

# NORTHWEST HERALD

Local News and Video for McHenry County, Illinois

## RPC seeks municipal input on plan

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WOODSTOCK – In an effort to avoid repeating the problems of the failed 2020 Unified Plan, the McHenry County Regional Planning Commission’s Intergovernmental Coordination Subcommittee next week will launch a series of meetings geared at getting communities’ feedback on the county’s future.

“We want to meet with all of the communities and get their input,” planning commission Chairman Charlie Eldredge said. “If we do not coordinate with the municipalities, the county’s plan really won’t have much significance.”

Plan commission members are attempting to do in two years what their predecessors failed to accomplish in seven.

The group is charged with drafting a land-use plan that is agreeable to both conservationists and developers and that will help guide growth in the county through the year 2030.

The group was reorganized in November 2006, eight months after the County Board rejected two separate versions of a proposed 2020 plan.

One version was a conservation-friendly draft that took seven years to write; the second was edited by County Board members and staff that allowed for more development.

Neither could create a consensus and drew the ire from residents and developers alike.

The county subsequently has been following its 2010 plan, which was ratified in 1993 and that a Northwest Herald analysis showed the county often overruled when developers request zoning changes.

Commission members said they were working hard to make sure this plan was fully understood.

“I think it just goes back to how long [the 2020 plan] took,” said John Jung Jr., a Woodstock Republican and McHenry County Board liaison to the commission. “I’m sure a lot of people were invited to participate. I’m sure they went back to different places and talked about it, but what they do in year one and what’s happening in year [seven], who’s around?”

The first meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the county administration building, will involve the cities of Woodstock, Harvard and Marengo and the villages of Bull Valley, Hebron and Union.

Four subsequent meetings will give municipalities and members of the public a chance to speak out on the plan.

Hebron Village President Frank Beatty said as his village wrapped up its own comprehensive plan, he looked forward to providing feedback on the county's vision.

"It's important that both bodies work together," he said. "We can work together for the future."