

**Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting
July 26, 2006 4:45p.m.
Room 150 New Science Center, Saint John's University**

Present: Steve Plantenberg, Cliff Borgerding, Sherry Kutter, Lowell Rushmeyer, Tom Kroll,
Melissa Holm

- 1.0 Update on Stearns County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update and the Review Committee (Allan D. and Steve P.)
 - 1.1. Current estimated time to go through and update the Comprehensive Plan is 1.5 years. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 27th. An inquiry has been made into holding the meetings at a more central location instead of at the highway department.
Overall impression so far was encouraging-many people are involved and it facilitates other discussions. Steve felt that it brought other townships up to speed and that Avon Township was seen as a leader.
- 2.0 Update on fundraising efforts for Avon Hills Land Heritage Coordinator Position –Tom K.
 - 2.1. If full funding for the position is attained, the possibility of the coordinator doing some work for the Nature Conservatory or on the Colledgeville Township Comprehensive Plan has been brought up. If only half of the funding is attained, the most important tasks for the coordinator to perform include newsletters and regular contacts with the landowners of the Avon Hills, and research of potential opportunist such as Conservation Overlay Districts.
A letter from Greg Haeg is still needed as well as a letter from Cold Spring in order to submit the proposal. St. Martin has indicated an interest in joining in as well but we plan to move forward now in the hopes of establishing something that can be added to in the future.
- 3.0 Update on TNC role in Avon Hills –John M.
Peggy Ladner, newly named Minnesota Director of The Nature Conservancy, has indicated an interest in showing further support for the Avon Hills Initiative. The committee's hope is to use this support to employ someone under the Saint John's University name to work out of a TNC office on the Efroymson project, a TNC worksheet that will allow the AHI to work more closely with TNC.
- 4.0 Next big event that will be open to Avon Hills Initiative members is a woodland conference and MN Forestry Association annual meeting set for Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23. See the following website for more info.
<http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/mfaconference/home.htm>
The AHI will buy space for a booth at the MFA conference in September. Color maps as well as pictures, possibly shown on a projector or laptop computer, are to be displayed and a few committee members will take turns manning the booth.
- 5.0 Newsletter needs to be created and sent by August 25th to all members.
Newsletter is to include...
 - **Comprehensive Plan Review coverage-link and reference to the county website, date of county input meeting or "watch for it" note**
 - **Information on AHI social event-Fishers?**
 - **Election information and ballot-Cliff Borgerding and Peter Dwyer to run, need 'vision' paragraphs from each**
 - **Part-time position information**
- 6.0 Do we want to schedule elections as part of the newsletter?
The newsletter is to contain a portion to fill out and send in as a ballot. The ballot is either to be mailed in and counted or collected at the next social event.

New Business

- 7.0 The next community event is being coordinated by Mark Conway and is to feature Schuman lake road as a feature of the Avon Hills. The hope is to make this an annual event with each year highlighting a different part of the Avon Hills. Booths are to be set up for three weekends, Sept 30-Oct 1, Oct 7-8, and Oct 14-15 with festivities to take part on the 15th. Hours will be from 10am to 5pm with booth shifts from 10-12, 12-2:30, and 2:30-5. Since this also involves Schuman Lake road residents, the hope is to involve them in this as well as the SJU cross country runners so booth shifts are minimized. For more information about current plans, talk to Mark Conway or Melissa Holm.
- 8.0 Brother Dietrich has given the Avon Hills Initiative \$5000 which will be put in a general fund.
- 9.0 Tom Kroll has located a potential candidate to work on the Efrogmson project with TNC