

Date of Report: July, 1 1998 (AMENDED)

LCMR Work Program Update

I. Project Title and Project Number: Blufflands  
Landscape C16

Project Manager: Larry Gates

Agency Affiliation: DNR

Mail Address: 2300 Silver Creek Road NE  
Rochester, MN 55906

Phone: (507)280-5065

FAX: (507) 285-7144

A. Legal Citation: ML 95, Ch. 220, Sec. 19, Subd.  
5(d) Legal Citation for extension: ML 97, Ch. 216,  
Sec. 15, Subd. 26(a) The availability of the  
appropriations for the above project is extended to  
June 30, 1998.

Total Biennial LCMR appropriation: \$630,000  
Balance: \$0 (AMENDED)

\*Balance ending June, 30 1998\*

\*Ten percent advance for Historic Bluff Country and  
Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership has not been  
reflected in these numbers and will be deducted  
from the last billing.\*

Appropriation Language:

\$450,000 of this appropriation is from the trust  
fund and \$180,000 is from the future resources fund  
to the commissioner of natural resources to assist  
communities in developing a management framework  
for the scenic and biological resources of the  
Mississippi valley blufflands landscape and to  
foster integrated decisions and citizen commitment

to long-term resource protection. \$304,000 is for  
a cooperative agreement with Architectural  
Environments; at least 40,000 of this amount must  
be used for demonstration and implementation  
activities. \$236,000 is for a cooperative agreement  
with Historic Bluff Country. \$90,000 is for  
expenses within the department of natural  
resources. This appropriation must be matched by at  
least \$50,000 of non-state money.

Advance Money:

Advance money in the amount of 10% of the project  
budgets for Architectural Environments and Historic  
Bluff Country was approved by the LCMR on June 7,  
1995. These funds were approved to help defray  
initial project costs and ongoing carrying costs  
throughout the duration of the project due to the  
lag time between services rendered and payments  
received for such services. These funds will be  
available for use immediately upon approval of this  
revised Work Program dated July 13, 1995. The  
breakdown of these funds is as follows:

Historic Bluff Country: \$23,600 [10% X  
\$236,000 allocated project amount]  
Architectural Environments: \$26,400 [10% X  
\$264,000 (which is the \$304,000 allocated  
project amount less the \$40,000 amount for  
demonstration and implementation activities)]

B. Status of Match Requirement:

Match Required: \$50,000

Amount Committed to Date: \$50,000

Match Spent to Date: \$12,849.33

## II. Project Summary:

The blufflands in southeastern Minnesota are located in the Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore, and Olmsted Counties. This landscape is especially rich in natural, scenic, cultural, historical, and biological resources. (NOTE: Whenever the word "resources" appears in this work program, it means: natural, scenic, cultural, historical, and biological resources.) However, these resources are becoming increasingly threatened by population growth and development. The DNR's Blufflands Initiative has been successful in heightening public awareness about the uniqueness of the bluffland resources and the need to protect them.

Nevertheless, the public is also aware of the need to sustain the regional economy, including agriculture, tourism, forestry, manufacturing, and small town vitality.

Three similar yet unique approaches will be used to address the problem of how to reconcile the apparently conflicting goals of resource preservation and sustainable economic growth and development.

Historic Bluff Country (HBC) will work in Houston and Fillmore Counties, while the Winona/LaCrescent (WIN) group will work in Winona County, and LaCrescent and Hokah Townships in Houston County. The DNR's Blufflands Coordinator will provide resource information to the two groups and continue to build on the partnerships, information sharing, and discussions with citizens and local elected officials in all six bluffland counties.

Each group will have a slightly different approach, which is outlined in further detail in

this work program, but our common approach will be to:

1. Raise awareness of citizens and local government decision makers about bluffland resources and the trends that may impact those resources.
2. Provide opportunities to citizens and local decision makers through open public processes such as focus groups and town meetings to develop a common vision for the future of their community.
3. Develop innovative action plans with communities that protect valued resources, sustain local economies, and assist them in carrying out their community vision.

## III. Six Month Work Program Update Summary:

### HBC:

In the past five months the Historic Bluff Country project has: (1) recruited and organized a 23 member Steering Committee comprised of residents from Fillmore and Houston Counties, (2) held public information sessions so people can learn about the project, (3) gathered information about the types of past and current planning and resource protection activities done in the two counties, (4) developed maps and other tools which will enable the Steering Committee to better understand the scope of the project and to explain the project to the general public.

In addition, the Steering Committee with consultant assistance has developed and fine tuned the small group process which will involve 160-200 people

between January 15 and April 15. The process for recruiting participants in these small groups is well underway.

A priority activity of the project has been to inform key groups and individuals about the project, to provide ongoing information about the project to local media, to network with governmental and non-profit agencies in a position to further the objectives of the project, and generally to build awareness about the project within the two county region. Representatives of the project have periodically attended joint meetings with the DNR Blufflands Coordinator and the Winona/La Crescent Partnership to update each other on progress made to date.

January, 1 1997

,During the past six months, HBC completed a phone survey of 300 residents of Fillmore/Houston Counties, conducted two public forums, participated in the "Pathways to the Future" Conference in partnership with WIN/DNR, produced a series of line drawings which illustrated 4 scenarios of the impacts of non-farm housing growth upon the landscape, conducted a workshop with county and local planning staff (October 28) to study the 4 scenarios, and organized the Steering Committee into 4 study groups which will prepare the project's final recommendations. In addition, HBC visited 18 city councils for the purpose of determining the degree of local interest in hosting small town forums to discuss local development pressures.

The project continues to make progress toward meeting project objectives in spite of continued strong opposition on the part of a minority of Steering Committee members, plus opposition from some segments of the general public.

July 1, 1997

As of July 1 all work has been completed on all B1 and B2 products. Work remaining to be completed are the two C1 products which will be completed by no later than August 1, 97.

DNR:

In the last five months the Blufflands Coordinator has spent time developing, reestablishing and maintaining ongoing relationships with various local government representatives in each of the six counties included in the blufflands area. The Blufflands Coordinator has made contacts in each of the six counties and has offered assistance to the individual communities based on their needs. Through these contacts and subsequent conversations the Blufflands Coordinator has been able to bring natural resource information to these local government representatives and offer them technical assistance.

The Blufflands Coordinator has also spent time updating existing slide shows. These updated slide shows have been presented to various citizen groups. These presentations have been used as an opportunity to build relationships with individual citizens.

The Blufflands Coordinator has spent time meeting

with representatives from various government agencies. In addition to these meetings the Blufflands Coordinator has researched a number of tools developed by communities throughout the country for environmental protection. This information has been reviewed and summarized and made available as examples for communities in the blufflands area.

July 1, 1996

Over the past six months the Blufflands Coordinator continued to develop relationships with local government representatives and citizens in the six county bluffland region. The Bluffland Coordinator has continued contact with the bluffland counties providing them with natural resource information and technical assistance based on their needs.

The Bluffland Coordinator has also spent time developing further slide shows and presentations depending on the needs of the audience. These presentations have been used as an opportunity to educate and build relationships with individual citizens and local officials.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued contact with various government agencies. In addition to these contacts the Blufflands Coordinator has continued research on a number of existing and new and promising tools developed by communities in this area and others for environmental protection. This information is then made available as examples to areas within the blufflands landscape.

January 1, 1997

The Bluff lands Coordinator has continued to

maintain relationships which were developed over the last year and a-half and has worked on developing new relationships with local government representatives and citizens in the six county bluffland region. These new and existing relationships have provided many opportunities for the Bluff lands Coordinator to provide the bluffland communities and citizens with natural resource information and technical assistance.

As the Bluff lands Coordinator receives requests for information and assistance existing slide shows and presentations have been adjusted accordingly. Once a communities or citizens needs have been determined the appropriate actions are taken, whether it is the Bluff lands Coordinator providing the assistance or determining the appropriate resource specialist to best provide for the needs of the recipient.

The Bluff lands Coordinator has maintained existing relationships and continued to work on building new relationships with various governmental and private agencies. The Blufflands Coordinator has attended various conferences, workshops and seminars to stay abreast of current tools for environmental protection.

July 1, 1997

Opportunities for the Blufflands Coordinator to provide the bluffland communities and citizens with natural resource information and technical assistance as existing relationships are maintained and new relationships develop.

The Bluffland Coordinator continues to receive new request for information and assistance from the local units of government and citizens with which she has work with over the last two years. The

Bluffland Coordinator is also continuing to receive request for information and assistance from an ever growing group of people.

Initial contacts begin with anything from an informal meeting to presenting a slide show developed specifically for each occasion. Once a communities or citizens needs have been determined after the initial contact the appropriate actions are taken and follow-up is continued indefinitely.

The Bluffland Coordinator continues to work on maintaining and building new relationships with various governmental and private agencies. Through out the last six months the Bluffland Coordinator has attended various conferences, workshops and seminars to stay abreast of current tools for environmental protection.

#### July 1998

Over the last twelve months the Bluffland Coordinator has continued to work on maintaining and building relationships with local units of governments and citizens within the six bluffland counties.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to work on and broaden existing projects, creating new projects and following up on completed projects. Existing and growing relationships have continued to provide various opportunities to share natural resource information and provide technical assistance to a variety of governments, agencies and citizens within the bluffland landscape.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to update and build the body of information collected and the tool box developed over the past three years. This information has been gathered through the

participation in various conferences, workshops and seminars focused on environmental protection.

#### Win:

The project kick-off for the Winona County/La Crescent Partnership Group (Win Group) was delayed three weeks because of the need to raise \$25,000 as a matching grant. These funds had originally been promised to the DNR by the US Forest Service but were cut back due to federal budget cuts. The Win Group responded and after a number of weeks attained \$12,500 from the Blufflands Alliance and \$12,500 from the Winona County Board. The project officially began July 21, 1995.

As of July 21, 1995 the Win Group has worked to inform the public of the project and build working relationships with individuals, groups, agencies, and local units of government. Due to the fact that the general public had confused this project with the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Study (which had become very unpopular with local citizens), and suspicions of planning efforts in general, the Win Group has put forth an extra effort to provide a number of open informational meetings throughout the project area. The Win Group has mailed numerous special invitations to local government officials, organizations, and interested individuals, as well as used local media to inform the public of the grassroots / open-nature of the project. The Win Group recruited participants for the Advisory and Steering Committees, and will be working with them during the project term. The Win Group has made themselves available to present the project and need with individuals or groups who have a special interest or concern about the project.

The Win Group has collected relevant land-use



planning, growth management, and resource protection information from the region and other parts of the country. The gathering process included an intensive three week research trip to the state of Vermont to study innovative land-use planning and growth management initiatives from that location. It also included participation in local conferences, viewing videos of lectures and programs, reading materials, and networking with local informational resources. This information will be presented to the project committees and at future public events to develop a greater awareness of the existing conditions affecting blufflands resources, and eventually to explore options for wise land-use planning that reflects the hopes and visions of the local people.

July 1, 1996

As of January 1st, 1996 the Win Group has continued to inform the public and build support for the project with citizen participation and informational presentations and project updates to the general public, interest groups, organizations, and agencies. In order to maintain a grass-roots process and promote a sense of ownership, the Win Group has organized citizen participation in the "Gather and Study Related Information" phase of the project. Initially, the Win Groups intended to conduct citizen participation earlier than anticipated. In response to the interest and enthusiasm of project participants, immediate involvement in the project helped to establish working relationships among people with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

The Win Group has been meeting regularly with the Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee Study Groups, Steering Committee, Blufflands Coordinator, and other local, state, and regional

resource people. Several strategy meetings with resource people have been held to help organize Advisory Committee meetings and Study Group meetings. The Advisory Committee, now consisting of 55 local citizens representing diverse interests, occupations, and geographic locations has convened four times with the Project Coordinators and Cooperators. At this time, eight Study Groups meetings have been conducted which included presentations by the Blufflands Coordinator and resource people. In addition, three Steering Committee meetings have been held, as well as a Bus Tour for the Advisory Committee and members of the public. A public video showing of two videos illustrating differing positions on private property rights was held in May. The public has been invited and encouraged to attend the Advisory Committee and Study Group meetings.

In response to the enthusiasm of the Advisory Committee participants, Study Groups were created as an approach to work with the large number of people. The Study Groups are smaller sub-groups of the Advisory Committee with the mission to study, review, and discuss a particular topic related to the project. The Study Groups have been a successful tool thus far in sharing the information collected and reviewed to the larger Advisory Committee, affiliated groups, and the general public. By having the information processed by smaller groups of the Advisory Committee, and hearing reports from Study Group participants, the project is gaining increased support from the Advisory Committee, local units of government, and the general public.

Currently, the Win Group is actively involved in the second round of three proposed rounds of Study Groups. The three rounds of Study Groups are designed to investigate the issues related to the

project in an order that first builds an understanding of existing conditions and trends affecting the shape of the land, communities, and the way of life in the Blufflands Region, before seeking out approaches and alternatives to help guide growth and land-use in the future. Although, the Advisory Committee is eager to begin examining planning techniques, models for growth management, and design concepts, the initial process of gaining a greater understanding of the Blufflands's story both past and present has revealed some common values and concerns that will assist citizen participation in the upcoming planning forums this fall of 1996. (See A2f for more information about the Study Groups)

In May of 1996, the win Groups organized an Advisory Committee meeting entitled "Looking at Rights." Initially, the Win Group intended to address the issues concerning private property rights in the planning process when reviewing planning tools and techniques for growth management, development, and land-use planning. However, by request of the Advisory Committee for an opportunity to hear the various perspectives on the rights and values of individuals, communities, and future generations with regard to the use of the land this meeting was established. The meeting included a panel of three presenters representing differing positions on the issues of private property rights. In support of private property rights and the takings legislation was Jeff Broberg, a geologist from McGhie and Betts Environmental Services in Rochester. In support of environmental regulations was Larry Classen the General Counsel for the Wisconsin Environmental Decade. Brian Ohm and attorney and assistant professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison represented a "neutral" position on property

rights. The meeting concluded with a discussion on proposed scenarios for land-use regulations which were: 1) Keep things as they are today, 2) eliminate all existing regulations, 3) Create an ongoing and cooperative effort to seek out and implement alternative approaches to growth management and land-use practices that might include a combination of revised land-use regulations, modified growth and planning policies, and incentive programs to promote protection of important Blufflands Resources. Results of the discussion favored scenario 3 with the requirement of scientific analysis, grass-roots process, and planning on a smaller scale. This meeting helped to build greater support for the project, and broaden the awareness of the diverse concerns expressed about individual and community rights and values.

January, 1 1997

As of July 1st, 1996 the Win Group has continued to meet regularly with the Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee Study Groups, and the Steering Committee in effort to continue to gather and study related information. The Win Group has been developing the planning process in which a "Common Vision" will be formulated, and suggested implementation strategies will be identified, and which together, will be documented in a Growth Management Framework Plan. In addition to working with the Advisory Committee, the Win Group has involved local officials and members of planning commissions and boards in the process of exploring alternative planning tools and techniques to address many of the issues identified in the Study Group meetings. Providing the opportunities for local citizens, local officials, and planners to

come together to discuss and share experiences and concerns, has been essential in building a cooperative effort for further investigation of potential tools and strategies for future planning.

The Win Group has continued the process of Study Groups (Please refer to the 12 month Work Program Update for background information on the Study Groups) to collectively research information and identify key issues and trends related to the project area. Over the last six months the Win Group finalized Round 2 Study Groups (consisting of 6 Study Groups with each covering a number of related topics and each meeting multiple times), and a Bus Tour of the project area in mid-August of 1996. Following that, the Win Group was involved in Round 3 Study Groups regarding "Tools for Planning" during September and October of 1996. The mission of Round 3 Study Groups was to explore various design tools, planning approaches and growth management techniques that are gaining popularity across the nation and identify the positive and potential negative aspects of these tools, etc. These Round 3 Study Group meetings provided a helpful introduction to planning and design alternatives preparing local citizens and local officials for the Regional Conference held November 15-16, 1996. This Regional Conference entitled "Pathways to the Future" involved a number of presenters from other locations such as Vermont, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, as well as Minnesota presenters including local presenters from the Blufflands Region. (See section B3f for more information). This conference generated great enthusiasm and interest

among the citizens of the Blufflands Region to participate in the upcoming Planning Phase of the Project.

Currently, the Win Group is actively involved in preparing for the Planning Phase of the project which includes summarizing and compiling the results from the three rounds of Study Groups (16 Study Group meetings with organized visual presentations and panel presentations) and the Regional Conference. A "Common Vision" will be formulated in February of 1996, through a process of reaching consensus on a number of qualitative statements by the citizens of Winona County and the La Crescent area which will document their shared goals and desires for the future of this region. It will address various issues such as the physical condition, modifications, design, character, and land use options that local citizens hope to see in the future for urban, small town, rural, and natural landscapes of this region. This Common Vision will be the foundation from which further discussion and analysis will produce the Growth Management Framework Plan, a written documentation of the Common Vision goals along with the identified implementation strategies to assist in achieving these goals. By understanding first where we want to go, we can better evaluate the best routes to get us there. The Win Group is anticipating this phase of the project to be the most challenging and rewarding as people with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints, work together toward consensus.

In addition, Bob Hurt, Project Coordinator of the Win Group was a primary presenter at the Upper



Midwest Regional Planning Conference cosponsored by The Minnesota Planning Association and The American Planning Association held in St. Cloud, Minnesota on September 25-27, 1996. The Winona County / La Crescent Area Common Visions Project was selected to be featured at the conference as one of the most significant Midwest example of a grassroots sustainable development initiative. Other informational presentations about the project were given to the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce, the Winona Area Governmental Association, the Dakota Veterans Group, the La Crosse Area Rotary Club, the Winona County Agricultural Professionals Group, as well as to groups of private individuals during the summer and fall of 1996. The Win Group continues to make themselves available to give presentations about the project in response to the requests of individuals and organizations.

In anticipation to providing services for Objective D. On the Ground Implementation Strategies, the Win group has requested a 6-month extension for the completion date of the project. This is necessary since the specific tasks related to Objective D. were originally scheduled to be determined after the completion of Objective B. Create a Common Vision and Action Plans to Implement the Vision, which will take place this spring. In coordination with this request, the project Time line for this 18 month report has been modified to allow for the publishing of the Blufflands Design Manual (Objective C.) to occur after the completion of Objective D. Thus, the project completion date has been set at December 31, 1997.

July 1, 1997

The request for extension for the Winona County/La Crescent Area Common Visions Project was approved by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. Completion of the Win Group Common Visions Project and the final report is estimated for October of 1997.

As of January 1st, 1997, the Winona County La Crescent Area Common Visions Project has been involved in a comprehensive planning process to establish the Common Vision, and identify various implementation Options to carry out the goals of the Common Vision.

On January 29, 1997, local citizens, elected public officials (tounship, city, and county), Project Cooperators, and Advisory Committee members were invited to participate in a session that involved three major activities of discussing, evaluating, and rating the priorities and concerns of citizens related to land-use issues. These activities included; 1) a visual slide rating; 2) a discussion and rating of potential growth option; and 3) a comprehensive rating-survey regarding agriculture, small town life, scenic character, natural environment, new development, recreation, tourism, historic and general land-use issues. The results from all three survey activities were recorded and documented, and then presented back to local citizens, elected officials, and the Advisory Committee for two sessions in February and March of 1997. At these sessions, meeting participants and Advisory Committee members conducted small and full group discussions on the results of the surveys and

began to weave together the information and citizen concerns and responses that had been gathered and studied over the course of the Project.

Due to a number of circumstances, the Win Group experienced a great deal of controversy and conflict at this time. The proposed State-wide land-use planning legislation created a great deal of confusion and objection among some local citizens in the area. There were also concerns about the results of the survey process, and the various interpretations of the data. In addition, there has been and is currently, an organized effort to undermine the Project by distributing false and/or misleading information about the potential outcomes of the Project and the impacts on landowners. In response, the Win Group presented a number of Public Informational Meetings. On April 5th, 1997 a Public Informational Meeting was held in Winona which involved an open house illustrating numerous visual displays on growth and development issues, a slide presentation, two video presentations, Project Cooperators presentations, Advisory Committee members presentations, and Advisory Committee panel to answer questions and address the concerns of the local citizens. The purpose of this meeting was to involve Project participants in an accurate presentation on the goals of the Project and the progress to date for the benefit of the citizens of the Winona County and La Crescent area. This meeting also provided an opportunity to clear up some of the confusion and conflict that had been generated from the false and misleading information being

distributed. In addition to this meeting on April 5th, the Win Group presented at a number of community informational meetings including Dakota/Dresback townships, Wisconsin Parkway Commission, and Winona County Township Officers Association.

Upon the proposal of an Advisory Committee member, and with the approval of the Advisory Committee, the WIN Group participated in an alternative discussion process referred to as "The Choice is Ours." In this process, a discussion tool was designed to help communities in the Glacial Lake Agassiz area (near Fargo, ND) discuss in greater detail the conflicts around land-use and ecosystem-based management issues. This discussion tool and the report from this process appealed to many Advisory Committee members because it represented a sincere approach of getting to the heart of the conflict, and then documented the process results in a manner that was fair to the different viewpoints involved. During the months of March, April, and May, the Project, and then participated in an all day session on Saturday May 3rd, 1997. This process was designed and conducted in a manner that built upon the foundation of work accomplished by the Advisory Committee over the past 15 months. The "Choice is Ours" process helped to reaffirm the survey process from January, and further identify and clarify the areas of common ground and areas of disagreement related to land-use planning issues.

Currently, the Win Group is in the process of finalizing the "Growth Management Framework Plan: which will include three sections: 1) The Common Vision; 2) Two Viewpoints on property rights and

takings (a new section which was added due to the conflicts associated with property rights); and 3) Implementation Options to consider for The Common Vision (a list of options with descriptions). In June of 1997, Project Coordinators met with the Steering Committee for two long and exhaustive sessions of reviewing the original draft of the Common Vision. We are now preparing for the final Advisory Committee meeting on July 10th, 1997 to review and finalize the Growth Management Framework Plan.

#### June, 1998: Final report

The Southeastern Minnesota Winona County / LaCrescent Area Common Visions Project was established as a citizen-based growth management pilot project for the State of Minnesota. The goal of the project was to work with local people to develop a Common Vision that they would like to see for the future of the blufflands landscape including the various community, rural, and natural, settings of this beautiful region. In addition, the project would seek out various ways to achieve that vision. Ultimately, the findings of the project would be recorded in a document titled the Growth Management Framework Plan. The document would be developed to assist Winona County with its scheduled update of its Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Common Visions Project was initiated in response to a number of recent growth trends that appeared to be undermining the very things that made living in the Blufflands a unique, captivating, and enjoyable experience. The

Blufflands has always been a special place of unmatched beauty and wonder. Important farmlands and natural lands with high levels of bio-diversity, however, were starting to experience adverse impacts from current changes being made to the landscape. Since modifications to the land are made at many scales, and by a wide cross section of the population (private and public), a goal of the project was to work with an overall representation of the local population to study the issues of land use in the blufflands landscape.

The first step of the project was to research the growth and development trends that were occurring, not only in the Blufflands, but across the country. A slide presentation was developed to share the Blufflands Story including a brief history, the value and uniqueness of the landscape, the rich cultural heritage, the rare and diverse natural resources, and the growth and development trends that were occurring. Next, a series of public informational meetings were held to tell the Blufflands Story and explain the project to local citizens and local public officials. The informational meetings were also used to solicit individuals who might be interested in becoming involved with the 2-year project.

As a result of the public presentations, a 56 member Advisory Committee was established that consisted of a mix of private citizens (farmers, school teachers, business owners, scientists, contractors, etc.), local elected governmental officials (township, city, & county), and members of city and county planning commissions. In addition, staff members of local planning

departments, the County Agricultural Extension Agent, and Blufflands Coordinator from the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources participated.

One of the major functions of the Advisory Committee was to study a wide array of information about the land (rural, natural, and community landscapes) and the many issues, concerns, and trends that related to changes that were occurring to the land. This was accomplished by a comprehensive series of study groups and Advisory Committee meetings with guest presenters, videos and informational materials, a 6-hour facilitated bus tour, and a two-day regional conference on land use issues with local, state, and national speakers. Throughout the project, the results of the many study groups, Advisory Committee meetings, and bus tour, were recorded, documented, and distributed to Advisory Committee members.

A number of interactive activities took place such as visualization studies, land use preference surveys, and simulated planning exercises. Additional public informational meetings were held as the project received more press, and a number of special meetings were held on the controversial topic of private property rights and takings where various viewpoints were explored, discussed, and debated.

The final step for the Advisory Committee was to develop the "Common Vision". In developing the Common Vision, project participants were asked to identify those qualities that make living in the Blufflands Region a special experience. Participants were asked what they would like this

region to look like, and be like, in the next 25 to 50 years. What would they want to leave to their children and their children's children. A foundational premise of the project is: "When we look to the future, it should be the specific qualities that that we treasure most about living here, that ultimately should determine "if" and "how" changes occur to our communities and to the rural and natural landscapes of this area."

The "Growth Management Framework Plan" mentioned earlier was developed at the end of the project and has been included within the "Blufflands Design Manual" which was also developed as a result of the Winona County / LaCrescent Area Common Visions Project. The first section of the Growth Management Framework Plan is the "Common Vision" that was created by local people of this region who participated in the project. Also included is a section on "Implementation Options" which consists of various planning techniques and land protection tools that can be used alone or in combination to help accomplish the Common Vision goals. The Implementation Options that have been identified can be used by communities, businesses, and individuals and should be considered as starting points which need to be investigated further. Lastly, the Growth Management Framework Plan includes a section titled "Two Viewpoints on Property Rights" that deals with the rights of individual property owners as compared to the needs, well-being and rights of the community and neighboring property owners.

While the Growth Management Framework Plan has been included as the second part of the "Blufflands

Design Manualö, the first part of the Design Manual was developed by the project coordinators and looks at the bluffland landscape, early settlement of the region, current growth trends, the costs and impacts of current growth trends, and alternatives to current growth trends. Together, these resources are ment to assist long-term planning that will improve and sustain bluffland resources for future generations, while considering the interconnections of people, community, economy, land uses, and natural resources. (For a further description of the project process, see the Appendix of the Blufflands Design Manual.)

#### IV. Statement of Objectives:

**Objective A:** Raise awareness and gain local support for resource issues in the blufflands landscape; (What do we have?). This objective will research and gather factual information about the resources in the blufflands landscape. This information will be used to develop presentations that raise awareness of the past, present, and potential future of the blufflands resources. The information will be presented in different formats to local citizens and elected officials to heighten awareness and develop an understanding of the need to enhance and protect the resources.

**Objective B:** Create a common vision and action plans to implement the vision; (What's important and what do we want to do about it?).

Use several different participatory planning processes to formulate with communities, a common vision and to develop action plans with each community for the future of the blufflands landscape. It is anticipated that the plans will contain some goals which may not be achieved within the two year LCMR funding cycle.

**Objective C:** Carry out the action plan to reach the common vision.

Develop specific action recommendations that fit for each community such as training manuals, planning & landowner guides, technical assistance, changes in local zoning and land use regulations that will move them towards achieving their community vision.

#### **Objective D:**

Conduct on the ground implementation strategies such as ongoing public informational programs, demonstration projects, voluntary registry programs, landscape and historic site enhancement, scenic easements, key land acquisitions that protect and enhance the blufflands landscape, zoning code implementation or other activities identified in the growth management framework plan and or blufflands design manual . Provide a fund of \$40,000 to implement some of the activities.

#### **Timeline for Completion of Objectives:**

DNR: Each community in the six bluffland counties has different needs, and desires different processes for meeting those needs. They are interested in taking advantage of the education,

technical assistance, and support that the Blufflands Coordinator can offer at different times and are at different stages of requiring that assistance. Because of the opportunistic nature of this position, it is difficult to define a timeline for the completion of the objectives. The timeline for the Blufflands Landscape C16 Poject has been extended to June 30th 1998. The Blufflands Coordinator will continue to work in the six bluffland counties during this time frame.

**Objective A:** Raise awareness about resources issues and gain local support for resource issues in the blufflands landscape

HBC:  
7/95 10/95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WIN:  
7/95 8/96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Objective B:** Create a common vision and action plans to implement the vision

HBC:  
9/95 2/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WIN:  
9/95 2/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
9/95 7/97  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Objective C:** Carry out the action plan to reach the common vision

HBC:  
8/96  
6/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
WIN:  
6/97 11/96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
12/97 4/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Objective D:** Implementation strategies

WIN: To be determined.



## V. Objectives/Outcomes:

**A. Title of Objective/Outcome:** Raise awareness and gain local support about resources and issues in the blufflands landscape; (What do we Have?)

**A.1. Activity:** Gather information from the blufflands region and other locations in the country about 1. resources, 2. growth patterns, demographics, and development trends, 3. laws, ordinances, programs, incentives, land protection tools, 4. planning, design, land use, and sustainable development models, 5. skills and technical knowledge, and 6. citizen concerns, values and attitudes .

**A.1.a. Context within the project:** Necessary to build knowledge, show relationships between the variety of resources and land use decisions that are made, and establish local support, trust, and enthusiasm for the project. In addition, it is important that local officials, citizens, steering committee members, etc. develop an awareness that positive solutions for wise land use exist, that they are achievable, and that they can not only protect valuable resources and scenic landscapes, but also protect important values, enhance long-term economic prosperity, and provide a favorable way of life for future generations.

### A.1.b. Methods:

#### HBC:

- Gather this type of information throughout the first year of the project by using the methods

outlined under A.2 and B.1.

#### DNR:

- Develop working relationships with local government officials, planning commissions, planning and zoning staff, citizen groups and landowners to determine local needs in resource protection. Hold a minimum of 30 meetings.

- Build upon the current resource information gathered by the blufflands coordinator using methods such as networking with other agencies, and attending workshops and conferences that relate to the resources in the blufflands landscape.

- Participate on monthly interdisciplinary and interstate committees such as: Blufflands Alliance (a four state partnership of organizations, & individuals working to inspire a common vision while conserving & enhancing the local resources), Blufflands Landscape Team (an interdisciplinary DNR team), and LCMR project partners (HBC and WIN) to share information with people about blufflands stewardship practices and to avoid duplication of activities. (The Blufflands Alliance will be putting on the regional conference described in objective B activity 3.)

#### WIN:

- Critical data and photographic images (of the blufflands and other key locations across the country) will be gathered / documented in the following ways:

- 1.) Existing planning and resource information files will be reviewed, updated, expanded, and cataloged.
- 2.) Networking with project

cooperators/resource team, organizations, agencies, resource individuals, etc., will help identify additional resource/planning information, and innovative models of land use planning initiatives. 3.) Forming an ongoing local steering committee with a diverse cross section of citizens, and conducting one-on-one interviews (20 to 30, some of which would be video taped) will help identify local land use issues, as well as assist in laying the groundwork and providing the follow-up for effective grassroots participation. 4.) Identifying and photographing significant local resources, scenic vistas, & community life will help impress upon citizens the importance of the blufflands landscape, and instill enthusiasm for the project and 5.) Researching, visiting, interviewing/video taping a number of key individuals, photographing, & documenting findings ... regarding innovative land use planning / design / conservation initiatives in other parts of the country ... will help illustrate various programs, the resulting landscapes & resource protection attained, and help determine which programs have worked well, which have not, and why.

Relevant data and photographic images will be packaged and illustrated using various methods such as audiovisual assisted presentations, printed materials, charts, graphs, GIS maps, etc. Surveys will be used to examine the values and attitudes of citizens as the project progresses.

HBC, DNR, WIN:

- The principal project partners (HBC, DNR, WIN) will meet on a monthly basis to coordinate

activities and information.

**A.1.c. Materials:**

DNR: \$2,000 (supplies & office expenses)

WIN: \$17,540 Total  
(equipment, supplies and office expenses)

WIN:

- Professional Slide Presentation Equipment - 2 projector AV sync system, large portable screen, etc. (Note: Also used for other objectives)

Cost: \$4790 Purchase - less expensive than renting  
End of 2 year period: Local availability of equipment for further blufflands education & planning purposes.

Location Winona County Planning Department.

- Video Recording Equipment

Purchase by Architectural Environments - User fee charged to project: \$2,280

- Medium Format Camera Equipment

Purchase by Architectural Environments - User fee charged to project: \$3,000

- Miscellaneous office supplies, presentation materials, reproductions, printing, maps, film, film processing, and other expendables.

Costs: \$7470 Purchase. End of 2 year period: Local availability of materials for further blufflands education & planning purposes. Location Winona County Planning Department.

A.1.d. Budget: DNR - \$ 34,740  
WIN - \$98,636.61

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$133,380.77

LCMR Balance: \$0,000  
DNR MATCH: \$5,000  
WIN MATCH: \$12,500  
MATCH BALANCE: \$0,000

A.1.e. Timeline:

Products:

DNR:

- Summary of meetings to determine local needs and develop relationships: Periodically throughout length of project
- Attend relevant workshops and conferences to build upon resource knowledge.  
Periodic throughout length of project.
- Share information and avoid duplication of activities:  
Monthly throughout length of project

WIN:

- Gather, visit, interview, photograph, survey, and/or record pertinent information, visual images, innovative planning models, attitudes, ordinances, state laws, incentives, etc.

7/95      1/96      6/96  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Review, summarize, catalog, and/or illustrate data for effective public presentations & planning purposes. (written summaries, graphs, charts, maps, AV slide presentations, etc.)

1/96      6/96  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A.1.f. Work Program Update:

DNR:

In the last five months the Blufflands Coordinator has met with at least one local government representative from each of the six counties in the bluffland area (Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Olmsted). These meetings were designed to introduce the Blufflands Coordinator to the region and to build upon existing relationships with local units of government. At each of the meetings the Blufflands Coordinator ascertained what the representative felt the needs of their community were and offered to help them achieve their goals.

The Blufflands Coordinator has met with various citizen groups to discuss the natural resources of the bluffland landscape. Slide shows have been developed for these presentations.

The Blufflands Coordinator has also met with various government agencies and private organizations to discuss ongoing activities within the blufflands area and to share information. Along

with these one on one meetings the Blufflands Coordinator has participated in a number of interdisciplinary committees such as the Blufflands Alliance and the Blufflands Landscape Team.

July, 1 1996

In the last six months the Blufflands Coordinator has had continued contact with local government representatives from each of the six counties in the blufflands area (Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore and Olmsted). These meetings were designed to build on existing relationships developed within the first five months of the project and provide these communities with the appropriate natural resource information. Once these communities needs have been determined, the Blufflands Coordinator offers the natural resource information and tools necessary to help them achieve these goals.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet with various citizen groups and individual citizens to discuss the natural resources of the blufflands landscape. Individual slide shows have been developed for each of these presentations.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet with various government agencies and private organizations to discuss on-going activities within the blufflands area and to share information. The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet regularly with interdisciplinary committees such as the Blufflands Alliance and The Blufflands Landscape Team.

January, 1 1997

Since July 1996 the Bluff lands Coordinator has continued to work with local units of government throughout the bluffland region. The Blufflands Coordinatorhas continued to provide local communities with the natural resource information appropriate for their communities and the tools and options available for these communities to address the issues of concern to their area. As the projects that were originated early come to completion the Blufflands Coordinator is being asked to assist in new projects within the bluffland communities.

The Blufflands Coordinatorhas continued to work with local citizens to provide them with natural resource information and the tools available for bluffland stewardship.

In the last six months Blufflands Coordinator has continued to meet with various government agencies and private organizations to discuss on-going activities within the blufflands area and to share information. The Blufflands Coordinatorhas attended and presented at a number of conferences, workshops and seminars to share information with other agencies and communities and to learn about what other areas have accomplished in regards to land stewardship. The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet regularly with interdisciplinary committees such as the Blufflands Alliance and The Blufflands Landscape Team.

July 1, 1997

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to provide local communities with the natural resource information appropriate for their communities and the tools and options available for these communities to address the issues of concern to their area.

Over the past two years the Bluffland Coordinator has continued to build on existing relationships and develop new relationships with communities and citizens throughout the blufflands.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to attend relevant workshops and conferences to build upon resource knowledge. Some of the workshops and conferences attended by the Bluffland Coordinator include things such as Growth Management and Environmentally Sensitive Development Workshops and Sustainable Community and Resource Conferences.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to share information with other DNR staff, government agencies and private conservation groups along with the communities in the blufflands. Sharing of information has helped to avoid duplication of activities. The Bluffland Coordinator continues to produce monthly reports and meets periodically with the other two grant recipients.

#### July, 1998

Over the last year the Bluffland Coordinator has continued to meet with various interdisciplinary groups such as the Bluffland Alliance and the Bluffland Landscape team to share information on

projects within the bluffland landscape. The Bluffland Coordinator has also continued to meet periodically with the Winona/LaCrescent Partnership for continued updates on the progress of the Common Visions Project.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to work with local units of governments providing them with natural resource information appropriate for their needs. Some of the projects have grown out of the completion of the Common Visions Project and others have been initiated by the local units of government or the Bluffland Coordinator herself.

The projects developed with local units of governments continue to grow as communities needs change and grow.

The Bluffland Coordinator continues to provide natural resource information to local citizens. This assistance ranges from general bluffland resource information to specific site information.

#### WIN:

As of July 1995, the Win Group has been collecting and reviewing a wide variety of information and documents that pertain to land-use, growth management, sprawl development, farm land preservation and conservation of natural lands in the project area as well as other related geographic locations. These documents include comprehensive plans, project reports, studies, resource management plans, pertinent books, and a variety of other related materials. From these documents and materials, the Win Group is gaining

an understanding of past and present land-use practices, the public decision making processes, local and regional growth trends, etc. From this understanding, the Win Group is in the process of identifying the pressing issues regarding growth, land-use, and the blufflands resources that are affected at present and into the future.

In September of 1995, the Win Group held three public informational meetings with special invitations going to local officials, project cooperators, agencies, interested individuals, and related organizations and groups. To better meet the goal outlined in Objective A.1.a "... establish trust and local support...", the Win Group felt that it was necessary to hold an additional series of six public informational meetings at various locations throughout the project area. The series of meetings was well covered by the newspapers as well as Minnesota Public Radio. Public Television will also be covering the project.

The series of public informational meetings served to introduce local citizens and public officials to the importance of the project goals as well as to raise public awareness regarding the multitude of related growth management and resource protection issues. In addition, the meetings served to recruit participants for the Advisory Committee, which now consists of a variety of local people representing the diverse interests, occupations, and geographic locations within the project area. There are approximately 45 participants on the Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee, which will consist of

approximately 10 individuals, is being selected as a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee. Forming the larger Advisory Committee (in addition to the smaller Steering Committee) is helping to recognize, understand, and appreciate the diversity of ideas and values represented by the local people, and is also promoting a broad base of citizen ownership of the project.

In addition to the public informational meetings, the Win Group has responded to the requests of various groups, organizations, and agencies and has thus provided a presentation of the project at a number of meetings and regional planning conferences. The Win Group continues to locate, research, and photograph local resources, to seek out and understand local issues, as well as to study related initiatives and issues from other locations around the country. This information will continue to be presented to the Advisory Committee members, the Steering Committee members, and the public to help increase understanding, enthusiasm, interest, and commitment to the project.

As a part of the research effort, the Win Group coordinator, Bob Hurt, spent three weeks in the state of Vermont researching, visiting, interviewing, and recording a variety of perspectives and issues on Vermont's state-wide land-use planning process. Mr. Hurt gathered a number of existing planning documents and interviewed and video recorded a wide variety of individuals & public officials. He also photographed the Vermont landscape (similar to the blufflands region) which has maintained a strong



sense of rural integrity and beauty and cultural heritage as a result of these planning efforts. This information will be discussed and analyzed in the public planning forums listed in Objective B.1.b.

July 1, 1996

The Win Group has continued to collect and review a variety of resource materials that pertain to the project. Many of these materials have been shared with the Advisory Committee Study Groups (Described in Section III. And A2f.) to stimulate discussion and raise awareness regarding a variety of current issues, trends, and alternative approaches to managing growth and development and land-use planning. The Win Group continues to work with local citizens and gaining a better understanding of these issues and identifying local concerns and values shared among local people living in the Blufflands Region.

January 1, 1997

The Win Group has continued to collect relevant information, data, and resource materials including articles, publications, reports, videos, etc. to share with the Advisory Committee, general public, local officials, and interested organizations. The Win Group has also assisted the HBC group in providing informational material for their Study Groups which are currently being conducted.

June, 1998

The purpose of this activity was to establish a creditable base of background information which would be used throughout the project. The project coordinators along with the assistance of various project cooperators researched a wide variety of topics that were related to land use, growth and development trends, natural resources, farming, communities, costs and impacts of current growth trends, models of growth management initiatives in other locations, etc. In addition to gathering information (written documents, video tapes, etc.) and taking photographs of this region and in the State of Minnesota, data was gathered from other states. In one instance, Bob Hurt went to Vermont, a state that had been working on growth management issues for close to 30 years, to conduct video-taped interviews, gather pertinent information, and photograph various landscapes in the state.

After gathering, sorting, and filing the written information, photographs and video tapes for further use, pre-planning and preparation was completed for a series of public presentations. Two slide presentations were created, one to share the story of the bluffland landscape and the other to look at current growth and development trends. In addition, the information was prepared to be used for the various study groups, Advisory Committee meetings, the bus tour, and the 2-day regional conference that took place further into the project. Data was also prepared to be put on display for the additional public presentations that also took place further into the project.

The gathering of pertinent was very important,

especially since land use issues are very complex as well as very controversial. In hindsight, however, it would have been helpful throughout the project to have a set of comprehensive yet concise fact sheets (developed early in the project) available for public distribution, and which would have described current growth trends and the associated impacts and costs to local citizens and communities concerning these trends (including reference sources). The fact sheets would have made it easier to convey why the project was initiated in the first place, especially to individuals who had not paid close attention to the project from the beginning, but rather had been informed by way of rumor and misinformation.

**A.2. Activity:** Present the above information and introduce this planning process to the public in a variety of understandable formats.

**A.2.a. Context within the project:** This activity is important for making the public aware of the diversity and value of bluffland resources and for building public support for appropriate resource protection strategies.

**A.2.b. Methods:**

HBC:

- Plan and conduct a total of 7-12 informational

presentations about the Common Visions Project, for the purpose of building support for the project among Fillmore and Houston County Commissioners, local mayors and city councils, township officials, county and local planning commission members, local media, citizens and other key stakeholders

- Organize a 15-25 member steering committee to guide and direct the public organization and consensus building processes in Houston and Fillmore Counties. The Steering Committee will be operative throughout the duration of the project and will meet monthly to review progress made toward meeting the stated goals of the project. The organization phase shall include a formal training component, which will assist the steering committee to assign value to, and communicate about the value of the natural, cultural, scenic, and biological resources which the project addresses. As part of this formal training, experts knowledgeable about relevant models from other parts of the country will share information about their model with the steering committee. It is anticipated that 2 or 3 models will be examined during the formal training.

DNR:

- Participate in planning and conducting 15 - 30 educational presentations that demonstrate the sensitivity and significance of the blufflands landscape. Methods such as: slide shows, displays, &/or field day tours will be used. Exit surveys from participants at these presentations will be used to learn about peoples concerns so that we can address these concerns in future educational

presentations and workshops.

- Develop 15 - 20 print media pieces such as brochures, posters, reprints, news releases.

WIN:

• Use public meetings (10 to 15), field tours, etc., developed and convened in cooperation with the Blufflands Coordinator & other Resource Team members (and reviewed by the steering committee) to: 1.) Present high quality visual presentations on urban, small town, rural, and natural environments to emphasize the beauty and/or broad range of value (natural & human) offered by bluffland landscapes, 2.) deliver information about natural communities, rare & diverse species, and illustrate current growth, land use, and development trends that threaten these and other bluffland resources, 3.) solicit, survey, discuss, and document people's concerns about the issues surrounding their lives in this region, as well as gain insight as to which resources and landscapes they feel are important, 4.) identify common ground & values while at the same time fostering mutual respect and understanding for differing viewpoints, 5.) introduce concepts of innovative win/win land use planning from other locations which accommodate differing interests while protecting resources (this topic will be studied and evaluated in much more detail as a part of the participatory planning process under objective B and as described under B.1.b methods), and 6.) gain local support for the project & recruit local planning teams of citizens, government officials, etc., to participate in the next phase of the project.

- Information will be presented in a graphic format whenever possible (audiovisual assisted presentations, printed materials, charts, graphs, GIS maps, etc.). Opinion surveys will assist in recording issues, concerns, and values of local people. Meeting and survey results will be compiled, conclusions will be formulated, and results will be presented to the steering committee and resource team.

**A.2.c. Materials:**

	<u>HBC:</u> \$1,600 (supplies and office expense)
	DNR: \$3,800 (supplies, office expenses, s l i d e projector, and display,)
	<u>WIN:</u> \$1,120 (office expenses and supplies)

DNR:

Slide projector will be used for presenting slide shows (cost \$550). At the end of the project, it will continued to be used by DNR.

Display materials: cost depends upon design of displays which will be determined after July 1, 1995. Displays will continue to be used by DNR after LCMR project ends.

**A.2.d. Budget:**

<u>HBC:</u> \$42,160
DNR: \$14,060
<u>WIN:</u> \$30,865

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$87,085**

LCMR Balance: \$0,000  
MATCH: \$3,000  
MATCH BALANCE: \$0,000

**A.2.e. Timeline:**

Products:

HBC:

- Presentations:

7/95            10/95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Steering Committee:

organization:

7/95            9/95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

training:

7/95            10/95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

DNR:

- Develop educational tools such as: display, slide show, exit surveys.

7/95            10/95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Conduct 15 - 30 educational presentations. Periodically throughout length of project.

- Media publications.

Periodically throughout length of project.

WIN:

- Prepare for and conduct a series of public meetings.

1/96            6/96

XXXXXXXXXX

- Review & summarize meeting and survey results and formulate conclusions.

1/96            6/96

XXXXXXXXXX

**A.2.f. Work Program Update:**

HBC:

In October a joint information meeting was held to inform the Fillmore, Houston and Winona County Boards about the objectives of the entire project. In addition, the Historic Bluff Country has held several public briefings to build support for the project. Local media has routinely been informed about project related activities. Other information meetings will take place after the 1st of the year.

The HBC Steering Committee is organized and has met a number of times to review progress made to date, to plan strategy to educate the public about the project, to plan for the small group and survey project activities, to develop a project mission statement, to learn about past and current planning and resource protection activities within

the two counties, and to select the types of models from other parts of the country which can best share information with the Steering Committee and area residents. Information from the models which have been selected will be presented in various formats throughout the Winter and into early Spring.

#### July 1, 1996

All six products listed under this activity have been completed. During the past six months the Steering Committee has continued to grow as a viable organization which reflects the diversity of views concerning the development and preservation issues confronting Houston and Fillmore Counties. The Committee no longer needs staff facilitation to conduct its monthly meeting since it has elected formal leadership, instituted a committee system and established rules of procedure as part of its organizational structure. These changes have enhanced the stature of the Steering Committee both in the eyes of the Fillmore and Houston County Boards, and in the view of the general public as well. Staff continue to work with the Steering Committee to move the work plan along in a timely way.

A highlight of the training of the Steering Committee plus informing the general public about the project was the visit in early March to the area by representatives from two citizen based rural planning initiatives in Montana. Over ninety area citizens attended public forums during a two day visit. In addition, the visitors conducted a training session for the Steering

Committee.

#### Sept, 1997: Final report

One of the first steps of the Fillmore-Houston Counties Common Vision Project was to form a steering committee of area residents in September of 95. This committee performed a number of functions during its two years of operations, many of which were related to data collection, and critical examination of many development concepts, models and tools. It consisted of 24 citizens with 12 representatives from each county. Overall, 28 individuals served, the vast majority (22) for almost the entire two years.

Because many viewpoints on growth and development exist in the two counties, steering committee members reflected the widest possible range of views on these issues. The steering committee met at least monthly to help shape and monitor the various data collection techniques used such as focus groups, town meetings, phone surveys, and public forums.

Throughout the entire process the committee received information updates from a number of local agencies including zoning administration and extension offices, as well as soil and water boards from both counties. A commissioner from each county served and provided background information. In addition, the steering committee received ongoing technical assistance from Abbe and Kuester Development Associates and from Nassauer and Associates.

The contribution of the steering committee to the Fillmore/Houston County Common Visions Project can not be emphasized enough. These 24 citizens played a critical role in building the credibility and community support that would enable average citizens, county staff, and elected officials alike to look at new ideas and information, re-examine existing ways of doing things, and above all else, to take a serious look at the complex mix of ecological, economic, aesthetic, and spiritual factors which help shape and define people's interaction with their natural environment.

The steering committee was deliberately designed to be a microcosm of the various stakeholder interests present in Fillmore and Houston Counties. Opinions within the steering committee reflected the wide range of opinions within the two counties concerning the area's future, the best ways to manage change, and sources of leadership. Within the membership of the steering committee, as within the two counties generally, there were conflicting priorities, including aiding agriculture vs. Involving newcomers. At times, the steering committee dealt with extreme differences of opinion, which generated both controversy and conflict. The steering committee dealt with these over time with growing skill and commitment.

At this writing(September, 97) there is growing evidence that the key products of the project, a common vision, 31 recommendations to reach the vision, plus a 54 page report entitled Common Visions-Fillmore and Houston Counties-A People's

Project are being taken seriously by elected officials and citizens in both counties. Without the steadfast commitment of citizens who invested time as volunteers, dealt with conflict and personal skepticism, and synthesized a great deal of highly technical information into something useful by their friends and neighbors, the common Visions Process would not have this level of credibility and potential impact.

#### DNR:

In the last five months the Blufflands Coordinator has reviewed a number of visual presentations dealing with the blufflands. The Blufflands Coordinator was asked to present at the Rochester Audubon Society and Winona Area Government Association meeting. For each of these meetings the Blufflands Coordinator developed a slide presentation. The Blufflands Coordinator has also spent some time traveling around the blufflands region in an attempt to update some of the slides for these presentations.

A Blufflands video ("A Delicate Balance") was completed and an exit survey was developed for this video. This video and survey will be used in future presentations.

The Minnesota Lottery asked for a representative from each of the participants in the Blufflands Landscape Project to participate in a cable show "Environmental Journal" to discuss this project. Bob Hurt represented Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership, Ken Tschumper, a citizen on the Historic Bluff Country's steering committee represented Historic Bluff Country and Ann Pierce,



Blufflands Coordinator, represented the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We discussed the blufflands and their unique attributes and explained the project. This was filmed at O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County. A radio promotion for this show was also taped. Ann Pierce, Blufflands Coordinator, was interviewed for this.

July, 1 1996

In the past six months the Blufflands Coordinator has been asked to present information to a number of different groups. These groups include the Red Wing Schools, area Audubon societies, Cannon Valley Trail Group, and the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board. The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to update the presentations used for these groups.

Along with the slide show, and displays developed for specific groups, the Blufflands Coordinator continues to use the Blufflands Video ("A Delicate Balance") when appropriate.

The Blufflands Coordinator helped to develop a seminar geared toward developers, builders, Realtors and surveyors within the city of Red Wing on clustered open space development. This seminar was used to introduce the idea of cluster open space development and protection of the natural resources within these developments. This seminar was developed in cooperation with the Red Wing City Administrator and other DNR personnel.

January, 1 1997

The Bluff lands Coordinator has continued to provide natural resource information and information on the tools and options available for bluffland stewardship to various community groups within the bluffland landscape. These groups include schools, recreation and sport groups and government groups. The Blufflands Coordinator has updated existing slide shows, and developed displays for specific communities.

The Blufflands Coordinator helped to develop a workshop geared toward land managers on the oak savanna ecosystem. This workshop was used to introduce private and public land managers to the oak savanna ecosystem and the management of these types of open systems. This workshop was developed in cooperation with other DNR personnel. The Blufflands Coordinator also help to develop a growth management workshop in cooperation with the Wells Creek Watershed in Goodhue County.

July 1, 1997

The work of the Bluffland Coordinator has continued to provide natural resource information and assistance to various community groups with in the bluffland landscape. These groups include schools, recreation and sport groups, community groups and governments groups. The assistance provided includes one day educational presentation to long term assistance with land-use planning.

The Bluffland Coordinator and the Blufflands Initiative were featured on the Media Rare Cable

Program "Environmental Journal". The Bluffland Coordinator continues to develop slide shows and show the bluffland video "A Delicate Balance", when appropriate, to various groups.

The Bluffland Coordinator developed instructional materials and taught a class on fire ecology to various land managers. This class was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Office and the DNR.

#### July, 1998

Over the last year the Bluffland Coordinator has had the opportunity to present information on the Blufflands natural resources and the tools and options available to them for resources protection to numerous citizen groups. These groups range from various civic groups to the Sierra Club. These presentations have resulting in many opportunities to work further with individual citizens and communities.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to work on the development of updated slide shows and periodically provides information for various press releases.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to develop educational materials for citizens, local units of governments and other agencies about the bluffland resources, bluffland protection and bluffland management.

#### WIN:

Work on this objective has not begun as of January

1, 1996.

July 1, 1996

The Advisory Committee has been actively involved in Study Groups designed to further investigate areas of study related to the project. These smaller sub-groups of the Advisory Committee serve to provide an opportunity for further dialogue and discussion on particular issues, and allows individuals to benefit from the combined knowledge and diverse investigative efforts of other people. A total of three rounds of Study Groups have been initiated

The First Round of Study Groups involved three specific Study Groups (General Background Issues) established to investigate the pressing issues from which the project was initially created. The Study Groups were titled "Sprawl/Scattered Non-Farm Development, Sustainable Development, and Inter-Governmental/Local Growth Issues and Policies." Each of these Study Groups participated in reviewing a variety of resource material including related articles, books, videos, etc. In addition, Study group members attended presentations from resource people and participated in discussing, prioritizing, and brainstorming responses, ideas, concerns, and different scenarios related to each topic. In March of 1996, The first round of Study Groups concluded with each Study Group presenting a Summary Report to the full Advisory committee. This Summary Report has helped to reveal some shared values and concerns that have enabled the Advisory Committee to engage in a respectful

process of investigation and discussion.

Currently, the Win Groups is active in the Second Round of Study Groups (Regional/Community Profile) involving five individual Study Groups researching the current conditions and regional trends affecting the landscape and communities of the Project area. The Win Group has provided informational materials (books, reports, articles, videos, etc.--please see Alf for more information) to Study Group members for review. The Study Group topics include "Agriculture/Rural Living/Small Town vitality," "Natural Landscapes/Natural Resource Management," "Historic Sites/Historic Downtowns/Historic Rural Architecture," "Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, Scenic Landscapes," and "Existing Zoning/Land-Use Regulations." On June 27th, an Advisory Committee Bus Tour took place in eastern Winona County and the La Crescent area involving tours by local landowners and local resource people sharing information and personal experiences related to the Study Group topics listed above. The Bus Tour served to illustrate the issues discussed at previous meetings in the surrounding environment, and provide an opportunity to meet with a variety of people who are taking creative measures in their stewardship of their land and Bluffland resources. Some of these creative measures included rotational grazing techniques, conservation easements, local association for preserving Historic buildings, roadside improvements, and scenic tourism strategies. The second round of Study Groups is proposed to conclude late July of 1996 with a presentation by each Study Group to the full Advisory Committee.

The Summary Reports from the Study Groups' investigative efforts will help to establish a base of knowledge and insight for the upcoming Planning Forums which will then lead into establishing the Growth Management and Framework Plan this fall. The Study Groups have been very successful in bringing people with diverse interests together to share their viewpoints and respectfully seek out the common values that people share.

In addition to working with the Advisory Committee and the Study Groups, the Win Group continues to give informational presentations about the project by the request of interest groups, organizations, and agencies. The Win Group has presented to the Winona County Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Minnesota Parks'n Trails council, and the Winona Area Governmental Association. The Win Group has also been asked to present to the Upper Midwest Regional Planning Conference in October of 1996 sponsored by the American Planning Association and Minnesota Planning Association.

January 1, 1997

During September and October of 1996, two Round 3 Study Group meetings addressing "Tools for Planning" were held with the Advisory Committee, and special invitations were sent to local officials and planning commission members. In addition, all meetings are open to members of the public. The first meeting involved viewing videos of a variety of planning concepts and approaches including "Portland Metro's Building 2040 Plan", and a presentation by Randall Arendt illustrating

his award winning concepts of "Open Space Development Design" and strategies to conserve natural and agricultural land while accommodating development. Other videos introduced the concept of "Conservation Easements" and "New Urbanism / Neo-Traditional" elements in site planning.

The second meeting examined these issues more closely with a presentation by Larry Kirch, the city planner from La Crosse, Wisconsin. Mr. Kirch first presented a video on the consequences of, and alternatives to, urban sprawl development. Next he shared his experiences of developing various county and city comprehensive land use plans under the innovative Florida state-wide planning guidelines. Finally, Mr. Kirch informed the group about the challenges that he has experienced over the past three years in dealing with growth and development issues in the La Crosse, Wisconsin region. The final presentation was a video taped interview of a planning professional in Vermont which Project Coordinator Bob Hurt interviewed during the fall of 1995. A variety of topics were covered in this video including a Small Town Growth Centers Project. Group discussion and dialogue following these presentations and reflected a successful effort in establishing a working relationship between individuals of various viewpoints attempting to learn about new and useful tools for planning and design.

June, 1998

The purpose of this activity was to share a

variety of related information with local citizens and local public officials concerning growth and development trends as they relate to the bluffslands landscape, and to instill interest and support for the Common Visions Project. The first step consisted of putting notification in local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations about a series of public informational meetings which would be conducted throughout the project area. The meetings were then held for the purpose of introducing the project to local citizens and to solicit participation in the project by citizens and local public officials. Presentations were made describing the project, the reasons for the creation of project, and the goals that were to be accomplished by the project. In addition, the two slide presentations mentioned above were shared with meeting participants to depict the importance and beauty of the bluffslands landscape and the changes that have been taken place concerning current growth and development trends. As a result of the informational meetings and coverage in the local media, a 56 member Advisory Committee was formed.

The second phase of presenting related project information took place after the formation of the Advisory Committee. It consisted of a series of study groups and Advisory Committee meetings where information packets were distributed to project participants, numerous discussion groups took place, videos were shown, and guest speakers made a number of presentations. In addition, a 6-hour bus tour was conducted with guest presenters to share information about bluffsland land use issues on a first hand basis. Each of these activities

included small group and/or large group discussions which were then documented. The documented results of the study groups, Advisory Committee meetings, and the 6-hour bus tour were distributed to project participants in various in summary reports.

In addition to presenting project related information directly within project functions and activities, a number of groups and organizations requested special presentations regarding the Common Visions Project. Some of the groups that Bob Hurt, the project coordinator, made presentations to included: the Minnesota Association of Planning and Zoning Administrators, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, the 1996 Upper-Midwest Regional APA (American Planning Association) Conference, the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council, the Wisconsin Parkway Commission, the League of Women Voters, AAUW, etc.

**B. Title of Objective/Outcome:** Create a Common Vision and action plans to implement the vision.

**B.1. Activity:** Provide opportunities for broad public participation to discuss issues and values. (NOTE: the WIN groups has combined the activities of B.1 and B.2 under this section. For additional information regarding the WIN group activities and context within the project, see B.1.b methods.)

**B.1.a. Context within the project:** This

activity is an important data gathering tool to determine the range of values held by citizens toward both preservation and development of regional resources, the degree of common ground among citizens, and the implications of this common ground (or lack of it) for various resource protection strategies.

**B.1.b. Methods:**

HBC:

- Convene 16 - 20 focus groups of 8 - 12 participants which represent the views of a distinct interest such as agriculture, tourism, forestry, etc. to discuss development and stewardship. Convene a second round of 4 - 8 additional focus groups of participants with diverse views to identify if there is common ground concerning stewardship and development priorities.

- Conduct in-depth site visits to 6/10 Fillmore or Houston County communities for the purpose of gathering information about the small town perspective of the pressures to develop and/or to maintain the status quo.

- Conduct a written survey of a statistical sample (approximately 300) of residents of Houston and Fillmore Counties for the purpose of gathering additional information about citizen views of preservation and development values, priorities and concerns. Survey will be conducted by phone.

DNR:

- Coordinate 5 - 10 workshops and informal meetings to improve and integrate communication and coordination of resource information and management techniques among DNR staff, other agencies, educators, and environmental groups.

#### WIN:

- Prepare for and conduct in cooperation with the Bluffland Coordinator and other Resource Team members and cooperators, a series of participatory planning forums. Approximately 8 to 12 local planning groups (local citizens, public officials, interest groups, resource team members, etc.) would be established and would meet approximately 2 to 4 times each. Activities would consist of the following: 1.) Review and expand upon the list of local land use issues & concerns identified in Objective "A", 2.) Study and evaluate relevant resource information, technical data, growth & development trends, laws, and innovative land use planning / design / conservation initiatives from other locations, 3.) Distinguish bluffland landscapes and resources of high natural, scenic, or cultural value, 4.) Identify common viewpoints, values and goals ... and develop a common vision for the future of the blufflands landscape, 5.) Brainstorm and evaluate locally generated ideas for effective sustainable development and resource protection, and, 6.) Cooperatively create (local citizens, government officials, interest groups, etc.) a Blufflands Growth Management Framework Plan that helps guide and unify county, township, and city policy making, planning, zoning, and design criteria ... in a manner that balances human needs and

economics . . . with protection of the natural, cultural, & scenic resource of the region.

- Planning forums will be interactive, interesting, and informative. Data gathered from various sources will be presented in a graphically illustrated manner including photographs/slides, maps, charts, drawings, video, etc. Participants will be involved in hands-on brainstorming, evaluating, rating/ranking, and problem solving. Survey and meeting results will be compiled, documented for each planning group and then presented back to participants for feedback. Results will be shared between each of the planning groups. Collectively, a draft and final copy of the Blufflands Growth Management Framework Plan will be developed. The high degree of citizen involvement is expected to lead to long-term ownership and follow-through of the project goals.

#### **B.1.c. Materials:**

	<u>HBC:</u>	\$3,200	(office supplies)
expenses and			
	<u>DNR:</u>	\$1,800	(office supplies)
expenses and			
	<u>WIN:</u>	\$1,910	(office supplies)
expenses and			

#### **B.1.d. Budget:**

HBC: \$ 57,015  
DNR: \$ 8,800  
WIN: \$82,557.27

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$ 148,372.27**



LCMR Balance:\$0  
MATCH: \$0  
MATCH BALANCE: \$0

**B.1.e. Timeline:**

**Products:**

HBC:

- Focus groups:

9/95 3/96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Visits:

10/96 7/96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Surveys:

5/96 7/96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**DNR:**

- Conduct workshops and meetings to integrate and coordinate communication.

Held periodically throughout the length of the project.

WIN:

- Prepare for planning forums. Meet and correspond

with cooperator groups, steering committee members, and other participants to plan out and confirm details of forums.

1/96

6/96

1/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Conduct a series of planning forums.

1/97 4/97

XXXXXXXXXXXX

1/97 7/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Prepare, revise, and publish the Blufflands Growth Management Framework Plan.

4/97 7/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

5/97 10/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**B.1.f. Work Program Update:**

HBC:

The final work related to conducting between 20 and 28 small group discussions is well underway. The details of the small group process methodology

have been finalized, the logistics of meeting places and times have been completed, recruitment of small groups will meet between Jan 15 and March 15 and will consist of groups representing area stakeholders such as farmers, small business persons, youth, environmentalists, etc. The second round will meet between March 15 and April 15 and will mix a sampling of stakeholders who participated in the first round.

A small sub-committee of the Steering Committee will meet in January with project consultants to develop a draft of the written survey. It is anticipated that information from the survey will be available by mid-summer of 96.

July, 1 1996

Twenty-one first round focus groups were conducted between Jan 15 and April 10th with 221 citizens attending. Focus groups included farmers(2), general public(2), educators(1), students(3), professionals, tourism businesses, elected officials, utilities/911, historical societies (2), forest products, among others. A second round of four groups, conducted in mid-April, involved 47 citizens. The second round deliberately combined a mix of stakeholders. Data from all groups has consistently validated "haphazard/uncontrolled/unplanned non-farm development" as the key growth management issue facing the area. Changes in local agriculture, different views about the future, over-development of tourism, and degradation of natural resources also ranked high by area citizens as critical issues affecting the future of the area.

The focus group findings will play an important role in defining the questions for a survey of the general public which will be conducted during late summer and early fall. In addition, the focus group data has focused on the need for more specific information concerning non-farm housing development in rural areas. Modifications in the work plan will allow consultant Joan Nassauer to gather and process this specific information.

January, 1 1997

In September, the Steering Committee and staff made the determination that the small town perspective was lacking in the data gathered to this point. The decision was made to gather this perspective in public forums through other information gathering techniques. 18 City Councils were visited with a total of 16 agreeing to participate. Community meetings involving 6 communities are confirmed with discussions underway for meetings with an additional 10 communities. Community Forums will take place from early January through February.

Phone Survey: The survey was conducted in September and early October to supplement the focus group data compiled last April. In addition, the survey targeted women, young people, and residents in southern Fillmore and Houston Counties in an effort to balance the perspective of focus groups participants which tended to be male and older. Survey data demonstrated strong support for a number of themes which emerged in the focus groups, including a strong desire for agriculture viable and locally owned.

July 1, 1997

Between mid-January and the end of March, 9 in-depth site visits were held at the following communities for the purpose of gathering information about growth and development pressures in area towns: Caledonia, Chatfield, Houston, Lanesboro (joint visit with Whalan), LaCrescent, Mabel (joint visit with Spring Grove), Rushford, Preston, and Wykoff (joint visit with Fountain). While Caledonia, Chatfield and LaCrescent are the communities, of those visited, experiencing the greatest development pressure, most of the remainder anticipate growth in the near future. All communities felt that their current infrastructure could accommodate an average growth rate of 5%. The meetings were attended by 75 persons and included a good representation of mayors, council members, planning commission members and interested citizens.

Sept, 1997: Final report

Over 800 residents of the two counties actively participated in the Fillmore/Houston Counties Common Vision Project. At the end of the process the steering committee was able to identify common points of agreement among these participants, and to reflect this agreement in a vision statement for the area. Although agreement on the common vision was relatively easy to reach, it was more difficult to reach agreement on the steps necessary to carry out the vision. In the end, the steering committee approved 31 formal recommendations, each of which is considered a necessary implementation step of the vision.

Building the data infrastructure and stakeholder buy-in for the common vision and recommendations took approximately 20 months.

Creating this vision and action steps involved designing a process which would include many different types of information, information from both local experts as well as lessons from other places. As the process developed, it incorporated data from 26 focus groups, 300 phone interviews, 5 public issue forums, 9 Town meetings, four study groups, and numerous public information meetings. In addition, Nassauer and Associates both presented relevant data and organized data generated by the steering committee into a useful format (see *Chapter Three: Suggestions in Common Visions-Fillmore and Houston Counties- A People's Project*).

DNR:

In the last five months the Blufflands Coordinator has attended meetings with the Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership and the Historic Bluff Country groups to update each other.

The Blufflands Coordinator represents the DNR within the Blufflands Alliance and regularly attends the meetings.

The Blufflands Coordinator has met with various DNR personnel to keep them apprized of activities in the areas that are of interest to them. The Blufflands Coordinator also meets regularly with the Blufflands Landscape Team, a interdepartmental DNR group that meets to help coordinate DNR activities and community interaction throughout

the blufflands area.

July, 1 1996

In the last six months the Blufflands Coordinator has continued to attend meetings with Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership and Historic Bluff Country groups to keep each updated.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to represent the DNR within the Blufflands Alliance by regularly attending Alliance meetings.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet with various DNR personnel to keep them apprized of activities in the area that are of interest to them. The Blufflands Coordinator also continues to meet regularly with the Blufflands Landscape Team to coordinate DNR activities and community interaction throughout the Blufflands area.

January, 1 1997

The Bluff lands Coordinator has attended monthly meetings with Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership and Historic Bluff Country groups. The Blufflands Coordinator participated in the regional conference sponsored by the Winona/LaCrescent Area partnership and the Bluffland Alliance. The Blufflands Coordinator continues to represent the Minnesota DNR within the Bluffland Alliance by regularly attending Alliance meetings.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meeting with DNR personnel to keep them apprized of activities in their area that may be of interest

to them and to ascertain assistance from various specialties within the DNR. The Blufflands Coordinator has stayed apprized of other DNR activities within the bluffland region which she may be able to assist with.

July 1, 1997

The Bluffland Coordinator has attended all steering committee, advisory committee and other meetings help by the Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership and the Fillmore and Houston County Common Vision Project.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to represent the DNR within the Blufflands Alliance by regularly attending Alliance meetings. The Blufflands Coordinator has begun to participate on a team, made up of local government official, agency representatives and private conservation group representatives, working on Environmentally Sensitive Developments.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet and work with DNR personnel to keep them apprized of activities in their area that may be of interest to tem and to ascertain assistance from various specialties within the DNR. The Bluffland Coordinator has worked to stay apprized of other activities within the bluffland region which she may be able to assist with.

July, 1998

In the last twelve months the Blufflands Coordinator has periodically attended meetings

with Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership group to keep one another updated.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to represent the DNR within the Blufflands Alliance by regularly attending Alliance meetings.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to meet with representative of other agencies and offices which are involved in the bluffland area to share information on the bluffland resources and to keep each apprised of the of activities which may be of interest to them.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to meet with various DNR personnel and groups to keep them apprized of activities in the area that are of interest to them. The Blufflands Coordinator also continues to meet regularly with the Blufflands Landscape Team to coordinate DNR activities and community interaction throughout the Blufflands area. These meetings have continued to assist in the coordination of projects and activities throughout the Bluffland Landscape.

**WIN:**

Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1996.

July 1, 1996

The Steering Committee consisting of 12 members selected by the Advisory Committee and affiliated groups, has convened three times since January of 1996. The Steering Committee has been effective in assisting the Win Group Project Coordinators in

planning for the Advisory Committee meetings, Study Group meetings, and the upcoming Planning Forums and the Fall Regional Conference. Strategy meetings with local resource people and Cooperators have been helpful in preparing and networking for the planning process and the Regional Conference.

In May of 1996, the Win Group attended the three-day Professional Development Program in Planning and Zoning. The 1996 Program titled "Planning and Zoning for Community Land-Use Management" explored the role of vision-based planning, traditional and strategic comprehensive planning techniques, performance zoning provisions for design, city/county intergovernmental coordination, impact of vested rights and property rights on planning, sustainable development programs, etc. This program provided excellent training for directing the Planning Forums, and introduced many new concepts, resource people, models and analysis that will be reviewed and discussed.

January 1, 1997

The Win Group has been meeting with the Steering Committee to design the process for the Planning Phase to be conducted January through April of 1996. In January, the Win Group will meet with the Advisory Committee, and specially invited local officials, conference attendees, resource team members, project cooperators (including the Blufflands Coordinator) to identify and evaluate common viewpoints, values, and goals as summarized by the previous 3 rounds of Study Groups and the Regional Conference. Small planning groups will

be formed to collectively work toward consensus on a shared vision for the physical landscape of this region. Small groups will present their results to the larger group, and collectively the groups will confirm The Common Vision. The goal is to form the Common Vision by late February or early March of 1996, and begin the process of defining the implementation strategies for achieving The Common Vision.

July 1, 1997

The program for the participatory planning forums described in the Work program was restructured somewhat to accommodate the 56 member Advisory Committee. The planning process included three phases. The first phase, was an in-depth investigation and survey of local citizens regarding their vision for the future. The second phase involved "The Choice is Ours" discussion process. Currently the Project is completing the third phase, which involves finalizing the Growth Management Framework Plan.

Over three hundred invitations were sent to Advisory Committee members, elected public officials, resource management specialists, civic organization representatives, and interested citizens to attend the Planning Process kick-off meeting on January 29th, 1997. At this meeting, approximately 100 participants took part in a survey process consisting of three major activities.

In the first activity, meeting participants viewed and rated numerous slides that depicted a broad

array of settings found in the Blufflands Region. They also rated comparison slides that provided different development scenarios. Secondly, they discussed in small groups four diagrams that illustrated different "potential growth options." These options portrayed 1) the existing Winona County zoning scenario for rural areas; 2) an alternative scenario allowing "no" development in rural areas and concentrating the development within or closely adjacent to existing town centers; 3) a second alternative allowing some cluster development to occur in rural areas but still concentrating most of the new development in or near existing town centers; 4) and a third alternative of restricting growth and development to existing town centers and creating a new town or village developed in a rural area that resembles the traditional small town pattern. Each small group of approximately seven Advisory Committee members, interested citizens, and elected officials discussed and recorded some of the perceived advantages and disadvantages of these options, and then individually rated the options. Lastly, meeting participants expressed their views and values in a rating survey that asked over 160 questions (in both written and diagrammatic form) about land-use issues and planning concepts related to agriculture, small town life, scenic character, new development, natural environment, historic character, recreation, and tourism. Considering the extreme diversity of viewpoints among the meeting participants, the survey reflected a great deal of shared values and support for many of the issues and concepts presented.

The results from the planning process surveys were discussed in further detail at the follow up Advisory Committee meetings in February and March. During these meetings, Advisory Committee members and interested citizens discussed their reactions and interpretations of the survey results in order to confirm areas where there appeared to be agreement and disagreement, and listed possible explanations. At this time, a series of events occurred that brought about a roadblock in the Project for further progress. Simultaneous planning projects and initiatives (various State-wide land-use planning framework proposals, the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor, the Apple Blossom Scenic Drive Coalition, the Minnesota Land Trust Blufflands Chapter, etc.) Created a great deal of confusion and uproar within the Common Visions Project. In addition, a small number of Advisory Committee members and some citizens particularly concerned about property rights, were surprised and felt threatened by the results of the survey and other aspects of the grass-roots process results. These individuals created a well-organized effort to undermine the Project. At this point, one Advisory Committee member proposed a different discussion process ("The Choice is Ours") for the Advisory Committee, in order to address the conflicts and concerns that were dividing the group. The Advisory Committee approved the proposal and elected a small working committee of four people to assist the Project Coordinators, and facilitator Peter Buessler in re-shaping the process to meet the needs of the Common Visions Project.

This working committee convened three times during

March through May of 1997. On Saturday May 3rd, approximately thirty Advisory Committee members came together to participate in the 6 hour "Choice is Ours" process. This process challenged people to go deeper in examining their own viewpoints, values, and concerns and challenged people to honestly listen, respect, and if possible understand the positions and values of people who held different viewpoints from their own. This session was successful in bringing the Advisory Committee back together into a cooperative working atmosphere, however it did require three months of organizing and conducting the process which was not originally planned in the Project's activities.

Building upon all of the experiences, results, and feedback that was generated from the Project activities over the past two years, the Project coordinators Original Draft Common Vision document and presented it to the Steering Committee for their review and suggested modifications at two long and exhaustive meetings in June, 1997. The Steering Committee's proposals for modifications are recorded in the Working Draft Common Vision Document. Both of the Common Vision documents will be presented to the Advisory Committee for review on July 10th, 1997. In addition, a list of Implementation Options with brief descriptions and goals will be provided to list possible techniques, etc. or achieving the Common Vision. Lastly, a new section has been approved by the Steering Committee entitled "Two Perspectives on property rights and takings." Two different viewpoints were prepared by separate committees that were organized by Steering Committee members.

This section represents an approach to provide some background information about property rights and the takings issue as it applies to the Winona County/La Crescent area, and to represent the different viewpoints in a fair and equal manner. All four documents (Original Draft and Working Draft Common Vision, Implementation Options, and Two Viewpoints on Property Rights and Takings) will be presented to the Advisory Committee on July 10th 1997.

June, 1998

The purpose of this activity was to prepare for and conduct local planning forums in which local citizens would ultimately identify and document a "Common Vision" for the future of the bluffland landscape. In addition, this activity included the documentation of "Implementation Options" by the project coordinators which would be available for use by local units of government, citizens, and local businesses to further investigate and help accomplish the Common Vision goals. Lastly, this activity provided for the documentation of "Two Viewpoints on Property Rights and Takings." These three components were then combined into the "Growth Management Framework Plan" which could be used by local citizens and local units of government as a guide for future land use planning and development activities.

Prior to the start of this activity, the majority of the Advisory Committee members and project cooperators had studied numerous issues related to current growth and development patterns and the

resulting impacts upon the natural, agricultural, and community landscapes in the Blufflands Region. In preparation for the kickoff of the planning sessions, more than 300 invitations were sent out - not only to Advisory Committee members, but also to local elected officials, resource management specialists, civic organization representatives, and interested citizens.

At the first planning meeting approximately 100 participants took part in a survey process that consisted of three parts as follows: 1.) Meeting participants viewed and rated their preferences on numerous slides that depicted a broad array of settings found in the Blufflands Region as well as comparison slides that provided different development scenarios, 2.) In small groups, meeting participants discussed the advantages and disadvantages of four diagrams that illustrated different "potential growth options" within rural settings, and 3.) Meeting participants expressed their views and values in a rating survey that asked over 160 questions in both written and diagrammatic form about land-use issues and planning concepts related to agriculture, small town life, scenic character, new development, natural environment, historic character, recreation, and tourism. Considering the extreme diversity of viewpoints among the meeting participants, the survey process reflected a great deal of shared values and support for many of the issues and concepts presented.

The results from the planning process surveys were discussed in further detail at the follow up Advisory Committee meetings in February and March



of 1997. During these meetings, Advisory Committee members and interested citizens discussed their reactions and interpretations of the survey results in order to confirm areas where there appeared to be agreement and disagreement, and listed possible explanations. At this time, a series of events were occurring that brought about a serious roadblock to the further progress of the Project. Simultaneous planning projects and initiatives such as various State-wide Community-Based Planning proposals, the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor, the Apple Blossom Scenic Drive Coalition, the Minnesota Land Trust Blufflands Chapter, etc., created a great deal of confusion and uproar amongst certain participants of the Common Visions Project. A small number of Advisory Committee members and some citizens who were particularly concerned about private property rights felt threatened by the results of the survey and other aspects of the grass-roots process results. At this time these individuals created a well-organized effort to undermine the Project.

As a compromise effort and in order to encourage cooperation within the project, one of the Advisory Committee members who had a strong interest in the protection of private property rights proposed an alternative discussion/planning process referred to as "The Choice is Ours." He proposed this process for the Advisory Committee to consider in order to address the conflicts and concerns that were dividing the group. The Advisory Committee approved the proposal and elected a small working committee of four people (with differing viewpoints on property rights, but willing to work cooperatively together) to assist

the Project Coordinators, and the facilitator Peter Buessler (who had developed the "Choice is Ours" process) to re-shape the planning process to meet the current needs of the Common Visions Project.

This working committee convened three times during March, April, and May of 1997. On Saturday May 3rd, approximately thirty Advisory Committee members came together to participate in the 6 hour "Choice is Ours" planning process. This process challenged people to go deeper in examining their own viewpoints, values, and concerns regarding land-use issues, and challenged people to honestly listen, respect, and if possible, understand the positions and values of people who held different viewpoints from their own. This session was successful in bringing the Advisory Committee back together into a cooperative working atmosphere, however it did require three months of organizing and conducting the process which was not originally planned in the Project's activities. In addition, and also due to the property rights controversy, two more public informational meetings were organized and held in the project area. These meetings were heavily attended.

Building upon all of the experiences, results, and feedback that had been generated from the Project activities over the past two years, the Project coordinators developed the "Original Draft Common Vision" document and presented it to the Steering Committee for their detailed review and line-by-line proposed modifications at two long and exhaustive 5-hour meetings in June, 1997. The Steering Committee's proposals for modifications

were recorded in the "Working Draft Common Vision" Document. Both of these versions of the Common Vision documents were then mailed to the Advisory Committee for their review. On July 10th, 1997 the final Advisory Committee meeting was held to review, discuss, debate, and modify the Common Vision document for the final time.

In addition to this document, a preliminary listing of various "Implementation Options" was developed by the project coordinators which included brief descriptions of possible techniques, planning approaches, land protection tools, etc., for achieving the Common Vision. Lastly, a new section was approved by the Steering Committee entitled "Two Perspectives on property rights and takings." Two different viewpoints were prepared by separate committees that were organized by Steering Committee members. This section represents an approach to provide some background information about property rights and the takings issue as it applies to the Winona County / La Crescent area, and to represent the different viewpoints of local citizens in a fair and equal manner. All four documents (Original Draft and Working Draft Common Vision, the preliminary version of the Implementation Options, and Two Viewpoints on Property Rights and Takings) were presented to the Advisory Committee at their final meeting on July 10th, 1997. As stated above, the Advisory Committee came to agreement on the final version of the Common Vision, however, a number of compromises were made to get to a point of consensus.

At the final Advisory Committee meeting it was

agreed that Fred Meyer, an Advisory Committee member who was considered to be fair and open-minded regarding the various viewpoints expressed throughout the project, would assist the project coordinators in reviewing and wordsmithing the final version of the Common Vision document. After the project coordinators incorporated the changes voted upon by the Advisory Committee, Fred Meyer did in fact assist in reviewing and wordsmithing the final Common Visions document.

After the final Advisory Committee meeting was held, the project coordinators continued to research, refine, and document various Implementation Options as mentioned above. The "Common Vision", the "Implementation Options", and the "Two Viewpoints on Property Rights and Takings" sections were then combined into the Growth Management Framework Plan.

**B.2. Activity:** Identify common values regarding preservation of resources and economic development that will be used to define a common vision and action plan that balances concerns for people with a regard for resources. (NOTE: the WIN group has combined these activities with the activities of B.1. For additional information regarding the WIN group activities and context within the project, see B.1.b methods.)

**B.2.a. Context within the project:** This activity is a key element of the process which bridges between a citizen consensus about what resources they value in common and the specific

action steps required to protect valued resources.

**B.2.b. Methods:**

HBC:

- Bring back 1 or 2 outside experts brought in during A.2 to discuss in detail how their model would apply to the Houston and Fillmore county context. Experts will present information to steering committee and other interested parties.

- Analysis by the steering committee with the assistance of consultants of data obtained by the survey, focus groups, videos and models from elsewhere for the purpose defining the Bluff Country vision and implied action steps.

- Present the vision/action plan at 3 public meetings plus up to 8 additional public or private meetings with local media, local officials, and other key opinion shapers for the purpose of gathering citizen and stakeholder input. Vision/action plan modified depending on input.

- Produce 4/6 line drawings illustrating 2/3 scenarios for one location in each county which illustrate landscape results of projected non-farm housing growth trends using current policies/tools. Work with elected officials/local planning professionals to identify projected non-farm housing growth trends.

- Develop and conduct workshop with local planning staff to consider implications of above. Develop and illustrate 2/3 non-farm growth scenarios for same sites illustrated above. Scenarios illustrate effects of suggested new tool/policies.

DNR:

- Summarize information gathered from the objective A and objective B.1. Use this information to determine specific land stewardship educational needs for governments and citizens and to share with project partners, local units of governments, and other agencies.

WIN:

- These activities are explained under B.1 and B.1.b.

**B.2.c. Materials:**

HBC: \$2800 (office expenses & supplies)

DNR: \$500 (office expenses and supplies)

WIN: Included as part of B.1.c.

**B.2.d. Budget:**

HBC: \$79,793

DNR: \$12,500

WIN: Included as part of B.1.d.

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget:** \$92,293

**LCMR Balance:** \$0,000

**MATCH:** \$5,000

**MATCH BALANCE:** \$0,000

**B.2.e. Timeline:**

Products:

HBC:

- Visits from outside experts.

8/96 9/96  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Draft vision/action plan.

9/96 11/96  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Presentation of vision in public formats.

11/96 1/97  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Steering Committee approves revised vision.

1/97 2/97  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Produce 4/6 line drawings.

7/96:9/96  
XXXXXXXXXX

- Develop and conduct workshop.

7/96 1/15/96  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

DNR:

- Summarize information from objective A and objective B.1.

1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97	1/98	6/98
X	X	X	X	X	X

WIN:

- These products are explained under B.1 and B.1.d.

**B.2.f. Work Program Update:**

HBC:

Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1996.

July, 1 1996

Although there has been little activity in this area to date, activity will increase markedly during late summer and throughout the fall regarding this action area. In addition to the survey being completed, site visits are being planned to 6/10 area communities to insure that the "urban" or small town perspective is also reflected in the Fillmore/Houston Common Vision. In addition, it is anticipated that a draft vision/action plan will be available for public reaction by the beginning of 97. Finally, at least one additional visit by an outside resource/expert will take place.

January, 1 1997

The project hosted a public forum on August 27 which featured regional DNR officials discussing

the agency's plans and visions for Fillmore and Houston Counties. 75 persons attended the forum. On November 14, 25 persons attended a presentation by Elizabeth Brabec, an attorney and landscape architect who spoke on strategies to integrate ecological planning into land development practices.

HBC co-sponsored the Pathways to the Future Conference, served on the planning committee, sponsored the participation of Elizabeth Brabec as a featured speaker, suggested a number of other featured speakers, and marketed the conference within its region.

On December 4 the Steering Committee formally organized into four study groups, each of which is charged with producing recommendations for the final report. The Agriculture Issues Study Group will look at ways of encouraging future development to take place closer to existing towns rather than in rural areas. The Costs of Development Study Group will study annexation issues plus determine the actual costs versus the actual benefits of housing and commercial development within rural areas. The Natural Resources Study Group will study forestry, watershed and bio-diversity issues. The Tourism Study Group will study the positive and negative impacts of tourism upon the region.

July 1, 1997

From early December through April 16, four separate study groups worked to formulate specific recommendations in the areas of costs of

development/annexation, agriculture, natural resources, and impacts of tourism which would outline action steps to meet the concerns of citizens raised in the focus groups and survey data. In addition to the focus group and survey data, study groups collected information from a number of sources, including the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Land Trust, US Forestry Service, Minnesota Extension, and county staff.

On April 16, 35 draft recommendations plus a draft common vision were voted on by the Steering Committee, with 31 recommendations plus the vision being approved for submission to the public for comment.

Five public meetings were held in four locations (Caledonia, Chatfield, Houston and Preston (2)) during a three week period in late April/early May for the purpose of soliciting public reaction to the draft vision/action steps. Approximately 60 citizens attended these meetings. In addition, 5 separate background meetings were held with key county agencies and organizations during the same time period. For the most part feedback from all 10 meetings was helpful and supportive.

On May 7, after hearing a summary of the input from the public meetings and after making several minor changes, the Steering Committee approved in final form the vision and 31 action steps (recommendations). 19 of 24 members of the Steering Committee participated in the ratification process. During late May and early

June the final version of the vision/recommendations were prominently displayed in newspapers ads purchased in nine local newspapers. A brochure containing the same information is being printed and will be widely distributed in the near future.

Sept, 1997: Final report

In addition to collecting data, the process required the extensive participation of people reflecting the diversity of opinion within the two county area about growth and development issues. In other words, the final vision had to reflect the broadest spectrum of opinion concerning these issues. Tapping into this diversity was accomplished in a number of ways. The steering committee was deliberately established with representation from at least 9 stakeholder groups. Focus groups contained representatives from 15 different stakeholder groups. Membership of the 4 issue study groups: agriculture, non-farm development, tourism, and natural resources, reflected broad participation of different stakeholders. Town meetings and public forums were additional opportunities to bring together different stakeholders. The success of the project to create a common vision was acknowledged by David Phillips, Publisher of the Preston Republican Leader, when he said "Although some people will never be satisfied, it (Common Visions) is the closest thing to a truly common vision we may ever see"

The importance of having a common vision is that it represents a benchmark in the growth of

community awareness about the inter-relatedness of a number of issues. When the project was first funded in late Spring of 95, a number of local people did not understand why the project was necessary. They could not see why so much state money had become available for the purpose of determining whether or not a common vision for the area existed. Two years later, the attitude concerning the need of the project has changed toward greater support. Discussions among citizens about the impacts of different types of change is more pervasive, as is the need to manage these changes in ways which benefit both current and future generations. Agreement on a common vision was an important first step on the part of area citizens to move toward a desired future. Having defined where they want to go, Fillmore and Houston Counties can now turn their attention to how to get there. The journey to achieve the vision will take years, but this common journey of 40,000+ citizens will actually be shorter in the long run because of the up-front planning efforts incorporated into the Common Visions process.

DNR:

The Blufflands Coordinator has summarized information gathered through research and meetings with local government representatives. This work has resulted in a number of examples of options communities have developed for environmental protection. The information developed from the research has been distributed to those communities where it would be appropriate. The meetings have resulted in a list of current and future needs for communities in the blufflands area. These meetings have also produced a catalog of tasks

that need to be accomplished to help these communities meet their needs.

July, 1 1996

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to summarize and disperse new information gathered through research and meetings with local government representatives. This new information has been added to the numerous other options communities have developed for environmental protection. The information is then distributed to communities where it can be used appropriately. The Blufflands Coordinator continues to work on and add to the catalog of tasks developed within the first five months of this project to meet the needs of communities within the Blufflands.

January, 1 1997

Information gathered through research, conferences, workshops and seminars is continually being summarized and dispersed to communities and individuals within the bluffland region. All new information and tools available are adding to existing resources for land stewardship available to local communities and individuals. As the tasks identified in the first eighteen months of the project evolve and some come to a close, new tasks are continually being identified and clarified. With each request from local communities or individuals the Blufflands Coordinator the resource information needed and the appropriate tools.

July 1, 1997

All information gathered through research, meetings with local governments, meetings, workshops, conferences and other activities the Bluffland Coordinator has been involved with is summarized. This information is then made available to local governments, citizens and citizen groups, and other agencies when appropriate.

The tools and options available for bluffland stewardship are continually being compiled and distributed where appropriate. If these tools are adjusted in any way by the local unit of government or group using them I add the new adjusted tool to the summary.

As many of the tasks identified at the beginning of this project come to a close new requests for assistance are continually being presented. With each new request the needs of the community are assessed and appropriate assistance and information is provided.

July, 1998

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to attend workshops, conferences, and seminars to gather and share information on the natural resources of the area and the tools available for resource protection. Periodic library research has continued to build the catalog of information available.

The information gathered has been documented,

periodically compiled and provided to local units of governments, other agencies and citizens.

**WIN:**

Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1996.

January 1, 1997

These objectives are outlined in B1f. as stated in the original Work Plan.

**B.3 Activity:** Coordinate efforts with the Bluffland Alliance (a project cooperator) and assist in preparing for and conducting a regional conference on resource protection, growth management issues, etc.

**B.3.a. Context within the project:** The conference will include a variety of guest presenters from various geographic locations. They will be representing a number of interrelated disciplines which pertain to resource protection, growth management, sustainable development, etc. By coordinating with the Bluffland Alliance, the conference will serve to assist in raising awareness of local citizens, government officials, and others who will be participants in the local planning forms previously described. Conference topics will be geared to issues of local concern.

**B.3.b. Methods:** The conference will take place over a 1 or 2 day period and will be held in the Winona/LaCrescent area. Details of the conference format etc., will be cooperatively

planned by the Blufflands Alliance, the Resource Team, steering committee, Cooperator groups, etc.

**B.3.c. Materials:**

WIN: \$ 370

**B.3.d. Budget:**

WIN: \$ 24,868.57

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget:**\$ 24,868.57

**LCMR Balance:**\$ 0.00

**Match:** \$12,500

**Match Balance:** \$0.00

**B.3.e. Timeline:**

Products:

WIN:

- Coordinate with the Bluffland Alliance and help prepare for conference. Meet and correspond with cooperator groups, steering committee members, and other conference participants to plan out and confirm details.

1/96

6/96

1/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Assist with conducting the conference.

6/96

1/97

XXXXXXX



and the three Common Visions Project teams.

The Regional Conference entitled "Pathways to the Future: Exploring Planning Approaches, Design Tools, and Growth Management Techniques to Enhance and Sustain the Resources and Quality of Life in the Blufflands Region", held in Winona November 15-16th, 1996 proved to be a successful event. Attendance for the 2-day event was approximately 200. Evaluation forms documented that 46% of the attendees rated the conference as "excellent", 39% rated the conference "very good", 13% rated it good, and 2% did not give it a rating.

The conference covered a broad array of topics including: agricultural land preservation, fiscal and social impacts of various development patterns, conservation of natural resources, geographic information systems (GIS) in planning, legal issues involved in planning, and much more. The conference included a mixture of local, state, and national presenters (17 in total, plus short presentations from various participants of the Common Visions Project). Presenters from within the Blufflands Region shared their experiences of implementing new and innovative tools for planning at the township, city, and county levels. In addition, the conference brought in experienced individuals from other locations in the nation, who have been experimenting with growth and development alternatives and who are seeing the results of those experiments. These presenters, from Vermont, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Minnesota, shared their experiences, positive results, and lessons learned from their different approaches. The conference provided the

opportunity to learn from people and places which have been experiencing and dealing with various growth and development issues for a longer period of time than the Blufflands Region. Bringing in the experience and hindsight of individuals from other locations as well as dealing with the local concerns generated interest and intrigue, and brought about heightened insight and understanding regarding various planning tools and concepts that deal with growth and development issues.

**C. Title of Objective/Outcome:** Implement the action plan

**C.1. Activity:** Carry out the action plans to achieve the common visions.

**C.1.a. Context within the project:** Takes steps toward achieving the common vision for the community.

**C.1.b. Methods:**

HBC:

- Develop and apply future non-farm housing growth scenarios to study areas about one section in size, one area in each county. Work with local officials and professional staff to test scenarios to determine if there are lessons to be learned from study areas which can be applied to how any future development should occur in Bluff Country. Write document which includes plan, guidelines,

and strategy for implementation based on lessons learned from study areas. Included in the document will be specific recommendations/additional information which connect the Houston/Fillmore common vision to local land use issues. Up to 2000 copies will be printed.

- Conduct up to six workshops or other public forums which will demonstrate specific and practical resource preservation techniques which can strengthen current local land use decision making processes. The workshops/public forums will build upon the line drawings which illustrate the various non-farm growth scenarios. Workshops and public forums will target such local decision makers as County Commissioners, Mayors and City Council Members, appropriate county/city staff, members of county/city planning commissions, local media and other interested parties in Houston and Fillmore Counties

DNR:

- Work with communities/groups to evaluate the information generated by this project and develop mechanisms for using this information in their decision making processes.
- Provide technical assistance, educational opportunities, and support using techniques such as workshops, informal meetings, and one-on-one communication with individuals, agencies, governments, and organizations interested in 1. learning about the tools/options available for resource protection and 2. incorporating

information about resources and land use policies and programs from Minnesota and other states into land use documents and developing management practices that promote sustainable stewardship.

- Provide follow up assistance for interested communities that currently have natural resource protection documents 1. to determine their effectiveness, 2. to provide assistance in moving forward in other protection efforts, and 3. to determine effectiveness of existing resource protection programs.

WIN:

- Based upon information gained throughout the course of project, including citizen input from the locally driven planning process, and the final recommendations of the Growth Management Framework Plan ... a Blufflands Design Manual will be created. It will graphically illustrate examples of various growth management, planning, and design concepts that are in harmony with sensitive bluffland resources and landscapes. It will contain high quality photographs and panoramas that will capture the spirit of exceptional bluffland settings. Ultimately, The Design Manual will express the visions and dreams of local people, and their pride and aspirations for their communities & farmsteads ... and their hopes for their children's futures:

The Design Manual will be aimed at keeping the spirit of this grassroots project alive. If people feel strong about the worth of the project and the value of the unique bluffland landscape, they will

tend to follow through and implement its goals. It can become an important tool to help local people seek out sensitive solutions to how we use the land in future years.

- Provide a final presentation to Winona County/LaCrescent area citizens and public officials to share the project results and to encourage continues planning partnerships and follow-up actions.

#### C.1.c. Materials:

HBC:	\$8,500	(office expenses, supplies, and printing)
DNR:	\$5,450	(office expenses, supplies, and printing)
WIN:	\$10,340	(office expenses, supplies, and printing approximately 500 copies)

#### C.1.d. Budget:

HBC:	\$57,032
DNR:	\$19,900
WIN:	\$27,072.55

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$104,004.55  
LCMR Balance:\$0,000  
MATCH: \$10,000  
MATCH BALANCE: \$0,000

#### C.1.e. Timeline:

Products:

HBC:

- Local training workshops. Complete 6/97 4/97  
6/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Develop and apply future non-farm housing growth scenarios. 1/97  
8/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

DNR:

- Develop mechanisms with interested communities for using the information generated by this project. Provided to groups at their request throughout the length of the project.

- Technical assistance/educational opportunities/support/follow up assistance to communities. Provided throughout the length of the project at the request of various groups.

WIN:

- Prepare drafts, review with steering committee, etc., revise, and publish blufflands design manual.

1/97 6/97  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
4/97

10/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Provide final presentation:

1/97 6/97  
XXXXXX

8/97 12/97

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

#### C.1.f. Work Program Update:

##### HBC:

The project has made a concerted effort to build the cooperation of county commissioners, county staff, mayors and council persons, township officials and other potential users of the final training document and training workshops. The effort includes meetings with all of the above, learning about relevant timetables and avenues of communication, solicitation of ideas from potential users concerning format and content, and networking with other area resources such as Soil and Water Boards, Minnesota Extension, the Forest Resource Center, among others.

Final decisions concerning format and content of the training manual and workshops will be made upon completion of the small groups, survey, and

all activities related to Objective B.2.

July, 1 1996

The project continues to make a concerted effort to build the credibility of the Common Visions Project so as to insure the vital cooperation of county commissioners, county staff, mayors, city councils, township officials and other potential users of the final document and workshops/public forums. Quarterly reports are routinely presented to each county board, steering committee members/staff have participated in a number of public forums about the project, plus press releases/paid advertisements also present the Common Visions story to the public. Networking also continues with area public schools, both County Soil and Water Boards, DNR, Minnesota Extension among others.

Final decisions concerning the format and content of the workshops and training/recommendation documents will be made upon completion of the survey, the site visits to local communities, and Ms Nassauer's work with non-farm related housing development.

January, 1 1997

Over the summer, Joan Nassauer worked with a small sub-committee of the Steering Committee to apply current Fillmore and Houston County zoning ordinances to "Bluff Township" to determine their impact in managing non-farm housing development in agricultural and rural areas. A series of line-drawings which used the same common background

were utilized to demonstrate the impacts of four different scenarios upon the landscape. Ms. Nassauer's findings were presented at a workshop for county and local planning officials on October 28 and at the October 30 Steering Committee meeting. The work continues with the next phase to be completed on or about January 15.

July 1, 1997

Work is nearly completed on the writing/editing/layout phases which lead to the publication of the final document. A final, camera ready version will go to the printer on or about July 1, with 2000 printed copies available for distribution by the 3rd week in July. In addition to the vision and 31 action steps, primary components of the document include photos and line drawings, a demographics summary of the two counties, a summary of the common visions methodology, plus a summary of what was learned from the project. Joan Nassauer is also preparing a chapter of suggestions concerning specific strategies citizens can use to implement a number of the recommendations/action steps contained in the document.

Workshops currently are being scheduled with both County Boards, both County Planning Commissions and with Minnesota Extension for the purpose of sharing the data and implementation strategies contained in the final document. In addition, staff is developing a hand-off process which will recruit citizens to adopt specific recommendations and work for their adoption/implementation by appropriate organizations, agencies or unit of

government.

Sept, 1997: Final report

A major concern reflected from many places and by many people is that the final product of Common Visions not be a report that no one reads and/or uses. The steering committee was especially sensitive to this concern and worked hard to insure that action steps would be clearly defined. In the end the steering committee researched and agreed to 31 action steps or recommendations. The project adapted two strategies to increase the likelihood that at least some of the recommendations will be favorably acted upon.

The first strategy was the incorporation of the common vision, 31 recommendations and background material about the origins of the vision and recommendations, into a 54 page report entitled: **Common Visions-Fillmore and Houston Counties-A People's Project**. 2000 copies of this report were printed, and a copy mailed to each participant in the process, as well as to media, elected officials, and other shapers of public policy. In addition, 2000 copies of a brochure containing just the common vision and recommendations were printed and widely distributed. Finally, the vision and recommendations were published in nine weekly newspapers and shoppers, a net distribution which saturated the two county area. These publications, coupled with working sessions with the Houston county Board, the Houston County Planning Commission, the University of Minnesota Extension Cluster Staff, a joint meeting of the Fillmore County Board and Fillmore County Planning

commission, area legislators, and local farmer organizations, have done much to inform the general public about the common vision and recommendations.

The second strategy was to have each recommendation adopted by a citizen or citizens who will be responsible for helping to insure that appropriate agencies and organizations take the opportunity to consider and hopefully adopt the recommended course of action. Staff have prepared background information on each individual recommendation which includes its rationale, who should be approached for action, plus useful resources such as model ordinances, additional contacts, etc. Staff is also recruiting the person or persons who will serve as an advocate for each recommendation. Putting a personal face on each recommendation will further insure that they are taken seriously when action is considered by decision makers.

The importance of each of these strategies is that they stress the point that agreeing to a vision and recommendations is only a starting point. The real work lies ahead in the months and years to come, and must be carried out by local stakeholders invested in their community and region.

DNR:

The Blufflands Coordinator has presented information gathered on options for protection to various communities. New ideas have been evaluated and their usefulness determined for the particular situation.

Once each community or individual has determined its current and future needs, the Blufflands Coordinator has offered technical assistance to accomplish these goals. This assistance to date has ranged from helping communities develop some GIS maps to writing a fact sheet for a zoning ordinance.

The communities that currently have natural resource protection documents have been contacted, and the Blufflands Coordinator has met with these communities to determine how the document is being utilized to achieve stated goals. The Blufflands Coordinator has also offered to assist these communities in moving forward with natural resource protection. The Community of Red Wing has asked for help in updating their zoning ordinance to reflect the protection given to natural resources in their comprehensive plan. Other communities such as Goodhue County and Houston County have asked for some information on further options available but have no immediate plans to move forward in other protection efforts. The Blufflands Coordinator will continue to stay in contact with these communities to offer assistance when they are ready.

July, 1 1996

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to offer natural resource information and technical assistance to communities throughout the Blufflands area. This assistance has ranged from development to GIS maps to providing natural resource information for zoning ordinances.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to work with counties to develop natural resource protection. The Blufflands Coordinator continues to work with communities such as Red Wing to further develop their existing natural resource protection. The Blufflands Coordinator has kept continued contact with those counties with no immediate plans to work on natural resource protection.

January, 1 1997

The Bluff lands Coordinator continues to provide local communities and individuals with natural resource information and tools and options available to these groups for bluffland stewardship. This assistance ranges from informational presentation, displays and other forms of education to arranging GIS maps to communities.

The Blufflands Coordinator continues to work with counties and communities to develop natural resource protection and build on existing natural resource protection. This type of protection ranges from specific ordinances regulating protection to education about the loss of habitat, natural resource sensitivities and natural resource volunerabilities.

July 1, 1997

As new ideas for natural resource stewardship have been discovered they have been evaluated and if useful, the Blufflands Coordinator has presented the ideas to various communities.

The Bluffland Coordinator is continually revisiting communities to determine if their needs are being met and what their future needs may be.

The communities with existing natural resource protection documents continue to contact the Bluffland Coordinator for information and assistance in moving forward with natural resource protection. Other communities that have not yet developed strong natural resource protection documents also continue to contact the Bluffland Coordinator looking for information which may be useful to their community.

The Bluffland Coordinator has had continuous contact with various schools, sport and recreation groups and community groups throughout the blufflands providing them with educational programs about the blufflands natural resources.

July, 1998

The Bluffland Coordinator help to wrap-up the Historic Bluff Country portion of the Common Visions Project. Over the last year the Bluffland Coordinator periodically met with representatives from the Winona/LaCrescent Area Partnership to work on completion of the documents for the Common Visions Project. The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to build relationships with other community groups through presentations, participation in various workshop, and participation in a number of diverse activities.

The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to work on and expand existing projects, and participate in

and develop new projects with local units of governments. The Bluffland Coordinator has continued to provide communities with information about the bluffland natural resources and the tools available for bluffland protection. The Blufflands Coordinator has continued to update this information through participation in various workshops, conferences, and seminars.

**WIN:**

Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1996.

**January 1, 1997**

**Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1997.**

**July 1, 1997**

Preparation for the Blufflands Design Manual: The Win Group has collected and documented the process of the Advisory Committee in three rounds of Study Groups (each consisting of multiple meetings), The planning process, and "The Choice is Ours" discussion in five reports titled Study Group Summary Reports, Reference Handbook, Planning Process Survey Results, and "The Choice is Ours" Summary Report. All of these documents reflect the thought, concerns, and viewpoints of the Advisory Committee and local citizens that have been discussed throughout the Project. These reports will serve as the main reference material for the Blufflands Design Manual. In addition, Project Coordinators continue to collect and gather pertinent information related to land-use

issues in the Blufflands Region. The Win Group continues to take significant photographs of the Project area that visually indicate the exceptional qualities of the blufflands area, and indicate the impacts of growth and development and other land-use trends.

**June, 1998**

The purpose of this activity was to provide a planning guide which would be titled the "Blufflands Design Manual" for Winona County, the local townships, and the municipalities within the project area regarding land-use issues. The Blufflands Design Manual would also be available on a limited basis (at the Winona County Planning Office and the local libraries) to individuals, planners, developers, and business owners who are considering making modifications to natural, rural, or community properties. In addition, limited copies would be distributed to various cooperator organizations and agencies which are working on land-use issues.

The Blufflands Design Manual was created by the project coordinators with certain sections having significant input from the participants of the Common Visions Project. As detailed under Activity B. 1. f. of this summary, the "Common Vision" section of the Blufflands Design Manual was cooperatively developed by the Advisory Committee over a number of months and after numerous modifications. The "Two Viewpoints on Property Rights and Takings" section of the



Blufflands Design Manual was developed exclusively by two separate teams of project participants who had very diverse viewpoints on property rights. The remainder of the Blufflands Design Manual including the front end of the book and the "Implementation Options" section was developed by the project coordinators utilizing the information that was gathered throughout the project and by doing further research on related topics after the public portion of the project was completed.

Although a few of the property rights proponents argued that the best solution to current growth and development conflicts was "to do nothing and that people would do the right thing", this was not listed as one of the Implementation Options in the book since this concept was strongly rejected as a realistic solution by the Advisory Committee members at one of the special meetings on property rights. In defense of some of the concerns of the property rights proponents, however, it is recommended that the various tools and planning techniques listed in the Implementation Options section of the book should not be blindly adopted by local units of government. Rather, the various Implementation Options are listed as starting points which should be carefully investigated further, and then, a determination should be made if specific options are appropriate and in the best interest of local communities. Resource materials and organizations are listed for the purpose of further investigation. In addition, the Blufflands Design Manual points out that one of the causes of current land-use conflicts is the "sometimes misguided efforts" of well intentioned government regulations. The Design Manual

encourages the process of studying and learning from past successes as well as past failures in land-use decision making.

The budget for the Blufflands Design Manual portion of the project was cut back considerably due to the 12 month extension in time of the project due primarily to dealing with property rights issue (a revised and extended planning phase and extra public informational meetings at the end of the project). To partially make up for the budget deficiency caused by the time delay, contributions were made toward publishing the book by the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, the National Audubon Society - Upper Mississippi River Campaign, and the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council. Copies of the book will be distributed to these organizations.

#### **D. Title of Objective/Outcome:**

**D.1. Activity:** Conduct on the ground implementation strategies such as ongoing public informational programs, demonstration projects, voluntary registry programs, landscape and historic site enhancement, scenic easements, key land acquisitions that protect and enhance the blufflands landscape, zoning code implementation or other activities identified in the growth management framework plan and/or blufflands design manual. Provide a fund of \$40,000 to implement some of the activities. Winona County/LaCrescent Area steering committee reviews recommendations and advises on grants for implementation.

**D.1.a. Context within the project:**  
Depends on findings and recommendations

**D.1.b. Methods:** To be determined.

**WIN:**

● Assist financially and with technical assistance to local initiatives in Winona County which seek to maintain a balanced approach to dealing with land use conflicts.

**D.1.c. Materials:**

**D.1.d. Budget:**

**WIN:** \$40,000

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget:** \$40,000

**LCMR Balance:** \$40,000

**MATCH:** \$000

**MATCH BALANCE:** \$000

**D.1.e. Timeline:** If implementation activities appear to require more time , then extensions and work program will be requested.

**D.1.f. Work Program Update:**

**WIN:**

Work on this objective has not begun as of January 1, 1996.

January 1, 1997

Work on this objective has not begun as of January

1, 1997.

July 1, 1997

Work on this objective has not begun as of July 1, 1997.

June, 1998

The purpose of this activity was to provide Winona County with funds for follow-up implementation activities to help accomplish some of the goals of the Common Visions Project. At this time the funds were not used since the County has just started the update process of the Comprehensive Land-use Plan. The Winona County Planning Department is in the process of reapplying for the funds which they would then utilize for activities listed in the Implementation Options of the Blufflands Design Manual and/or activities listed in the Workprogram.

**VI. Evaluation:** This initiative will be monitored and evaluated continually by principal project partners, and quarterly by the local steering committees to ensure that the project is proceeding as planned and to make adjustments to achieve desired outcomes. This project will be considered successful when the following outcomes are achieved: 1) identification of common ground or values; 2) identification of regional resources that merit protection; 3) generation of

public support to promote changes in how local land use decisions are currently made; and 4) new locally controlled decision making processes which result in specific protection strategies for the blufflands landscape.

**VII. Context within field:** The blufflands in southeastern Minnesota are a unique and important part of Minnesota's natural heritage. For many years, residents of the area have looked for ways to preserve the character of the region while allowing orderly development to occur. Unplanned and dispersed development, stream and groundwater degradation, landscape fragmentation, soil erosion, and aesthetic decline threaten the economic, natural resource and agricultural viability of this region. Citizens and local elected officials will learn about and apply methods to contribute to the base of knowledge through the following processes: 1) investigation of development decisions made elsewhere; 2) involvement in grassroots cooperation around common values; 3) citizen involvement in local government land use planning; and 4) the creation of new frameworks and guides for sustainable land use in the southeastern blufflands.

**VIII. Budget context:** The DNR received \$150,000 from LCMR (Mississippi River Valley Blufflands Initiative subd. 3g) in 1991. DNR has continued to fund the project along with the U.S. Forest Service from July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995. The U.S. Forest Service will also be providing \$50,000 for the two year period starting July 1, 1995. Support services for this position have been

picked up various divisions within the Department.

**IX. Dissemination:** The dissemination of information and data will occur as follows:

Objectives A and B: Through a series of town meetings, focus groups, conferences, and local planning forums, information on resources as well as other pertinent information and images will be presented in a variety of formats to citizens and local government officials. Results of the planning forums will be documented in guidelines for growth management in the blufflands landscape.

Objective C:

HBC:

The HBC final report and recommendations will be available at cost to the public. This document will contain specific information which connects the HBC vision to local land use decision making processes in Fillmore and Houston Counties.

**DNR:**

Records of all presentations, technical assistance, educational activities, support, follow-up assistance will be documented in reports describing the process and results of activities.

**WIN:**

A Blufflands Design Manual will be developed to record a variety of significant blufflands information. Written and graphic representations will illustrate design, planning, and management alternatives for the blufflands landscape. A summary of the planning process and the final findings will be included. The design manual will provide an ongoing catalyst to carry on the project goals beyond June 30, 1997.

**X. Time:**

**XI. Cooperation:**

HBC: Abbe & Kuester (A&K) Development Associates will provide process and coordination assistance throughout the project. Specifically, A&K will assist with the creation of the project steering committee, coordinate training of the committee, plan, convene, and facilitate up to 32 focus groups, assist in the conceptualization and conduction of the survey, analyze all focus group, survey, and outside expert data, assist the

steering committee in the formulation of the vision and action plan, facilitate public meetings as necessary, serve as liaison between the steering committee and Nassauer and Associates, coordination of outside expert visits, and in general, provide assistance toward meeting project goals.

Joan Nassauer and Associates will provide technical assistance throughout the project. In addition, Joan and Associates shall have varying degrees of involvement in the design of the focus groups and survey instruments, analysis of survey and focus group data, and analysis of data presented by outside experts.

Cathy Rain will spend up to 15% of her time on this project providing logistical support with mailings, meeting arrangements, invitations, to public meetings and focus groups, report writing, etc.; coordinating consultant services so that activities will be completed on time; monitoring to insure that project activities will be completed within budget, and serving a member of the Common Visions management team.

**DNR:**

Ann Pierce, Blufflands Coordinator will work full time on this project.

Larry Gates will spend 5% of his time providing program management direction for the project.

**WIN:**

Bob Hurt will spend 85% of his time as the WIN

project coordinator. He will also hire a half time position for general project administration and assistance.

Todd Bram, Winona County Zoning Administrator will spend 20% of his time on this project as an active member of the Winona County/La Crescent area Resource Team and will work closely with Bob Hurt on all phases of the project.

Other project cooperators/resource team members are: Winona County, City of Winona, City of La Crescent, Minnesota EQB, Minnesota Land Trust, Blufflands Alliance, Winona County Historical Society, and Winona County Townships.

**XII. Reporting Requirements:** Semi-annual six-month work program update reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1996, July 1, 1996, January 1, 1997, and a final six-month work program update and final report by June 30, 1997.

**XIII. Required Attachments:**

1. Qualifications: attached
2. Project Staffing Summary: attached

**FINAL ABSTRACTS:**

**HBC:**

**Statement of Objectives:**

A. Raise awareness of, gather information about, and gain local support for resource issues in Fillmore and Houston Counties.

B. Create a common vision which incorporates the views of multiple local stakeholders concerning the desired balance between growth and conservation in the two counties.

C. Develop an action plan to help assure that this balance is achieved and maintained for the benefit of future generations.

**Overall Project Results:**

A. Over 800 Fillmore and Houston County residents participated in the project gathering and sharing information, listening to other viewpoints, and looking for workable solutions to complicated problems.

B. The views of the participants were incorporated into a written Common Vision for the two county area plus 31 recommendations detailing action steps necessary to achieve the vision.

C. Process steps leading to the vision and recommendations included the creation of a 24 person Common Vision Steering Committee, convening of 26 different stakeholder groups, completion of 300 phone interviews, and the gathering and dissemination of information through the use of public forums, study groups and town meetings.

Over a two year period, on the average, a Common Visions meeting was held every 4 days for the purpose of engaging local citizens in the process.

D. The project's greatest contribution was that it helped local citizens to understand that although change is constant, people can choose how to manage it. Citizens were exposed to a number of growth management and development tools designed to protect the environment, promote sustainable communities, and encourage balance between development and conservation.

#### Project Results Use and Dissemination:

A. 2000 copies printed of 54 page booklet entitled Common Visions-Fillmore and Houston Counties-A People's Project (July). Distribution underway.

B. 2000 copies printed of a pamphlet containing the common vision and 31 recommendation. (July). Distribution underway.

C. Prominent ads featuring the Common Vision and 31 Recommendations placed in 9 local newspapers. (June).

D. Procedure developed which assigns each recommendation to area citizens who will advocate for action to be taken by an appropriate agency. (August).

E. Vision and Recommendations shared with County Boards, County Planning commissions, area legislators, and other key stakeholder groups. (July/August).

WIN:

#### Statement of Objectives

A. Gather, study, & prepare information regarding the relationship between current growth and development trends and the natural and cultural resources of the blufflands landscape.

B. Raise awareness and gain support of local citizens and local public officials regarding the need and importance of carefully managing future growth and development in a compatible manner with the natural, rural, and community landscapes.

C. Work with local people to develop a "Common Vision" that portrays a desirable future of the blufflands landscape.

D. Develop and publish a Blufflands Design Manual to give insight and guidance to individuals and communities regarding better ways to shape growth and development in the blufflands landscape.

E. Conduct on the ground implementation strategies that help protect and enhance the blufflands landscape (Note: This objective was not accomplished within the timeframe of the project. Presently, a request to reallocate these funds starting on July 1, 1999 is being made by Winona County).

#### Overall Project Results

Over the course of the Project multiple hundreds of local citizens, local public officials, the business community, and project participants have been made aware of the numerous and complex issues of land-use in the Blufflands Region. This was accomplished through many public informational meetings, meetings with various organizations, television, radio, and newspaper coverage, study groups, advisory committee meetings, steering

committee meetings, a 6-hour bus tour, a 2-day regional conference, planning sessions, and various project publications such as Summary Reports, a Reference Handbook, and the Blufflands Design Manual.

The project helped to emphasize the fact that as time goes on, growth and development is having increasingly more profound impacts upon the natural, rural, and community landscapes as well as the lives of local people. In addition, the project helped uncover the reality that although many local people agree upon what they would like to see for the future of the bluffland landscape (see the "Common Vision" in the Blufflands Design Manual), and to a slightly lesser degree what they consider as current threats to the landscape, that in fact, local people have some very diverse ideas and concerns on how their goals for the future of the Blufflands would be best accomplished. Many of the project participants have been encouraged and look positively upon the wide variety of creative planning approaches that are available as alternatives to the current direction of growth and development patterns. Other project participants, however, feel threatened by a number of these approaches, especially if the approaches include government regulation and restrictions upon their land. These diverging viewpoints are described in more detail in the Blufflands Design Manual.

Regardless of the differing viewpoints on how the common vision goals should best be accomplished, the project has elevated the awareness of local people as to the importance and comprehensive nature of land-use issues. It has helped them

realize that they have a personal stake in the decisions that are being made which influence how growth and development patterns continue in the future. Lastly, it has helped them realize that they themselves can help shape how growth and development takes place in their communities and throughout natural and rural lands, and that their actions (or lack of action) will affect the quality of the landscape and the livability of their communities that will ultimately be inherited by their children, and their children's children.

#### Project Results Use and Dissemination

Winona County is starting to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan and is using the Winona County / La Crescent Area Common Visions Project and the Blufflands Design Manual as guides to help sort out and understand the complexity of various land-use issues as well as to provide insight regarding the desires of local people for the bluffland landscapes. In addition, the newly formed Land Inventory Subcommittee of the Winona Area Joint Coordination Committee will also be using the Blufflands Design Manual as a guide to help in their efforts to coordinate city, county, and township land planning concerns. On a state-wide basis, limited copies of the Blufflands Design Manual will be available to other communities in Minnesota that are struggling with current land-use issues and/or have started Community-Based Comprehensive Planning. Copies of the Blufflands Design Manual (which includes many resources for individuals and communities) will be available at local units of government (county, city, and township), local libraries, state

agencies such as Office of Environmental Affairs, Minnesota Planning, the Department of Natural Resources and a variety of non-governmental organizations.

DNR:

#### Statement of Objectives:

A. Raise awareness of citizens and local government decision makers about bluffland resources and the trends that may impact those resources.

B. Provide opportunities to citizens and local decision makers through open public processes such as focus groups and town meetings to develop a common vision for the future of their community.

C. Develop innovative action plans with communities that protect valued resources, sustain local economies, and assist them in carrying out their community vision.

#### Overall Project Results:

Over the last three years the Blufflands Coordinator has successfully worked to build the awareness of a multitude of local citizens, officials and citizen groups. This effort has resulted in numerous request for assistance and information on the protection options available to local communities for land protection.

The Blufflands Coordinator has continuously worked to provide new information to the DNR, other agencies, citizens, and local officials about land protection options and adaptations to these options

which may work well in the blufflands landscape. The information provided has been presented in the form of written documents, slide presentations, video presentation, one-on-one communication, multi-disciplinary meetings, cable television, workshops, conferences and hands on field presentations.

The Bluffland Coordinator has worked to help citizens and local officials become aware of the vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the bluffland landscape and what this means to their community. The Blufflands Coordinator has also worked with these communities to develop specific tools for resource protection which fit their needs and the support to implement these options.

#### Project Results Use and Dissemination:

The Blufflands Coordinators efforts has resulted in numerous projects. These projects include development of Developers, Contractors, and Realtors Workshops, Oak Savanna Conference, conservation overlay districts, bluffland ordinances, open-space zoning, and a project based on citizens participation in ecological research. The Blufflands Coordinator has been asked to participate in two new land trust chapters, conservation design team, other citizen based resource groups, land-use workshops and resource conferences. The blufflands coordinator participated in the implementation of both Common Visions projects and in the development of final products. The Blufflands Coordinator has also developed numerous slide presentations, two cable television interviews, three radio interviews, and



a multitude of newspaper articles.