

APPENDIX A
PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING
ISSUES IDENTIFICATION SUMMARY

The comprehensive planning process began with a community and Task Force Kickoff Meeting on April 12, 2001. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the Comprehensive Planning Task Force and the public about the planning process and the timing and purpose of the Plan; introduce participants to the concept of comprehensive planning, zoning and other land use controls; provide an overview of existing economic and demographic conditions in Lyon County; and solicit views on issues, problems and opportunities facing Lyon County. The project consultants lead participants through several visioning and issue identification and prioritization exercises which were used in developing the Comprehensive Plan goals, policies and strategies.

Meeting participants were led through a number of exercises to elicit their views on the issues, opportunities and threats facing the county as well as its strengths and weaknesses. Participants listed and then ranked their ideas in order of importance.

Participants in the workshop identified a number of positive things that make Lyon County a good place to live (the number of votes received is in parentheses):

- Schools K-12 and SSU (19)
- People - Good Work Ethic and Values (16)
- Quality of Life (15)
- High Quality Agricultural Land (10)
- Progressive Attitude/Thinking (11)
- Good Farm Land (8)
- Railroad (6)
- Good Educational System (6)
- Strong Economic Diversity (5)
- Good Road System (5)
- Rural Atmosphere/Attitude (4)
- Value Added Agricultural Production (4)
- Services (4)
- Schwan's (3)
- Work Ethic (3)
- Highly Productive Soil (3)
- Families, Churches (3)
- Industry/Value Added (3)
- County Government (2)
- Parks and Natural Resources (2)
- Varied Employment Opportunities (2)
- Good Industry/Employment (2)
- Natural Resources and Recreational Opportunities (2)
- Diverse Population (1)
- Airport (1)
- MCP
- Jennie-O
- Highway
- Agricultural County
- Increase in Wholesale Business
- Diversified Non-Polluting Economy
- Progressive Economy
- Low Crime
- Involved Population
- Hospital

However, participants also identified a number of things threatening the quality of life in Lyon County:

- Urban Sprawl (16)
- Underemployment (full-time jobs that pay less than a livable wage) (15)
- Lack of Groundwater/Water Resources for expansion (14)
- Limited Water Supply and Flood Control Issues (13)
- Political Power Decreasing /Representation in Future (11)
- MN Politics Delegated by Metro People (10)
- Insufficient Funding to Preserve and Expand Present Transportation (9)
- Loss of Younger Population (9)
- Areas of Conflicting land Use (8)
- Farm Economy (6)
- Water Availability for Drinking (3)

- Retail Center/Shopping Needs Improving (2)
- Threats to Natural Areas and Resources (2)
- Floodplain/Runoff Issues (2)
- Lack of Diversity in Agriculture (2)
- Major Transportation Corridors (2)
- Urban Pollution (2)
- Lack of Air/Bus/Train Passenger Service (2)
- Drugs (1)
- Aging Infrastructure (1)
- Not Capitalizing of Recreation (1)
- Loss of Soil (1)
- Unplanned Growth (1)
- State Funding of Education (1)
- Decline in School Enrollment (1)
- Distance to Metro Area (1)
- Tax Structure Versus South Dakota (1)
- Diverse Populations
- Deteriorating Township Roads
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- State Highway System - Minimal
- Inability to Deal With Minority Population
- Distance to Barges
- Scenic Natural Resources
- Weather
- Agricultural Use versus Rural Living
- Collision of Rural and Urban Interests
- Increased Health Care Costs
- Depressed Prices for Agricultural Products
- Taxes