

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

After the experience of the moderated case, "Land Use Decisions: Public Goals and Private Rights," participants selected one of four discussion groups designed to address a spectrum of land use decision making from the owner's perspective and the public perspective. Each session was lead by experts in the area of focus. Each leader had prepared a summary of the current initiatives in these areas which was included in the registration packet. Leaders were asked to summarize the status of the initiatives they were discussing, look at the applicability to the case at hand and the larger issues of sprawl, and work with the group to identify next steps to move the agenda forward.

Land Conservation Tools: Leaders

Rich Cochran, Executive Director
Chagrin River Land Conservancy

Mary Kelsey, Conservation Planning Assistance Coordinator
Countryside Program of the Western Reserve R C & D Council

Ideas for next steps:

- Continue the exploration/implementation of a regional or statewide network of land conservancies
- Explore web-based tools for education of landowners, public officials, and citizens around conservation tools and options
- Develop university and school based programs
- Provide massive public funding to support land conservation

Small Scale Farm Viability and Local Foods: Leaders

Amalie Lipstreu, Program Coordinator
Center for Farmland Preservation in Northeast Ohio

Kari Moore, Program Director
Northeast Ohio Foodshed Network

Ideas for next steps:

- Create a regional database for local food consumption
- Educate farmers and community leaders about the opportunities for creating local food markets
- Issue a "buy local foods" challenge
- Create a regional food marketing and brand strategy

Balanced Growth and Conservation Development: Leaders

Pat Carey, Northeast Ohio Director
Greater Ohio

Kirby Date, Coordinator
The Countryside Program

Ideas for next steps:

- Use NPDES requirements as vehicle for education and implementation of tools
- Partner with public education interests to change lottery formula
- Build coalitions to lobby for legislation
- Create a clearinghouse of information for state, county, and township
- Organize a council of exurban governments to provide a more effective voice for rural communities

Local and Regional Planning: Leader

Lynne Erickson, Director
Portage County Regional Planning Commission

Ideas for next steps:

- Non-profits should drive forums to establish a regional vision and facilitate networking
- Demonstrate the economies of providing regional services
- Lobby to revise tax codes, especially reduce the property tax demand to fund public schools