



**MAYOR'S COUNCIL 2006**

## Small Town Sustainability Planning

The Taber Experience

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## What is Sustainability?

Living in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

– Brundtland Commission, 1987

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## AUMA MSP Process

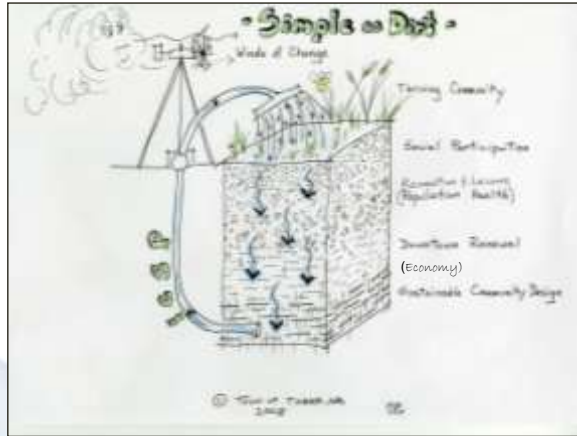
- Five Dimensions
  - Environment, Economy, Culture, Social, and Governance
- Balanced and interdependent
- Broad scope with long, medium, and short term actions
- AUMA Fast Track and Comprehensive Toolkits

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## AUMA Process and Simple As Dirt

- Taber modified the AUMA toolkit
- Fills the void of small centre *specific* information
- Prioritizes the importance of Social Infrastructure and Social Networking in Small Towns
- Creates a Scale Appropriate tool
- Reshuffles sustainability thinking

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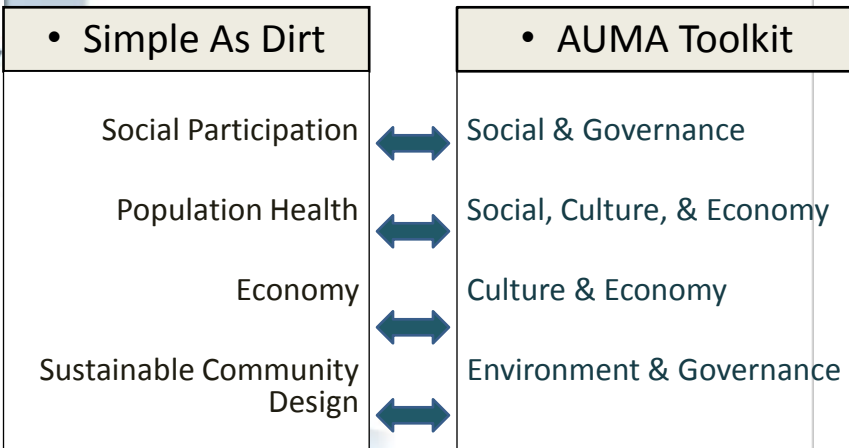
The Simple As Dirt Model

- Why Dirt?
- Top Down - Grassroots reach down not up
- Complex Yet Simple
- Reciprocal / Relational

It's Just Dirt

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Reshuffling the Structure



## Reciprocal Planning

Key **Q**: How will this help the people of this community participate in society while protecting the environment for their future?

Always assume that a healthy population and a sustainable community are dependant upon ecosystem integrity – and vice versa

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## The Small Town Difference

- Prioritize Social Infrastructure  
Roads and owls don't matter to someone who can't feed their child
- Find the social networks and *ask* to be included
- Identify your allies and reach out. You do not have to do this alone.
- Aggressively build partnerships
- The order that conversations occur in matters.

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## Now what? Next steps.

MSP: Guiding high-level document

Integration:

- All other plans and policies fall under the MSP
- Actions identified in the MSP will be used to develop the capital and operating budgets

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## Regional Planning

- We live in small or remote towns for a reason
  - Our businesses, industries, and residents cross municipal boundaries
  - Each community will have its own distinct MSP
- Find the common ground
  - Regional plan
  - Difficult to do until individual MSP complete
- Leverage and leadership
  - Strength in numbers

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**Keep on Shoveling**

**RESPECT VALUES**  
We live in small or remote towns for a reason.

**Build Social Networks**  
Understand the value of coffee shop meetings.

**EARN TRUST**  
Make time for one-on-one conversations.

**Be A Leader**  
Don't be afraid of the process.

**SHOW ACCOUNTABILITY**  
Go ahead. Make mistakes.

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**Thank You**

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