

# Southwest Michigan Sustainability Committee

## April 29, 2014, 10:00 am– 12:00 pm

**Welcome and Introductions** - Marcy Colclough, Senior Planner, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC)

**SWMPC's Background** – John Egelhaaf, Executive Director, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

**Michigan's Great Southwest Sustainable Business Forum's (MGSSBF) Background** - Becky Kliss, President

**Sustainability Remarks and Q&A Session** - Norman Christopher, Executive Director, Sustainable Community Development Initiative, Grand Valley State University

**Roundtable Discussion** – Marcy Colclough and J.B. Hoyt

**Highlights of other Community Sustainability Initiatives** – J.B. Hoyt and Norman Christopher

**Next Steps/Meeting**

**Adjourn**

### Notes/Ideas

The word sustainability is derived from the Latin *sustinere* (*tenere*, to hold; *sus*, up). *Sustain* can mean “maintain”, “support”, or “endure”. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. ***Economic, environmental, and social systems*** are in balance to create and sustain a positive quality of life for current and future generations.

SWMPC and MGSSBF wish to advance sustainability efforts at the municipal and regional level and to bring sustainability processes to the fore-front of decision makers. With the sharing of ideas/experiences and common aspirations, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and mobilizing local resources we can help transform the region through the development of more sustainable neighborhoods and communities by:

- Preserving **environmental** integrity
- Increasing **economic** prosperity
- Advancing and achieving **social** equity
- Improving the quality of life and elevating the value of education

Examples of municipal sustainability activities may include managing waste, recycling programs, complete green streets, walkable communities, placemaking, energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, supporting local foods and agriculture, green building, affordable housing, reducing greenhouse gases, green zones, protecting natural resources and water, green jobs, etc.

How can we encourage the implementation of policies and practices that ***better integrate housing, transportation, employment, workforce development, environmental and infrastructure investments*** in the region?