

The New Leland Initiative Challenges Discussion

At early-2008, Leland faces several challenges in renewing itself and achieving higher levels of community success.

Discussion of Challenges items

Limited number of individuals experienced in grant processes

- ❑ Although there are a couple of local individuals who have experience/training and/or success in grant writing, they are still few—relative to the number of grants which will be required over the next 5-7 years—and they are otherwise employed in full-time vocations themselves. We have much enthusiasm, but not much practical experience in this area. This potentially limits the amount of funding we can derive from grant processes. [Note: there are several organizations willing and/or tasked with helping us in this area, and we will need to engage them quickly and effectively to help us mitigate this challenge.]

Limited availability of skilled program implementers & managers

- ❑ Although there is probably a base of people with these skills in our community, they probably are already employed full-time at other ventures, and will perhaps be reluctant to move from ‘regular’ jobs to more risky project-duration employment. These personnel will be essential, however, in achieving success.

Limited visibility into real project costs (and limited monies to invest in assessment/discovery)

- ❑ Many/most of the initiatives possible to us involve substantive costs, especially downtown building repairs and PPE (Property, Plant and Equipment) programs. In many of these, it even costs money to obtain construction and repair estimates. This makes financial planning difficult, at this early stage in the process. Competitive bid situations will help, as potential vendors will assess a situation before creating an estimate, but this will still require our knowledge of what mandates are operative in each case (e.g., regulatory ordinances). [There are also apparently grants available for planning/assessment services.]

Limited awareness of potential private contributors (necessary for many grants)

- ❑ Since many of the larger grants needed for the larger PPE-type projects require some matching contributions from other sources, it is imperative that we discover such resources either ahead of time or in parallel with grant processes. Currently, there is little knowledge of who these private (sometimes local) contributors might be.

Possible initial hesitancy of local contributors

- ❑ Until it becomes public perception that our progress initiatives for Leland are paying off (or have a high probability of paying off), there may be initial hesitancy on the part of local contributors to invest. These contributors will have seen a history of failure, of downtown decay, and perhaps even of dashed hopes. Our ability to achieve early wins will be essential to mobilizing this local base of interested citizens toward this cause. [Note: much of our needs for private funds will be able to be met from non-Leland resources, and we should be sure to tap these resources first.]

Modest number of non-taxable organizations

- ❑ Many, many grants require the recipient to be a non-profit organization or government entities. Apart from churches, and special interest communities (e.g. Ducks Unlimited), we have only a handful of 501(c)3

organizations in Leland. We will need to leverage these, create new ones quickly, and/or partner with existing (perhaps 'umbrella') organizations.

Overall Economic situation of the Delta

- This entails that much of our funding will have to come from outside the Delta, hopefully minimizing in-area competition.