



**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**September 19, 2007**  
**Marble City Hall**

Chair Lotti called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. He asked attendees to introduce themselves. He stated that items 2 and 3 of the agenda would be covered in item 4. He then gave the floor to Andy Hubley of ARDC.

Hubley described the handouts for the meeting (handouts can be downloaded at [www.arrowheadplanning.org/itascareadiness](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/itascareadiness)). Included were a copy of the follow-up questionnaire that was sent out to the communities and a copy of the Draft Recommendations.

Hubley then led the group in a review of the draft recommendations. The recommendations include a description, responsible parties, action steps, potential funding sources and due dates.

Recommendation R1 calls for a planning and zoning training session to be held before the end of the year. It would be funded through the existing Readiness contract. Comments on this recommendation included:

- Local input should be sought on what subjects would be most helpful
- Interaction between the communities at the training would be helpful
- Get an interesting keynote speaker to draw attendees
- Make the session more of a "Readiness Summit" versus a training atmosphere

Recommendation R2 calls for the continuation of the Readiness Committee subsequent to its completion of ARDC's scope of work. Comments about other groups that already exist might be a better forum. The Western Mine Planning Board was specifically mentioned.

Recommendation R3 states the Readiness Committee members should take an active role in the Range Readiness Initiative housing efforts when called upon. Recommendation R4 states that the members should participate in the Iron Range GIS Collaborative when needed. No comments were given on these recommendations.

Recommendation R5 states that the Committee and its participants should advocate for the completion of the TH 169 Cross-Range Expressway. Significant discussion was held on this subject. The Committee agreed with most of Hubley's action step ideas, but differed on process and timelines. It was decided that Hubley should start getting the Communities to pass resolutions of support and that Mn/DOT officials should be invited to the October 2007 Readiness Committee meeting. Prior to that meeting ARDC will work to develop a summary of Highway statistics and potential project impacts on the roadway.

Recommendation R6 states that a Regional Infrastructure Assessment and Improvement Plan should be developed. The Plan would outline all the local infrastructure needs for the project area. It was thought that a regional grouping of improvement project would have advantages in funding programs. Members pointed out that this approach was successful for the Central Iron Range Initiative.

Recommendation R7 calls for the development of a Regional Property Assessment. This effort would create a map and a description of the properties that communities would like to see developed on this part of the Iron Range. Information about the properties would be summarized, including its accessibility for infrastructure and what type of development would be preferred. The project would allow an analysis of the combined amount of developable land and could help to answer questions about the need for more developable land in the area. Comments regarding this idea included:

- Minnesota Power may have a list of "shovel ready" properties
- Examination of the DNR's mining property policies is needed
- Tax forfeit property needs to be documented

Recommendation R8 recommends that a regional Small Cities Development Program application be sent in. The applications are due October 4, 2007. ARDC will work to complete the application and gain community support.

In the round table portion of the meeting Chair Lotti mentioned that the White Earth Reservation has some property that had previously been proposed to be used for an assisted living facility. Hubley said it would be addressed in the property assessment. John Chell updated the group on the PUC's Task Force regarding the pipeline siting.

Chair Lotti announced the next meeting would be on October 24, 2007 at the Marble City Hall at 4:30pm. He then adjourned the meeting.