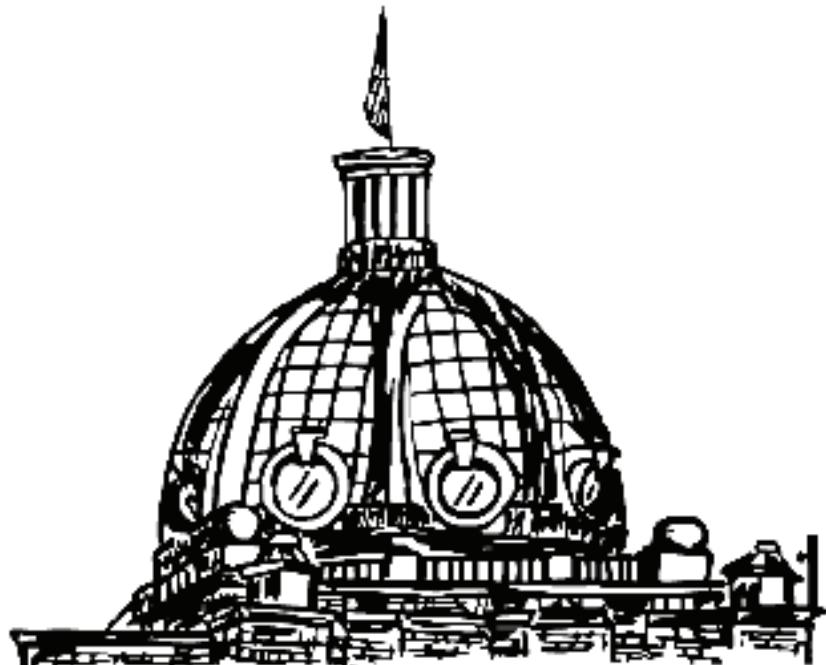
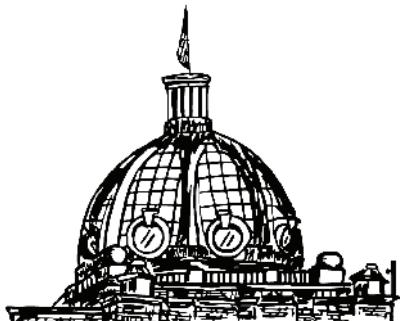


*July, 2009*



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Grant County Strategic  
Planning Report



## Grant County Strategic Planning Summary Report

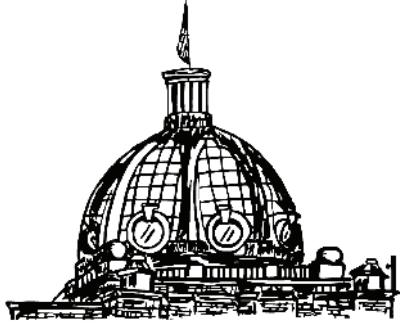
### **Strategic Planning**

Strategic Planning is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it (Bryson, 1995). The strategic planning process is really about getting people together to talk about what is important, and then doing something about it. The process allows organizations to:

- Examine the environment in which they exist and operate
- Explore the factors and trends that affect the way they do business and carry out their roles
- Seek to meet their mandates and fulfill their missions
- Frame the strategic issues they must address
- Find ways to address these issues

The benefits of strategic planning are numerous. An organization can increase effectiveness and efficiency; improve understanding through better learning; make better decisions; enhance organizational capabilities; improve communication and public relations; and increase political support.

This report was prepared by Paul Thares, UW-Extension.  
For additional information or questions, please contact Paul at (608) 723-2125 or  
[paul.thares@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:paul.thares@ces.uwex.edu)



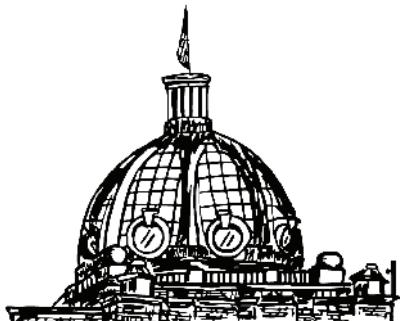
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## **Input**

Many individuals including, but not limited to citizens, community partners, employees, department heads and the county board provided valuable input throughout the process.

## **Strategic Planning Committee**

The Grant County Strategic planning process was facilitated by Paul Thares with assistance from Joyce Roling and lead by a committee comprised of Tony Runde Chairman, Mark Stead, Robert Keeney, John Patche, Lynn Moris, Steve Adrian and Larry Wolf. This committee was staffed by Paul Thares and Joyce Roling.

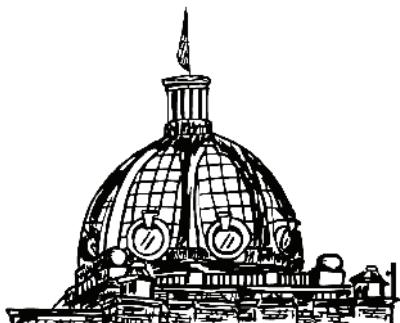


## The Process

The Grant County Board started the strategic planning process in December of 2008. Paul Thares discussed the process of strategic planning and explained the ten steps, then the committee discussed each step.

1. Initiate and agree on a strategic planning process
2. Identify organizational mandates
3. Clarify organizational mission and values
4. SWOC Analysis
  - Strengths
  - Weaknesses
  - Opportunities/Hopes
  - Challenges
5. Identify the strategic issues facing the organization
6. Formulate strategies
7. Review and adopt strategies
8. Establish a vision
9. Develop an implementation process
10. Reassess

The committee agreed that there must be flexibility in the planning process. Thus the committee chose to adapt the strategic planning process to fit the County Board's current needs and time frame. The Grant County strategic plan will incorporate steps 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 of the ten step process.



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## **Grant County Strategic Goals:**

The following goals are listed in no specific order of importance.

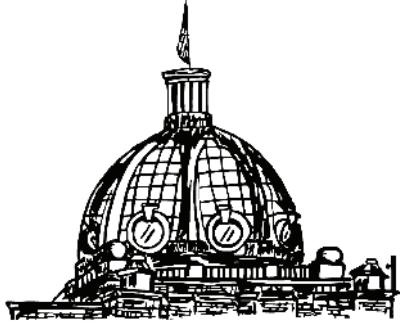
Strategy #1: Develop a plan to consolidate county facilities using cash on hand and/or bonding and incorporating land available at the county farm.

Strategy #2: Unify and unite all county departments through sharing and consolidation of staff and resources.

Strategy #3: Sharing resources with other neighboring counties, towns and governmental entities.

Strategy #4: Improving communication within Grant County.

Strategy #5 : Utilize current transportation infrastructure to enhance, market and increase economic development and tourism potential.



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## GOAL # 1

Strategy #1: Develop a plan to consolidate county facilities using cash on-hand and/or bonding and incorporating land available at the county farm.

Action:

Who: Strategic Planning Committee work with the Highway and Law Enforcement committees.

When: Start within two weeks by meeting with the Law Enforcement committee on 5/14/09 and the Highway committee on 5/14/09.

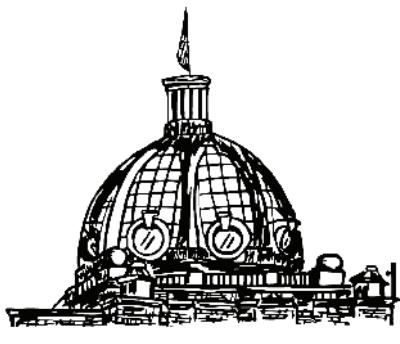
On May 14, 2009 the Strategic Planning and Law Enforcement Committees met to discuss future county law enforcement needs.

- The current facility is in good shape with regards to maintenance issues
- Jail numbers have currently been low
- The current communication tower is in good condition however, the amount of weight on the tower is an issue
- Purchase of a new communications tower should be considered in the future

On May 14, 2009 the Strategic Planning and Highway Committees met to discuss future county Highway Department needs.

- The committees reviewed the Highway Departments future building plans
- Several options were discussed and will be reviewed further in future meetings

Contact the UWP Pioneer Center for Public Engagement to request that engineering students conduct a “cost effectiveness” analysis of several county facilities: Building 52, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Administration Building, Farm Services and Unified Building and Highway Department Facilities.



## GOAL # 2

Strategy #2: Unify and unite all county departments through sharing and consolidation of staff and resources.

Action:

What: Make departments all aware of strategy with on-going reminders.

When: Quarterly department head meetings.

Actions:

- Create policies for County Departments to assist with purchasing computers, computer programs, and finances.
- Computers throughout county need to be compatible
- Sharing of inventory (resources)

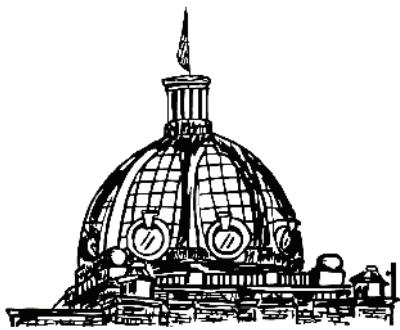
## GOAL # 3

Strategy #3: Sharing resources with other neighboring counties, towns and governmental entities.

Actions:

How: Explore the possibility of sharing/pooling of resources with other county or governmental agencies. Currently doing this with Emergency Management, Law Enforcement and Fire.

- Work towards recognizing benefits and savings by sharing resources
- Combining road salt purchases with all Grant County Municipalities



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## GOAL # 4

Strategy #4: Improving communication within Grant County.

Action:

How: Make wide use of county web site. For example, license fees, marriage fees etc.

- UWP student is working on Grant County web site throughout summer of 2009
- Deputy County Clerk responsible for updating county web site
- Only approved minutes will be sent out to stakeholders and public
- Use of microwave wireless communications by all county departments within county seat

## GOAL # 5

Strategy #5 : Utilize current transportation infrastructure to enhance, market and increase economic development and tourism potential

Action:

Who: GCEDC, Tourism, Hidden Valley's, and Parks

How/What: Meet with GCEDC and other groups to find out what we can do to help.

- Allow opportunity for businesses to bid on projects that are paid for with government tax dollars.

## Implementation

The Grant County Board has started implementation of the strategies/goals and recognizes strategic planning and the implementation processes are ongoing.