

Building Communities for a New Nation
Salisbury Workshop – Report
April 23, 2010

➤ Organizations Present

- Americorps VISTA
- Blue Ridge Forever
- Center for the Environment
- Central Park NC
- Chandler Concrete & Building Supply
- Conservation Trust for NC
- CPCC Service Club
- The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Program
- Greenwise Home Education/Consulting Service
- Guilford College
- LandTrust for Central NC
- Mt. Ulla Historical Preservation Society (Rowan County)
- NC Community Development Initiative
- NC Forest Service (retired), consulting arborist
- Partners In Learning
- Piedmont Land Conservancy
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
- Rowan County Parks and Recreation
- RowanWorks Economic Development
- Sandhills Area Land Trust
- SC Conservation Credit Exchange
- SciWorks Science Center
- SE Regional Economic Justice Network
- South Piedmont Economic Action for Recovery
- SPEAR
- Timeless Ventures
- Tourism Recreation Investment Partnership (Davidson County)

- Whole Communities Exchange
 - People - Have Notes
 - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
 - Money
 - Political power
 - Recognize our strength
 - Bring groups together
 - Recognize common causes/issues
 - Hope
 - Overcome internalized negativity (messages, oppression)
 - Communal story
 - Focus on outcomes
 - Way to visually represent goals
 - Recognize systems and assets that already exist
 - Stronger voice at the table
 - Trust our own voices
 - Shared leadership
 - Full community involvement
 - Self-defining communities
 - Five-year plans
 - Time/ A break
 - Proactive vision
 - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
 - People
 - Survival /Sustainability
 - Balance
 - Resourcefulness
 - Resiliency
 - Humility/Grace
 - Community assets (physical space)
 - Relationships that support life
 - Opportunities for collaboration
 - Actions → Results
 - Service
 - Connections
 - Fulfillment
 - Openness and flexibility

- 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?
 - Marketing (human needs)
 - Step out of comfort zone (mindset)
 - Internal courage and strength
 - Determination (never give up)
 - Redefine success
 - Come together with others
 - Leverage resources and relationships
 - Find a vision
 - Engage people (people-to-people communication)
 - Be more strategic
 - Trust partnerships
 - Think outside the box (be innovative)
 - Not status-based
- Nature-Haves
 - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
 - Broader message + support
 - Inclusiveness
 - Younger, more colorful
 - Understanding of the issues and needs of other constituencies
 - Express our relevance
 - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
 - Positive vision for future
 - Access to nature and land
 - Land for gardens, recreation, etc. + other resources (e.g. timber, firewood)
 - Expertise – how to protect land and still make money (e.g. conservation-based affordable housing)
 - Share our success – unite through environmental benefits to projects
 - Advocate for other causes related to ours
 - Land is common to everyone

- People-Haves
 - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
 - Money
 - Human Resources
 - Connections
 - Meaningful dialogue
 - Good public policy
 - Data (needs and resources)
 - Leadership
 - Sustained involvement
 - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
 - Meeting rooms
 - Space
 - Educational resources
 - Technical expertise
 - Broad understanding of what is going on in Carolinas
 - Knowledge to navigate the bureaucracy
 - Legal system
 - Mediation
 - Coalition for Positive Action (forum)
 - Viewpoints of landowners/farmers
 - Best practices demonstrations
 - 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?
 - Work for change
 - Build a vision
 - Visionary leadership
 - Engagement
 - Take risks
 - Suspend the “how” to get to the “what”
 - Different perspective on economic growth

- Visioning Exercise: What is your vision for a healthy, whole community?
 - Small Group #1
 - Urban growth boundaries/Sustainable development
 - Safe, entertaining, and inclusive
 - Vibrant and mixed-use communities/landscape
 - Locally-grown foods (affordable)/Family farms and businesses
 - Stranger-danger and eco-phobia elimination
 - Good jobs with fair wages and conditions
 - Good and affordable public transportation and pedestrian-friendly streets
 - Greenways, bike paths, parks
 - Solar panels – good alternative energy
 - Clean industry
 - Affordable health care/Obesity reduction/Fitness level increase
 - Top-quality education accessibility for all
 - Ability to change in positive way
 - Participatory democracy
 - Balanced budget

 - Small Group #2
 - Develop a reverence for people, land, and place by building communities that are walkable with a sense of place on a human scale that are
 - Economically prosperous
 - Fiscally responsible
 - Socially responsible
 - Environmentally sustainable
 - Adjust personal space – Americans have the largest personal space among all cultures
 - We need to be willing to adjust this both mentally and physically
 - Health Care
 - Bureaucracy to get resources
 - Person is not recognized – only the process or task
 - Holistic approach does not exist
 - Has to do with quadrants
 - Local, healthy tasty food
 - Extended family
 - Education
 - A balance of open space that fosters food supply and health care
 - “Save a little land for me”

- Small Group #3
 - Key: People respect each, the land, and the diversity of the both
 - Civil dialogue
 - No poverty – hunger is intolerable
 - Good education system
 - Sustainability/Adaptability
 - Good system for communicating
 - Good economic system
 - Affordable, “green” housing
 - Good local food system (accessible, affordable)
 - Safe, non-violent (kids can play in woods)
 - Clean water and air

- Small Group #4
 - Recognition of “ interwoven-ness” (“No man is an island”)
 - Fresh air, healthy physical space
 - Land seen more as shared resource
 - How to preserve the innocence of youth with regard to social indifference
 - Character
 - Caring/Lack of apathy

- Small Group #5
 - Clean, healthy environment
 - Clean air and water, no trash – encourages healthy lifestyle
 - Talent exchange – barter
 - Cooperative decision-making
 - Government facilitates instead of dictates
 - Green space for community
 - Vibrant downtowns – community centers
 - Promotes alternative transportation – bicycles, trains, walking
 - Respect diverse cultures
 - Economic opportunity – jobs
 - Human development – good schools – equal emphasis on nature and technology
 - Local foods – food awareness
 - People/Youth feel empowered to make a difference
 - People “own” and respect neighborhoods

- Small Group #6
 - Place for kids to grow up in –safe
 - Friendly, prosperous, healthy, clean
 - Educated/Aware
 - Meaningful work with dignity
 - Justice, benefits, and opportunities
 - Immigrants – rising tide, rising ships
 - Engaged
 - Equal access/opportunity/even playing field for all
 - European model/Scandinavian
 - Health care, education, vacation, child care

- Small Group #7
 - All entities communicate with each other
 - Consensus
 - Clean water, air, trees, food
 - Quality of life (assurance)
 - Focus on common stewardship
 - People accept responsibility for the success of others and the community and for their part in the problems
 - Access to open spaces and connection to nature
 - Shared vision for the community
 - Children can grow up with a connection to nature
 - Connect the generations – don't lose stories while writing new ones

- Small Group #8
 - Accessible, attainable, sustainable, available
 - Less corporate control on food
 - Return to community collectives
 - Provide tools to the people for self-sustaining practices
 - Re-ignite interest in the land
 - Community gardens
 - Get back to nature/dirt
 - No land/water = no food
 - Re-connect with each other
 - Enjoy inconvenience
 - Environmental integrity
 - Remember the nighttime darkness , stars, and celestial bodies

- Small Group #9
 - Sustainable use of natural resources that promotes economic, environmental, and public health
 - Healthy, local food and fuel systems that are accessible to all and economically-sustainable
 - All youth can experience high-quality outdoor experiences
 - Restore natural habitats

- Project Identification Exercise: Identifying game-changing projects and initiatives for NC
 - Near (Now – 1 year)
 - Center for the Environment to collaborate with land trusts on education
 - Connect to Salisbury’s literacy program
 - Partner with sustainable agriculture
 - Share measures of success
 - More meetings across the diagonals
 - Continue to meet in smaller groups across quadrants
 - Establish a cross-quadrant committee
 - Transportation to sites for exploration and activity
 - Annual hiking/getting into woods events for kids
 - Introduce ceremony/ritual to activities with land
 - Community gardens co-run and worked by “have-not” communities →greater access to food
 - Active listserv sharing information and existing projects to mentor interested organizations who want to do the same
 - Utilizing social media to reach youth
 - Bring programs to community centers

 - Mid (1-3 years)
 - Intergenerational transfer of knowledge
 - Connecti heritage sports + youth development programs with land trusts
 - Grab the larger vision and run for office

 - Far (3-5 years)
 - Sharing of budgets to create cross-quadrant projects (e.g. lumber from protected land for affordable housing)

- What would you like to see to keep the dialogue going?
 - Some way to become facilitators of the message to a larger audience
 - More exchange among groups, etc.
 - Small groups – discussion, study, vision, do
 - See dismantling racism and privilege/entitlement as a huge opportunity for communal and personal growth