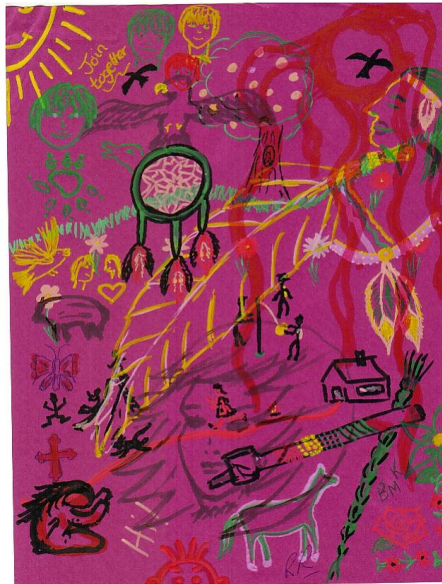


Community Action Planning Report

for

The Northern Village of Green Lake



Art work above done by Session Participants

Based on the planning session facilitated by the Municipal Capacity Development Program August 13, 2008

September 10, 2008

Written by Kent Pointon, Development Officer and Lenore Swystun, Planning Consultant

Updated January 2009

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Introduction

This Community Action Planning Report documents the discussions that took place during the facilitated session held on August 13th at the Northern Village of Green Lake. Elected representatives of the Village, the Village Administrator and a broad cross section of members of the community attended the session. Appendix A presents a list of the attendees. Lenore Swystun, a planning consultant with the Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP), developed a process and provided a template for reporting the results of this session and led in facilitating the session. Kent Pointon, a Development Officer with the MCDP, assisted Lenore and led in the development of this report.

Prior to the action planning session, Shelley Killbride, also from MCDP, and Kent Pointon facilitated an Introduction to Asset Mapping Session with the Village Administrator and community workers. Individual and business questionnaires were sent out to the members of the community and interviews were carried out with the social and cultural organizations to map the assets of the community. This information was not available for the action / strategic planning session but it is included in Appendix B of this report for background information.

Background

The Administrator for the Village of Green Lake requested that the Municipal Capacity Development Program facilitate a community action planning process to help the community address infrastructure, economic and social issues that are arising in the area.

The history of Green Lake reaches back to the earliest days of the fur-trade. A good description of the early years can be found at:

http://www.nvgreenlake.ca/about_us.php.

A Municipal Development Plan was developed for the Village of Green Lake in 1983. This plan detailed economic characteristics and regional influences that affected Green Lake at the time. The plan also looked at infrastructure, housing and planning issues.

Since 1983, the Village has annexed a significant amount of land and the economic influences have changed. The population of the community is now declining rather than increasing as predicted in the 1983 study. There are also significant new economic activities in the region arising from mineral and oil and gas exploration.

Municipal funding is also becoming an issue. New regulations are being implemented and there are changes in the funding formulas for communities. There are additional pressures on the management of landfills and water treatment. The Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) and the Municipal Asset Information (MAIS) will require municipalities to report asset information in their financial statements by 2009.

Facilitation Process

The session’s action planning process encourages participants to share information, knowledge and their hopes and desires for the community.

The Meeting Process included the following aspects:

1. Welcome and Setting the Stage
2. Introductions
3. Global Conversation
4. Share briefly some background on what’s happening regarding planning and developing
5. Envision and examine some broad goals for the area
6. Needs identification – goal setting
7. What we have – identifying and mapping our assets
8. Identify priorities
9. Next steps
10. Review of the day’s outcomes
11. Closing remarks

Summary of Discussions

Participant’s favourite things about the area

The participants shared what they liked best about the area during the round of introductions. The table below lists the responses.

What I like best about the area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not overly crowded – close to nature and fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grew up here – family is here – it is home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born here. Enjoy hunting and fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendliness. I like hunting fishing and quiet. Green Lake is home

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage history. Culture and tradition of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love the people and resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like the fact that everyone knows everyone else 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like the quiet. The openness, the scenery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like the quiet and the openness and the fact that my daughter will grow up here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids don't have enough to do. We need to get someone to coach the kids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Lake is getting better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

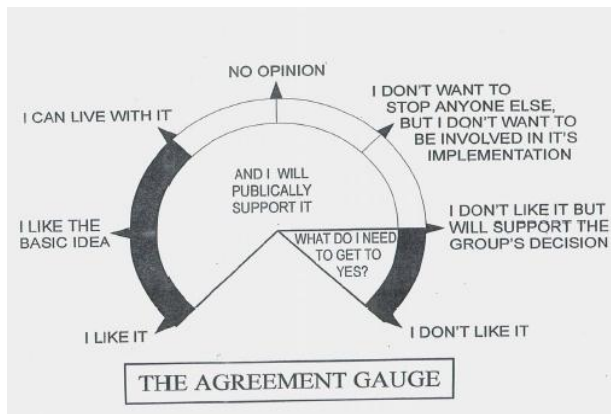
Expected Outcomes of the Meeting

The participants were asked what results they expected from the meeting. The following table lists the points raised.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals / focus for our community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ec Dev / Growth in jobs and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture and Heritage – respect this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring resources - diversity of natural resources and economic opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation of Green Lake with Duty to Consult – voice for the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a process of communication to include the village residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking with adjacent communities on how to better use our resources, showcase our culture

Foundations of Success

A brief discussion was held concerning the mechanisms for coming to an agreement and the degree of agreement. The agreement gauge was presented to show the possible range of agreement and how to interpret the level of agreement.



*created by Toni Villiers of Action & Associates Consulting ©

The participants also gave their opinions on what would make the meeting successful. Their list included:

- Cooperation among participants
- Respect is shown for each other
- Open minded discussions
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Listen – everyone listens to each other rather than creating battles
- Voice – discussions are held in an even, calm voice rather than displaying anger
- Vision – the meeting should develop a common vision among community members
- The meeting results in a conclusion and an action plan.

Global Conversation

A “global conversation” identified and discussed issues affecting the world in general and the affects of these trends on the community. The participants then identified broad positive trends that they wanted to capitalize on. A summary of these discussions follows.

What are the big issues in the world

- Global economy
- Resource values
- Global warming
- Alternative energy – closer to home solutions (local solutions to global problems)
- Exploration taking place in northern lands
 - impact on animals, nature, and people
- depopulation of rural areas
 - refocuses resources
 - changes a lot of what people like about the area.
 - Community lost 120 people from 2001 to 2006
- Displacement of people and resources
 - Skilled people move away
 - The money moves away
 - Disproportionate sharing of resources

What is going on in this country

- Government is promoting exploration of resources – opening of the north
- Shortage of oil which leads to other impacts

- Government chooses economic development over the environment – big business makes decisions
- Talking about green and sustainability but nothing is really happening
- Petro Can sending oil straight through to the US but they can't supply their own stations in Canada
- Federal Election coming up – questionable promises
- Rural places don't even have a voice
- Governments support big national and international corporations rather than local businesses. Grants go to the big guys.

How do we experience it here?

- Changes in biodiversity
- Change in traffic – more vehicle traffic in community and we need to do something to take advantage of that.
- Population declines due to people leaving to work in Alberta but none of that money comes back here
- Business has declined in the community
- Exploration is happening in the area but community hasn't been consulted. Duty to consult is not being respected. Need more communication.
- Formation of interest groups in the NAD but they don't necessarily complement each other.
- Need to focus on getting corporations that are working or exploring in the area to give people in the community a chance to get jobs. Also need to provide training if people lack the skills.

Are there any positive trends we can capitalize on?

- Economic development is coming. Oil Sands development is coming. Green Lake can't stop it. We can participate in it. We can make our community more attractive to bring business in to take advantage of this. We have land, people and power.
- Need better water and sewer to promote development. We have problems with the current lagoon. We need to develop better infrastructure.
- Build a biologically sensitive method of dealing with waste rather than a lagoon.
- Need to develop our own electricity with sunlight and our almost constant wind.
- More community functions
- Need an airport
- We want our high school back. The community now has too few students to support a high school. If we don't have a school we don't have kids if we don't have kids we lose the school.
- A Métis Local would be very helpful to develop training and social services. Need help to get a training facility.

- Work with the Métis people to resolve the land claim. Encourage everyone to work together.
- Capitalize on the space to attract more people.
- Global warming studies suggest that our location (boreal forest) is probably the best place to be.
- Have looked all over the world and there is a good possibility of a nutraceuticals and non-traditional forest products industry in the area.
- Question: Who owns all the land in Green Lake?
 - Private lands and the community owns the rest?
 - How is the Métis land owned?
- Official Community Plan – the province and the funders now want to see that you have done some planning about how to proceed before they will consider funding new projects.

Visioning

The participants in the workshop created their personal visions of what the community would look like in twenty years. The discussion centred around the question “What do you want to see in this community in twenty years, at least?” Two sides of the question were considered; “what do you want to remain the same?” and “what do you want to change?” The discussions took place in two break-out groups. The responses are below.

What will remain the same – Group 1

- Recreational Facilities are key
 - Curling rink
 - Skating rink
 - School
 - Boat launch
 - Ball diamonds
- Rodeo grounds should stay and be used more extensively
- Protect unique features and Green Lake as a resource
- Junction to remain as a business
- Maintain residence levels and ensure balanced and sustainable growth
- Biodiversity respected and maintained
- Our culture and heritage
- Government Services retained and expanded
 - RCMP
 - Health Facilities
- Local store needs to stay open
- Location and size of the community

What will remain the same – Group 2

- Develop and extend the school
- Expand and support the senior's housing facility
- Keep the landfill and expand recycling. Look at a regional system
- Church
- Protection of our resources, culture and heritage
- Overall beauty of the community
- Keep development away from the river flood plain but develop a river front park.
- Talk to CMHC about using funding for owner built log homes.
- Keep the Highways office and the fire cache here.
- Expand the preschool
- Keep and develop the two farms
- Expand access to social services in the community. Make sure that we keep the nurse here.
- Expand recreational activities. Get Recreation Coordinator assistance with preparing funding applications and form more youth teams.
- Keep our forests intact
- Work together (Village Council and Métis Nation) to keep the community healthy and vibrant.

What do you want to change – Group 1

- Improve communications to strengthen the community and the municipality
- Implement economic development that is sustainable and reasonable. For example training and education
- Look at waste management
- Capitalize on the traffic going through town. Increase local businesses.
- Improve youth programming
- Attract more commercial businesses and a marina to town
- Reopen the senior's home and the high school
- Need further discussions around zoning, taxation, and education to build this.
- Cultural and heritage development
 - Capitalize on our traditional stories
 - Values added
- Improve our infrastructure – landfill and sewer and water
 - We are good to a population of 1000. Then what?
- Re-use buildings like the train station at the junction
- Attract more money to develop skilled human resources
- Work toward having population growth.
 - Develop facilities so that residents have the opportunity to stay and not have to move to find work.

- Community has a strong seasonal use character. We need to utilize it for more year-round benefit. Criteria:
 - Zoning changes to allow a marina
 - Services
 - Good communication
 - Friendly neighbours
- Change the perception of ourselves
- Overcome the feelings of scarcity and fear to allow others to develop things.
- See the tax pool improve. Many people don't see it as fair. Need public education around municipal services and the cost of running a village.
- Senior's home needs funding help to allow it to reopen

What do you want to change – Group 2

- Have farms look at ethanol, alternate fuels and agricultural research
- Work with the hospital to implement services for a drug and alcohol treatment centre. Get an addictions counselor located in Green Lake
- Develop a youth centre, drop-in centre
- Look at getting volunteer committees to work on more projects
- Train local people for leadership skills
- Implement a community service unit in the classroom
- Have more people move here.
- Develop more business and job opportunities
- Develop eco-tourism and tourism facilities
 - Canoeing
 - Hiking
 - Community campground
- Expand education and training opportunities
 - Focus on local economies as well as the exploration and oil and gas industries
 - Tourism
 - Make better use of local peoples skills
 - Set-up an eco-garden
 - Set-up nature hikes
- Get people to cooperate more. Set up an interagency working committee.
- Get the Mayor and Council to communicate better with the community members and have a more transparent decision making process.
- Improve the health system in the community
- Develop some activities for the kids
 - 4-H Club
 - Gymkhana

- Get the farms to expand their activities and become more profitable to provide more employment for the community.
- Get a recycling centre and start producing our own electricity

Similarities between the lists

When the two groups were brought back together they were asked to identify similarities between the two lists. Several common points were identified:

- The community members want to keep what they have in the community
 - The school
 - Recreation facilities
 - Government services
 - Local businesses
- There is a strong desire to preserve the local culture and heritage
- There is respect for the environment and a commitment to protect it as a resource.

There were also several similarities in what they would like to change:

- They wanted to see the population of the community grow along with a growth in infrastructure and business opportunities
- There is a desire to attract more government services, in particular, addictions counseling and a strong desire to do something about the drug problem.
- Expanded business and economic development opportunities are keys to growth. More education and training opportunities for local people is important to allow local people to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Developing more activities for the kids would help to reduce vandalism problems.
- There is a strong desire to work together to keep the community healthy and a need to improve communications to improve the working relation.

Needs Assessment

The workshop participants built on the previous exercises to identify specific things that the community needed. The participants formed two groups to begin the discussion.

Needs – Group 1

- Create an Economic Development Board to promote the community and bring in new businesses
 - Very interested representatives from the community
 - Mixed set of skills

- Workshop and training on community Boards and governance
- Strengthen community government and develop a system that is viable
 - Cooperation between council and the Métis Nation
 - Improve funding support for the municipality
 - Improve human resources administratively to implement programs and projects
 - Land use, recreation and waste management issues
 - Support for existing resources and finding links to other resources
- Find local people that may be interested with the implementation of programs and projects
- Find mechanisms to locate people resources based on skills, knowledge and desire. For example, advertising
- Landfill development
 - Currently it is at capacity
 - Need a strategy to deal with it. What makes sense? Local expansion of current landfill or a new regional landfill system.
- Build local capacity and find expertise to help with the process (consultant)
- Learn from other municipalities
- Find ways of funding water and sewer services to break even
- Find a better mechanism for communicating with the community
 - Two ways plus
- Find ways of dealing with financial pressures and the economic base.
- Land Use
 - Provide mechanisms for appropriately scaled development
 - Links o a development land use plan and zoning
- Expand ecotourism
- Look at mechanisms for cultural and recreational development
 - Seasonal
 - Servicing
 - Marina, etc
- Outstanding clarification around land ownership
- Government – senior levels – federal and provincial
- Develop a mechanism for community meetings that work through collaboration
 - Beginning and being open
- Improve on a welcoming and open environment to deal with community issues as a community
 - Two way street
- Find strategies to connect to others to ask the right question
- Provide more education about how municipal government works
- Communication
- Deal with the drug issue

Needs – Group 2

- Respect – treat everyone fairly
- Clean up the town
- Admit that we have a drug problem
 - Set-up a place for AA and NA meetings
 - Run a drug awareness program and workshops
 - Get a permanent addictions counselor based in the community
- Provide water and sewer services to all commercial and residential property
- Develop more recreational programs at the school and get the recreational coordinator help with preparing grants
- Have a Grant Writing Workshop run in town
- Run more “sober community” structured activities
- Get more funding to help seniors live in the Senior’s Centre
- Develop an Interagency Group and run community consultations
 - Have all Boards report to the community
- Increase our population
- Develop more economic opportunities
- Have a community discussion about what form of government we want
 - A Métis government or a municipal government
 - Find a bridge between the two
 - Solve the outstanding land ownership issues

Prioritization of Needs

The needs identified in the above lists were ranked to complete the Needs Assessment. The participants indicated the Community Need that they believed to be the most important by placing a “sticky dot” next to the item. The ranking of the majority voting is shown below.

Community Needs by Rank Order	Ranking Num. of Dots
• Create an economic development board and increase economic opportunities	14
• Better communication between the Village Council, interagency groups, community members and the Métis Nation. Show respect to everyone.	9

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admit that we have a drug problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set-up a place for AA and NA meetings ○ Run an awareness program and workshops ○ Get a permanent addictions counselor based in the community ○ Run “sober community” structured activities 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand recreational programs at the school 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen community government that is viable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation between council and the Métis Nation ○ Improve funding support for the municipality ○ Improve human resources administratively to implement programs and projects ○ Land use, recreation and waste management issues ○ Support for existing resources and finding links to other resources ○ Workshop and training on community Boards and governance 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the town 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a community discussion about what form of government we want <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Métis government or a municipal government ○ Find a bridge between the two ○ Solve the outstanding land ownership issues 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find people who may be interested in helping to implement projects and programs 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build local capacity and find expertise to help with the process (consultant) 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal with the financial pressures around taxation and the economic base 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide mechanisms for appropriately scaled development ○ Links o a development land use plan and zoning 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at mechanisms for cultural and recreational development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seasonal ○ Servicing, etc 	1

Community Action Planning Steps

The Community Action Planning steps phase of the workshop followed the Needs Assessment phase. This phase involved prioritization of the needs followed by identification of near and far term goals and objectives.

Prioritization of desired changes

The participants looked at the list of items they wanted to remain the same and the list of items that they wanted to change over the next twenty years. These items were ranked with another form of “sticky dot” voting. Both lists were considered at the same time, hence, the results need to be considered together. The prioritized needs are presented in the lists below.

Items that the community members wanted to remain the same by rank order	Ranking Num. of check marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep landfill here and extend recycling facilities but look at a regional system 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the government services that we now have here and expand them in the future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RCMP ○ Health facilities – make sure we keep the nurse 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep our forests intact 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Highways maintenance facility and the Fire Cache here 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity to be respected and maintained 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction to remain 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the recreational activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Curling rink ○ Skating rink ○ School ○ Rodeo grounds ○ Boat launch 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep and develop the two farms 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep our local store 	1

Items that the community members wanted to change over the next twenty years, by rank order	Ranking Num. of check marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand education and training opportunities 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something about drugs and get an addictions councilor and treatment centre 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the farms look at ethanol and other products 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community has a strong seasonal use character. We need to utilize it for more year-round benefit. Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zoning ○ Services ○ Good communication ○ Friendly neighbours 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop business and job opportunities 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop eco-tourism and tourism facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canoeing ○ Hiking ○ Community campground 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More youth programming 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalize on the traffic going by 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopen senior's home and the high school 	1

Identification of near-term priorities

A full group discussion identified the specific actions needed to carry the community forward over the near term. The participants consider all of the lists of needs and changes developed during the workshop. The top priority items that each participant wanted work on right now were indicated using another form of majority voting.

What one thing would you like to work on now	Ranking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand education and training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local economies ○ Tourism ○ Make better use of local peoples skills ○ Set-up an eco-garden and nature hike 	8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a community discussion about what form of government we want <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Métis government or a municipal government ○ Find a bridge between the two ○ Solve the outstanding land ownership issues 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an economic development board to diversify the local economy 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communications between the municipal administration, the boards and the community people 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something about drugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get an addictions councilor in town 	1

What would you work on at any time?

The final analysis step of the meeting involved asking each participant to indicate what that they wanted to work on at some time in the future. These are far term goals and objectives.

- Get our high school back. If we don't have a school, a lot of people will not locate here. If we don't have a school, we don't have a community. Strategies:
 - Get our younger ones to have kids.
 - Attract more people.
 - Older kids dropping out because they were intimidated by Meadow Lake
- Improving programming and Education and Training
- Publish a local community newspaper and run local arts programs
- Get our community to be self sufficient. We could get more money coming in so that we can provide needs
- Have the farm look into producing biofuels to provide more economic development and jobs
- Work together as a group to get things resolved and make things happen get more people in the community and get rid of drugs
- Participate in a successful economic development board. This would help build the economic base of the community, provide jobs for local people and generate population growth
- Have a drug and alcohol centre here to help get rid of the problems
- Capitalize on the traffic going through town. There is so much money that goes through here. Government should have a fiduciary responsibility to get part of

the money that flows through the community used in the community.

Government needs to recognize that we are taking something out they need

- I want to live in a safe drug free community where people respect their culture and heritage. We need a festival. The community needs to be more self-reliant and have businesses support the town.

Suggested Next Steps

At the end of the meeting, Lenore Swystun and Kent Pointon of MCDP committed to creating a summary document of the Community Action Meeting for the group to review and discuss at their next meeting slated for September 24, 2008 of which Lenore offered to facilitate on behalf of MCDP.

Suggested steps resulting from this document include though are not limited to the development of a set of facilitated exercises and discussions to:

- Generally review the Community Action Planning Document at the upcoming meeting including:
 - Develop a community vision based on the contents of the report – specifically the visioning exercises; a critical step in creating an overall community plan for the area
 - Review in detail the prioritized needs identified by and for community
- Begin to identify key stakeholders to involve in assisting with prioritized needs
- Outline next steps based on resources required and steps able to be taken regarding prioritized actions identified and discussed above
- Other steps as arise from meeting – including reviewing what people will do before next meeting
- Set of date of next meeting

Appendix A: Aug. 13, 2008 Meeting Attendees List

Name	Role in the municipality	Email	Phone
Lenore Swystun	Facilitator / Planner	lswystun@sasktel.net	653-2385
Kent Pointon	Facilitator	new.north.k.pointon@sasktel.net	425-5561
Brittany Kennedy	Student	brittanyKennedysps@hotmail.com	832-7634
Trina Anderson	Teacher – St. Pascal School	cheeksanderson@hotmail.com	832-2081
Francis Laliberte	Rec Coordinator	Franklaliberte2003@hotmail.com	832-2122
Dan Martian	Village Council	dtmartian@sasktel.net	832-4728
Rita Arneault	Teacher – St. Pascal School	rjachipmunk@sasktel.net	832-2081
Tina Rasmussen	Administrator – Northern Village of Green Lake	green.lake@sasktel.net	832-2131
Ric Richardson	Business Owner	r.richardson@sasktel.net	832-2009
Rose Richardson	Business Owner	r.richardson@sasktel.net	240-9413
Terry Kennedy	Aboriginal Resident		832-4721 240-2021
Jackie Kennedy	Village Council	j.e.kennedy@sasktel.net	832-2131
Marvin Bouvier	Elder		
Myrtle Morin	Métis Local Secretary		832-2126

Appendix B: Green Lake Asset Map

Individual Surveys

The individual surveys requested information about the residents views of the community and the vision for its' future. It also identified personal and business skills and interests to help develop an economic base. A final "comments" section allowed the residents to express open-ended opinions. The responses are listed below.

Community Vision

What does the community have that makes you proud to live here?

- Proud Métis heritage
- A store which sells gas at a reasonable price
- Lakes, new store, lodge
- All the people and everyone around. Playground for my kids.
- The lake, the bush, the people and the scenery.
- Beautiful Scenery
- The brand new store
- Nothing. I come back for my family.
- Heritage, natural environment, Métis traditions, the Catholic Church, entertainment activities for the elders. The square dancers. Bingo.
- The beauty of the surroundings. The pride people take of their yards. Also, when you are in need, the community people are there to help you.
- The Métis culture. The natural, peaceful environment and also that it's a small community and not too much people.
- I was born here and I grew up here. It's always a nice place to live.
- A store now!
- Beautiful natural resources, heritage and history.
- Family and friends
- Childhood memories, St. Pascal School, St. Jude's R.C. Church, relatives, friends and a close knit community.

What would you like to see in the community?

- Have a place to visit, swim, do recreation (water sports). More infrastructure, build up our community, have respect for what's here. Curtail the drugs and alcohol.
- More activities for the kids. More jobs.

- Respect and equal opportunity for all residents. Law and order.
- More changes, positive changes. The school should have grades 11 and 12 reinstated. A garage.
- Looks pretty good so far.
- I'd like to see more programs for adults and children. We need more recreational activities for kids like baseball teams, soccer, etc.
- More encouragement / support from community people when someone is trying to accomplish something with their lives.
- More activities for the youth, preferably teenagers. Radio station, survival camps, camp-outs for families. On-the-job training for youth. Hockey games, gymkhana. Winter and summer festivals.
- More recreational activities. Rebuild gymkhana grounds.
- More job opportunities
- Population growth. More volunteers to head up recreational activities such as ball, hockey, fundraisers, community events, socials, etc.
- I would like to see a youth / senior activity complex.
- Some more excitement. There is really nothing in this town.
- Winter festival. Chuckwagon races at the gymkhana festival.
- More activities in the community which would attract tourism and revenue.
- More services for seniors and youth. More businesses so people don't have to travel for their goods.

What would you miss most in the community if it were no longer here?

- My birthright and home. I would not have a home town.
- I would say it would be the Winter Festival and the Gymkhana, dances and the softball tourney.
- Store and the Lodge.
- Festival, bingo.
- The school, church, radio station, and the fact that it is an Aboriginal community.
- Post Office, school, church
- The people
- The community members
- The Cree language, the Catholic Church, the natural habitat, Métis culture. The people moving out of the community. The RCMP.
- The school and the gas station.
- The natural habitat, the Métis culture, the church, the gatherings we have when we celebrate our culture.
- The gas station and me.
- The store

- Family and friends
- I would miss my kin, friends and the place I call home.

What new businesses would you like to see in the community?

- Boats for hire. Clean up the river and the lake front. Install boat marinas, small food booths, confectionaries and gas bars.
- Anything that we don't have – grocery store, etc.
- Services for tourism at the junction. Non-timber forest products industry development.
- A garage. A restaurant that actually serves exotic dishes. A hotel.
- Can't think of any.
- I would like to see restaurants, a water park, fire station, hospital, bank, parks, a store that would rent canoes, paddle boats, etc., campsites.
- Coffee shop and some kind of tourist attraction.
- A restaurant, a pizza place, a Laundromat, a donut shop, a youth centre, an alcoholic treatment centre.
- A youth centre
- A youth centre
- Co-op, small bank, restaurant, hardware store, campground facility, local lodge, seniors lodge (care home).
- I would like to see a motel – RV park.
- Everything. What's here now?
- Arcade, pool hall, employment, a high school.
- A café, poolroom. A youth centre and an outreach centre. A grocery store, lounge, pizza joint.
- All.

If everything works out the way you want it, in ten years time, what does the community look like and what does it have?

- Bustling with activity and jobs for our youth.
- All essentials
- Employment
- Make it look better.
- We'd have our high school back, a recreational facility, a bigger population and more economic stability of the Village of Green Lake.
- Hopefully our population will pick up again bringing the flow of tourism back to the community which will allow businesses to stay afloat.
- More people.
- A bigger population. More activities. More housing, better education. Our high school back.

- A restaurant that has given employment to young people. Happy people with a place to dine out.
- More people moving in. More community involvement in sports and NO drugs.
- A happier place to be and some place I'd be proud to live in.
- Hopefully, all the present businesses are profitable and the school is still here.
- All amenities.
- Proud people not dependant on drugs or alcohol with opportunities for sharing our rich heritage in commercial ways.
- A better economy.
- Lots of people will live here. More activity and more people would come here to visit or stay and make Green Lake their home.

Personal Skills and Interests

What types of community work have you done in the past?

- Girl Guide movement, R.C. Church fundraising, clean up campaign, school related extracurricular activities, ski boarding, snowshoeing, coaching softball for youngsters.
- Working at the school, village office, sawmill.
- Developed a business that employed local business people and local people. Volunteering as requested at schools and the Winterfest.
- The radio station. Labour work within AMSIS was applicable.
- I cheered and clapped my hands to encourage the community workers.
- None – I've never worked in the community. Preschool work ☺
- I am involved in lots of activities for the children at school!
- Fund raising for Winter Festival. Volunteering for funerals, etc.
- Cutting grass, fixing fences, cutting cables, volunteer fire fighter.
- Community service
- Auctions, farm day activities, assisted with festivals, gymkhanas, ball tournaments, etc.
- I sat on various boards in Green Lake: Fire Department, Recreation, Home Care, Saw Mill, Communications. Also Councilor / Mayor.
- None
- Métis Society, recreation leader, radio station. I was also a board member in the community.
- Village council and social activities related to our culture.

What types of community work would you like to do?

- Whatever. SERM employee.
- Anything interesting
- Possibly everything

- Recreation coaching (very enjoyable)
- Assist in organizing community events
- None
- I would like to do grass cutting, clean ditches, etc. Stuff to clean up Green Lake.
- Help out the younger generation who are being neglected or abused to become a better person and build up their ego towards a better life for the future.
- Bring in interesting activities for younger children, helping them to believe in themselves and to believe that they can do or become whatever they want.
- Volunteer my time to help out with whatever needs doing, like on Canada Day we couldn't have canoe races because they were short staffed. They should have had on-call volunteer staff.
- I would personally like to run an art gallery and teach kids how to open their minds to reality.
- Clean up, advertise, paint new signs, plant tubs of flowers, plant trees, clean up old lots and haul the garbage away.

Business Skills and Interests

Have you ever considered opening a business?

- Often. I've often wondered if starting a bed and breakfast would be viable or just running a small confectionary / coffee shop in the community.
- No: 6 responses with no qualifications
- Yes: 4 responses with no qualifications
- Yes, I just don't know how to go about it.
- Once, but now I mind my own business.
- Yes – A restaurant
- Somewhat and yes I would

What business would you be interested in starting?

- Restaurant and lounge
- Helping out people
- Manufacturing home speakers
- Local Lodge / camping facility
- Tim Hortons
- A program for young people who have abused drugs and alcohol
- A restaurant
- An art gallery or a Family business to support kids
- Eco-tourism, service station, tourism support
- Laundromat and car wash
- A small coffee house with home cooked meals

What stops you from starting a business?

- I am still working but eventually, when I retire, I hope to start a little coffee shop. I am an early riser and I get most of my work done before others get up.
- Money
- Biased Village officials and policies. Lack of equal opportunity or honesty from Village Administration.
- In debt! I also need some business management skills.
- CAMECO
- Financial
- I'm not a business type of person
- Finances. I also need centre that aides neglected and abused children to start this kind of job.
- My job. Lack of money. Not enough services.
- Lack of money
- Money and the fact that the population keeps shrinking.
- There is nothing stopping me.
- My kids. I got no one to look after them.
- Cost and Land. Community support.

If you have started a business, what do you need to make it more effective?

- None
- Everything
- Growth in the community. Support community. Village assistance for a lot and location. Skilled people.
- More money. Better landscaping
- More civilization. Good location.
- Volunteers that have experienced alcohol and drug abuse. Openness and willingness to stay in rehabilitation and tech others.
- Community support. Good quality personnel and food, etc.
- Probably cash!
- Honest and respectful dealings with Village Administration. The Village must deal with the outstanding issues fairly and respectfully.
- Money
- The location would need to be close to a road where people stop to eat and rest.

Other Comments

- Village should provide land and services free for local people wanting to start a business.

Start up help and land should be made available to young people wanting to

farm. Repayable at affordable rates.

- Green Lake is a beautiful place to be provided one abstains from listening to gossip. We need to have a more positive attitude towards our town and our people.

Teen groups, young mothers, grandpas and grandmas need a place to go and share their knowledge. Many young people have a lot of good ideas. Use them as resources. There are many young people who live in Green Lake who could provide our town with positive role modeling. Give them credit. I know some who work by helping out wherever they can. People need to recognize the strengths of these young people. We don't need to listen to groups who are always putting people down.

- If we are to see change we must change ourselves and teach our kids properly and to instill respect in them and they in turn too will learn.
- Who takes care of the parks like Beatty Lake. It really needs to be cleaned up and put to use. Its wasting away. It would be nice to be up and running again. We have to travel a ways to go camping where we can swim and have a shower. They should have showers and clean out the weeds on the shore. Also, there's no swings or dock like there used to be.
- Speaking for myself, I would like to see all the drugs banned from the community. That would surely make this a better place to live. Get rid of stray dogs!

Better communication amongst all people, like visiting each other and have no grudges amongst each other.

Better parental skills for the young mothers so the children will be more disciplined and become a better person. Get more parents involved in their children's activities. More different kind of tournaments for all ages.

Be a better community especially if everyone gets involved.

- Our community needs to learn to work together, to agree to disagree and work towards a common goal.
- Try to make our community a better place and a safe environment.

- It is time for the community to work together and to take control of our own destiny. Which, most importantly, is its success, for the sake of the children.

Business Survey

The purpose of the Business Surveys was to identify the current economic activity in the community, determine what inputs in terms of infrastructure and people that they need to grow and possible linkages with other businesses.

Current Business

What is the main activity of the business?

- None. Was tourism oriented. Should have been allowed to sell fuel as well as being diversified in order to be profitable.
- Grave cover and stone manufacture. Engraving granite and plaques.
- Producing cattle and making hay and green feed to keep cattle throughout the winter months.

What resources does the business need or consume (land, air, water, power, highways and transportation, skilled people?)

- Needs honesty from the Village Council. Needs connection to the village water and sewer system.
- Land, air, water, sand, gravel, cement, additives, granite, paint, skilled labour.
- We need some water wells drilled close to the dugouts so it would be handy to pump water to fill the dugouts for the summer grazing that we do.

What products or services do you import to the area?

- Food, when we were still open.
- Sand, gravel, rock, color pigments, fibers, granite, etc.
- We try to make enough hay so we could sell it to keep the operation going. Last year we got some cows made into hamburger and gave it to our people.

How much is sold locally or exported?

- None, since closure
- Locally sold → 25%. 75% sold elsewhere.
- That depends on the volume of hay and cattle that we can sell.

Future Business Opportunities

Could your business supply other businesses in the region with products or services?

- N / A

- Could have provided services for meetings in town. During the development phase, we tried to support local business as well as providing employment for local people.
- We could supply good Angus beef to McDonalds and sell Angus burgers

Would you be willing to join with other businesses in the region to bid on larger contracts or attract customers?

- N / A
- Yes
- That depends on what contracts and proposals we are offered.

What do you need in the community to make your business more successful?

- N / A
- Honest and respectful dealings with the administration of Green Lake. Equal opportunity and cooperation from the Village.
- If the community would work together, the community would be surprised what the farms could do.

What other businesses would you like to see in the area?

- N / A
- Promotion of the rich heritage and history of Green Lake. Businesses that incorporate tradition, heritage, culture, and history of our region.
- It would be nice to see a good service station to fix tires, and so on down the line.

Other Comments

- N / A
- N / A
- N / A

Public Service Provider Surveys

Canada Post

What services do you provide?

- Postal services: stamps, envelopes and packages.

Do your services go beyond Green Lake?

- Yes.

Do you see an opportunity to expand services to the community?

- Can't be done. No growth within the community.

Any additional comments?

- No.

Public Health Services

What services do you provide?

- Homecare services (by Dr's referral).
- Public Health Services: immunization, school programs, pre and post natal, dog bites, communicable disease follow-ups.

Do your services go beyond Green Lake?

- Also Dore Lake and Sled Lake.

Do you see an opportunity to expand services to the community?

- Dr's visits once a week would be nice but there aren't enough physicians even in Meadow Lake. Clients would still need to go to ML for lab work, x-rays, and prescriptions.

Additional comments?

- None.

Association Surveys

Green Lake M53 Trapper's Association

What is your mandate?

Local trappers hold annual meetings to discuss trapping areas and allocation of trapping areas.

Memberships are accepted at the General Meeting in October.

What services do you provide?

Teach young trappers the traditional and modern techniques of trapping, safety and firearms regulations.

What is the target group and age?

Any person 15 years old and up.

Who are your partners?

- Co-management of Green Lake
- Wildlife Federation

- Sask Trapper's Association

Is there an opportunity to expand your roll in the community?

Teaching skills and awareness of our traditional way of life.

Other Comments

Our main concern is too much of our provincial forests are being cut down and damage to natural growth and feeding areas of wildlife.

MCDC (Aboriginal Head Start) / Northern Lights School Division

What is your mandate?

MCDC is about providing children ages 2 to 5 with quality pre-kindergarten education and intervention. We also provide programming and work together with their parents.

What services do you provide?

- Pre-school classes.
- Parent involvement classes / activities / decision making

What is the target group and age?

Children ages 2 to 5 and their parents.

Who are your partners?

- Northern Lights School Division
- Keewatin Yathé
- Village of Green Lake

Is there an opportunity to expand your roll in the community?

Partnerships in activities with preschoolers (i.e. elders).

Other Comments

None.

MEETING NOTES

Green Lake Planning Session September 24, 2008 Meeting Notes

Present: Dan Martain; Alice Laliberty; Jacky Kennedy; Rose Richardson, Ric Richardson, Marius, Tina Rasmussen; Fred McCallum

Meeting Facilitator : Lenore Swystun, MCDP Planning Consultant

MCDP Development Officer: Kent Pointon

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Setting the Stage
2. Introductions
3. Review action planning work to-date
4. Exercising our “visioning muscles”
5. Next steps
6. Date of next meeting

1. Welcome and setting the stage:

Role of facilitator, participants, foundations for success, collaborative means of achieving agreement, and meeting purpose and objectives were reviewed.

2. Introductions :

Participants were asked to share their names and their favourite animal/bird totem. Much interest, discussion and laughter as we shared our totems .

Animals/bird totems shared include: Bird → Grouse since I was chasing one around the bush; Moose since I like to eat moose; Cow. Talking o an American and mentioned I have [] kids and he said you would make a really good cow; Eagle. A bird that can soar and have freedom but they have sharp eyes and bore down on things; I like the ass since I'm pretty stubborn; Duck – good eating but you have to watch killing them because there are a lot that aren't good; Cat since I have one - Independent yet faithful; Wolf since they are independent but now I have kids and a husband I associate more with a bear; Cattle since I have been with them all my life. When you have animals like that you realize that they are smart. I was scared of my parents but over the years I got to appreciate them, then I lost them. When I was with cows, they started to take away my worries and fears.; Cheetah; they are fast, sleek though not perfect

3. Action Planning work to date:

Checked in on why we are here

- We would like to see Green Lake move ahead but it takes common sense. At public meetings there are a lot of negative things that come out but we need to communicate.
- It takes a special type of person to attend a meeting but we will all communicate and the word will get out that we are accomplishing something.
- Enterprise and Innovation has money for programs but they need the Village to work with them to access the money.
- At a bush camp they were having problems. When I spoke to the crew in their language so they began to understand. What we have to do here is make sure people understand.

Items for follow-up, discussion and action:

- The drug problem is significant. New resources are being added to the problem so the community wishes and new programs are coming together.

Comments about long-term Priorities

- When they started up the mill they told us that they would train the people. When it actually started. They didn't hire local people. They lied to us.
- Most of this is linked. If we don't have jobs we get drugs and alcohol problems.

Items added to list to discuss at this meeting or at some point in future included:

- Look at links to regional groups for non-timber forest products

4. Developing a Shared Vision Exercise

Two groups were formed and given the following exercise.

Creating a Vision Statement

This exercise will take approximately 30 minutes. Some of it will be done individually and some of it will require you sharing some or all of your response using sticky notes that you will paste on the flipchart paper shown to you by the Facilitator.

What is a Vision?

A vision statement gives a broad, aspirational image of the future that someone or a group of people is aiming to achieve. It is written in the present tense, in a positive tone and is easy to understand.

E.g. The community of Hafford is known especially for its small town charm, friendliness and affordability. Located within the UNESCO designated Redberry Lake World Biosphere Reserve, Hafford is recognized provincially, nationally, and internationally as a leader in sustainable development.

Group Instructions: You have 30 minutes.

- Choose a recorder (a blue sheet to your write your similarities and vision on will be provided)
- Take turns reviewing and sharing what you see taking place in the next 20 years in
- On this sheet, write down the vision similarities you observe
- Using your similarities, draft a vision statement (between 25-40 words)
- Write your final statement on the flipchart provided and post
- Remember, there are no write or wrong answers. All ideas are valid. Have fun!

Hint: look through the Action Planning Report handed out to find key words and statements that may help – particularly in the sections dealing with the long term!

The following are the resulting vision statements from the two groups:

- Green Lake is a vibrant community that is active, growing and where opportunities are available for residents to make their life what they want it to be while respect for the environment and traditional Aboriginal life style habits are respected and encouraged
- Water is sacred
- Taking the advantage of the traditional knowledge and natural resources of the region, Green Lake is a leader in alternative energy projects and vibrant non-timber products.
- Green Lake is a community that is proud of its Métis culture / history / traditions; striving to go forward in unity for the betterment of our people, sustaining our language, culture, natural resources and clean lake beauty for future traditions

5. Next Steps

- Take away Exercise: Participants were asked to participate in a community photo exercise. These photos would come to be part of the Action Planning Group materials.
- Volunteers were asked to review the draft vision and bring forward a merged vision to the next meeting (Kent sent the draft statements to the volunteers after the meeting)
- At the next meeting, we would do a group review and edit of the draft vision; share photos from our photo exercise; and begin to look at laying out a strategy of next steps based on short term and long term actions identified during the Action Planning Session held in August.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- October 27, 2008 --- 5:00-7:00 pm. MCDP offered to bring pizza.

Notes taken and compiled by: Lenore and Kent, MCDP

Green Lake Action Planning

October 27, 2008

Present: Dan Martain; Alice Lalilberty; Jacky Kennedy; Rose Richardson, Ric Richardson, Tina Rasmussen; Fred McCallum, Councillor Dan

Meeting Facilitator : Lenore Swystun, MCDP Planning Consultant

MCDP Development Officer: Kent Pointon

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Setting the Stage
2. Introductions
3. Review of visioning statement
4. Development of Priority Action Items
5. Decision about which next step to take
6. Date of next meeting

Vision Statements – Second Version:

1. Green Lake is a community that is proud of its Métis culture, language, history and traditions. As we recognize that our natural resources, traditional knowledge and water are sacred, we ensure that any developments are guided by the need to ensure that these are protected. We are an active and vibrant community that is growing and where our traditional values and knowledge are important components of our growth and development. We strive to encourage residents to make their lives what they want, while respecting our waters and natural environment.

Notes:

- Gymkhana grounds were last used ten years ago.
- Part of the old Carlton trail is located by the river just north of the town site.
- Old hotel has burned down
- Canada Day festival is still in operation
- King trapper event does not happen in Green Lake any more. This could be revitalized to work on cultural values.

Key points of visions

Environment, Tradition, Non-timber, Proud Métis Culture, aboriginal lifestyle habits, conservation of language, culture and traditional lifestyle habits, Unity and betterment of the people

Vision Statements – Final Draft Versions:

1. Green Lake is a community that is proud of its Métis culture, language, history and traditions. As we recognize that our natural resources, traditional knowledge and water are sacred, we ensure that any developments are guided by the need to ensure that these are protected. We are an active and vibrant community that is growing and where our traditional values and knowledge are important components of our growth and development. We strive to encourage residents to make their lives what they want, while respecting our waters and natural environment.
2. Simple version
Green Lake is a vibrant community that is proud of its Métis culture, history and traditions; striving for unity and conservation of our language culture and natural resources for future generations.

Comments:

Need to look forward to the future well enough. Vision statement needs to indicate that we are moving forward. i.e. why are we doing economic development plans.

Vision stmt needs to make a statement about what businesses are going to come into town. It only states that we want businesses to move into town.

Went to working with Strategies (broken into small groups and asked about what priorities to work on and answer the following questions)

1. What do we need o do to make this happen
2. Who will do it.
3. What info and resources are needed to work on them
4. How can you find the info.

Decision made:

To put together a community economic development strategy together by:

- Get in an expert to talk about ec dev
- Put together a shell of a new letter
- Have soup and sandwiches
- Circulate through the Meadow Lake Northern Pride
- Who do you want as a guest

- Lester Lafond
- Chief Darcy Bear
- Enterprise Sask person
 - Lance Connel
- Don Burnstick
- Get person from Sask Forestry to talk to the community about the money they are trying to get for the farms and the sawmill. Talk to Tina.
- When
 - Within a month if we can
 - On a Sunday in November
 - Meeting before the meal
 - Nov 30 (1st) Nov 29 (2nd) Dec 1 (3rd)
 - Start meeting at 2 or 3. Meal at 6.

Notes by Kent

*Meeting deferred to January based on time required and who was available

*information from the Sept and Oct meetings will be added to an updated action plan based on the outcome of the Community Meeting to be held