City of Neenah Comprehensive Plan Update

October 12, 2017

Intergovernmental Open House

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Attendance**:

Susan VanHouwelingen, Director/Oshkosh/Winnebago County Housing Authority

Kathie Boyette, Alderman, District 1, City of Neenah

Sam Schroeder, Principal Planner, City of Menasha

Amy Barker, Executive Director, Future Neenah, Inc.

Russ Giese, Chairperson, Town of Clayton

Karen Brazee, Treasurer, Town of Vinland

Chris Haese, Director, Community Development & Assessments, City of Neenah

Brad Schmidt, Deputy Director, Community Development & Assessments, City of Neenah

Eric Fowle, Executive Director, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Kathy Thunes, Principal Community Development Planner, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

**1.** **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Fowle welcomed everyone to the open house and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. Brief Presentation**

Mr. Fowle provided a brief overview of the planning process and some key summary points of the background materials. He then explained the rationale for the future land use districts. A comment was raised that people are looking for housing in the City and that there aren’t enough owner-occupied condominiums available. Mr. Haese agreed and said that there haven’t been very many condominiums built in the last 10 years. The discussion then turned to the City’s downtown area. It was suggested that with all the jobs/workers in the downtown area, that this would be a good area for additional housing. While there has not been any new retail development in the past 27 years, Neenah’s retail component remains strong. The success of the strong retail component can be attributed to the many mom and pop establishments. It was felt that the downtown is transitioning to more of an entertainment area and a comment was made that the downtown is vibrant and active in the evenings. This was not always true, and it was felt that the evening activity is a result of people living in the downtown area. Due to the proximity of Neenah’s downtown to Menasha’s, and the development of the Loop the Little Lake trail, an opportunity exists to work together to connect the two downtowns. Some concerns/desires that were raised included: the confusing intersection at Nicolet Boulevard, Commercial Street and 1st Street; increasing access to the water; and while Smith Park’s kayak launch is great, you can’t park close enough to the launch or back a vehicle in the water. An observation was raised that according to the survey done with high school students, it’s nice to know that students are in sync with their environment and that 40 percent of students are planning to be living in Neenah 10 years from now.

Following the brief presentation and question and answer period, participants were encouraged to look closer at the maps and ask questions. A few people came in after the presentation. A representative from the Town of Clayton was concerned about the boundary agreement with the Village of Fox Crossing that was depicted on the map. They wanted to know how this would affect the Town, especially in terms of sanitary sewer service provision. Mr. Schmidt explained that this would not affect sanitary sewer service provision and that Town was welcome to discuss this manner with Neenah or others. A representative from the Town of Vinland was concerned about the existing Georgia Pacific private landfill in the Town and the future use. While this area is within the City’s extraterritorial area, it falls within the Rural Conservation Area.