

Lynch Robts. list also includes governance questions

Ethan who should be involved in this discussion?

McLain before the tabloid we need to have a discussion, then go to MPAC, tax study committee and other groups, go in draft form

Ethan next couple of weeks, 22nd & 29th, skip labor day

Discussion of Council schedule for 2040 decision Sept 22 to December 8

Ethan this commission is establishing the terms for the discussion

McLain on working rural reserves

Textor on inviting Bill Boyer for next meeting. he might try to push us further than we would want to go, but that might help us clarify our positions

Lynch question on putting him into the mix might cause problems with others

Textor others have not given us detailed critiques as Boyer has

Ethan concern that carrying capacity disc is just beginning and commission needs to get its position clarified, is Wim's paper the basis for our discussion?

Textor suggesting decision be left to staff

Lynch concern about breaking the momentum

Chair invite him like we have others, not joining the 18

Magnano on how we are relating to the public?

Lynch transmit June 14 draft to all candidates for Metro along with cover letter from Len, stating how FV fits in and how we are proceeding. [This was agreed to and is done.]

Textor Have any MPAC or JPACT members sent in any comments?

Ken none

Lynch some of the elected officials have asked about how FVC is getting public input

There was a discussion of public outreach vis a vis the budget and of replacement members.

On the latter subject Ken reported that MPAC had nominated two, that staff was preparing a letter to them from Gussie McRobert. Len Freiser to contact these individuals. Susan McLain contacting other non-participants.

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8/22/94 Future Vision Commission
notes form discussion

Present: Chair Freiser, Lynch, McDonald, Davis, Houck, Spence, Schlenker, Lei, Magnano.

Others present: Patricia McCaig, Ethan Seltzer, Ken Gervais, Larry Shaw and Glen Bolen.

In the absence of a quorum discussion began @1625

Ethan on progress and the fact that the Charter says "shall" adopt FV. New council will need the draft and the involvement of the FVC. Use of Wim's\ paper as a framework. Attendance suggests we should not meet every week. Not a bad thing to spend time reading, let staff accumulate data.

Spence What do we still need to do other than carrying capacity?
Davis Governance

Ethan The commission really needs to agree on def. Look at punch list. FVC will be ongoing and another one in 2009.

Lynch Asking whether members would read and work between meetings? Chair Freiser, hard to get attendance in August.

Meeting in order w/ Quorum at 1630

Houck on importance of water resources and need for staff to be here for discussions. Issues are complex. Staff and FVC need to all work on this.

General disc. on next meeting.

Davis would be nice to work in small groups to discuss Wim's work.

Ethan on his Memo on schedule and work.

Lynch Suggesting the need for a side paper on how the issues of carrying capacity were dealt with by the FVC? To go with the vision to explain how the FVC dealt with the question.

Ken said that he had been assuming there would be a cover letter or some such to go with the Vision explaining such things for the Council.

Lynch On the need to also explain to more\interested public.

Houck Raising example of Tualatin R., public perception of what is acceptable. We are retro fitting landscapes.

Lei We are doing things now that we would not have done ten years ago. On Wim's paper, ten to twenty yrs. from now it will serve as a structure for evaluating our work. It will be the baseline.

Ethan opportunity to define what the Chtr. committee meant in its charge to the Commission. We need a series of findings 1) we exceeded it a long time ago, e.g. how many people can be supported by the food supply, riparian resource, and air standards

Lynch it can be more simple than that. Make it understandable to the public. How do we explain that it is not a #? Just say how

we have exceeded or not.

Ethan you will be challenged to explain why we can't set a number.

Magnano We are supposed to be visionary, but a practical govt. question is "at what point do you apply pressure?" Limit permits, eg of Santa Clara Co Valley, where people could not believe they could handle several times as many people. They did survive, we still look pretty good to them now. At what point is growth unacceptable? How does it get enforced?

Chr Carrying capacity is a way of looking at things, not a number. Wim is saying carrying capacity is a way of looking at things.

Magnano Agreeing, but it will eventually get to #.

CHR its not a real #, it does not become an effective concept as a number.

Magnano How do you make it stick?

Ethan Opportunity lies in the discussion so that when something goes wrong you have something to fall back on. eg Clark county has the authority to impose a moratorium. The purpose of carrying capacity is to have something to fall back on, to let you know when something is wrong and what to do about it.

Houck We have exceeded our carrying capacity. Nike is today bulldozing to the edge of Cedar Mill creek, a tributary of the Tualatin. We have to have some way to stop this type of behavior. We need to describe what the Beaver creek watershed should look like in 50 years. Don't care how it gets done. There are limits as to how much the watersheds can take.

Ethan Let's finish walking through the memo.

Spence Some of the limits get pretty finite. What standards do we have?

Ethan What are we going to do when you find out something is going wrong?

Schlenker On importance of cc. At this time there are no criteria other than zoning and codes, no criteria for how decisions should get made, what are our needs for the future and what are the sustainable rates we can maintain. Our moratorium is limited to three months, if we could use all of these criteria it might be more systematic.

Ethan continuing with his paper and 3 conclusions; air, transportation and energy. You can overload any system, it's just a matter of when it fails. Limiting factor air, system transportation, and resource energy.

Houck this is too narrow in terms of constraints

Ethan vision is structured close to where Wim is going. Need to agree on definition. Have a 3 step disc. How we are doing now? What if the vision was to come to pass? look back at vision, what more do we need to add? What you are going to keep track of and what should be done about it? If you want to use Wim's paper as a basis you need to agree on the concept as a discourse. How are we doing right now?

Davis talk about holding the urban growth boundary.

Ethan End up with something which does have specific instructions for elements of the regional framework plan.

Houck this provides a lot of flexibility to come up with strategies for achieving goals

Ethan, show the link between cc and whatever Metro is doing. Make a strong link here.

Lei now we are talking outcomes, relate to normal lives, things people do every day.

Chair Is it possible to have an optimum cc and still accommodate many more people?

Houck, better development can handle more people.

Magnano we can take a pessimistic view or an optimistic future vision and say "this is how it plays out."

Houck, If you look at the systems, some are degraded, some are better, biotic systems are mostly worse off. What is life going to be like with all those people.. some values can be better, most have gotten worse, we might be able to improve water quality. we can accommodate many more people, but we have to do it differently. Maybe we don't say how to do it, just do it.

Schlenker, There is as free for all out there. What is the process here?, would sub committees make sense for the three tasks?

Lynch how can we get the work done?

Chr. we can have more people if we do the right thing cc as a discourse, for man in street cc is #, aren't we talking about qualities here?

Ethan Absolutely, long term and global there are #s,

Freiser On qualities rather than # need to get away from #

Ethan on charter, danger of getting into meanings can population be used in terms of air, land, water, \ Wim is saying you can accommodate anything, but what are you willing to accept? What is accepted is a social factor.

Lynch also culturally determined by the mental feeling about the # of people you want to live near you, how you do business.

Ethan need to be careful to separate quality and #. can we have more people, of course, how would we live? Can some qualities be better, perhaps.. This is the key how do we know the path we have chosen is leading us in the right direction?

Spence easier to define environmental cap than affordable housing, densities. jobs, mobility etc.

Schlenker that is the kind of dialog we need to have. This has never happened.

Houck this may be a task we need to push on other folks, there are instances of where the data would answer some of these questions. Joe Patrick has been testing Willamette for 20 yrs. knows trends, where all rookeries are.

Ethan In your vision statement you say you want increased biodiversity, so how do you keep track of it? what is baseline and what do you do when it isn't doing what you want. You have the ability to define what goes into this region. Wim gives you the beginning (6 categories). Who makes determination, how, and what happens when it doesn't work?

Davis Wim too narrow on institutional constraints need to look at

performance, interrelationships etc.

Lei We have broadened Wim's definitions

Ethan You have anticipated Wim in your draft. You talk about annual review process, lots of the pieces are here.

Lynch The key to this definition is the discourse. Ten years ago people were not even talking about holding UGB. It must be an ongoing discourse.

Ethan Ten years ago there could have not been a Region 20240 because there was not a consciousness of the region for the Region 2040 study.

Lei How does one come up with a process for 50 years, people like things they see. Wim's categories are not definitive, we may disagree, but the framework is there.

Ethan Let's start with environmental and biological elements and look at where we are today. What is valuable about this region. There is a culture that goes with this place.

Houck a group of restorationists have prepared a play, "Queen Salmon" call fast tick. Re. Peggy's comments that environmental parameters seem easier to get a grasp on, but they are very difficult to pin down, eg after 10 meetings still talking about what water temperature is, it is clear that physical is just as hard to agree on as social. They are both problematic.

Lynch What is the acceptable #?

Ethan Leads group through a discussion of the region today as we know it. (See Ethan's list for this discussion on the environmental and biological aspects of water.)

Davis at board capacity today rfp
Environmental

Water

Air

Land

Lynch we need to defend our conclusion that carrying capacity is a discourse.

Ethan Yes, the commission needs to be comfortable with this decision.

July 11, 1994 minutes approved as presented.

When to meet again? After some discussion it was agreed to meet next week. Ethan we will send out something for members to be working on.

Lynch bring chart and we will work on it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

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