

The Building Inspector and Safety

Paul Clarke is the Chief Building Inspector for Minnehaha County. It is his job to ensure that construction, alteration, or repair work complies with building codes and ordinances, zoning regulations, and contract specifications. The primary aspect of Paul's job is to inspect the structural quality and general safety of buildings. Before construction begins on a commercial structure, a copy of the building plans must be reviewed by Paul to ensure the building or other structure comply with building codes and whether they are suited to the engineering and environmental demands of the building site.

To inspect the condition of the soil and the positioning and depth of the footings, a visit is made to the work site before the foundation is poured. The size and type of structure, as well as the rate at which it proceeds toward completion, determine the number of other site visits Paul must make. Upon completion of the project, a final, comprehensive inspection is required.

In addition to structural characteristics, a primary concern of Paul's is fire safety. He inspects structures' fire sprinklers, alarms, smoke

control systems, and fire exits. Assessment is made of the type of construction, the building's contents, adequacy of fire protection equipment, and any risks posed by adjoining buildings.

Paul is required to keep a log of his work, take photographs, and file reports. He notifies the construction contractor, homeowner, or supervisor when he discovers a violation of a code or ordinance or something that does not comply with the contract specifications or approved plans. If the problem is not corrected within a reasonable or otherwise specified period, Paul has the authority to issue a "stop-work" order.

As part of the job, Paul must also investigate construction or alterations being done without proper permits. He must enforce laws pertaining to the proper design, construction, and use of buildings. Paul then directs violators of permit laws to obtain permits and to submit to inspections.

Paul is also the field inspector for all septic systems installed within the county. This includes full systems, mound systems, holding tanks, repairs and expansions. Permits are required for each new system or tank and any modifications made to existing systems.



ENVISION 2035

Work has begun to develop a new comprehensive plan for Minnehaha County. The County Commission appointed a 14 member task force consisting of county residents and business owners. There are also 8 advisory members representing other interested parties.



January 19th task force Icebreaker Activity

At the first meeting the task force divided into 4 groups. Tackling land use, the groups used candy to mark potential locations for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses.



At the March meeting the group maps were discussed and compared. The task force also discussed what issues should be incorporated into the new plan.



March 1st Ryan Streff presents the land use maps.

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

PLANNING COMMISSION



Bonnie assisting with the county clean-up.

Bonnie Duffy was appointed to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term, 2012-2016. Bonnie lives in Split Rock Township and has donated her time and talents to many county boards and task force committees. She also serves as a township supervisor. Bonnie and her husband own Duffy Appraisals. Welcome aboard!

ENVISION 2035

Task Force Members

Lee Burggraff
Mike McAreavey
Deb Bunde
Steve Dick
Bonnie Duffy
Larry Haug
Bruce Aljets
Shannon Nordstrom
Steve Becker
Ron Klingenberg
Jesse Randall
Fran Phillips
Kris Swanson
John Zomer

Advisory Members

Dave Loveland
Slater Barr
Todd Schuver
Brooke White
Andy Gabbert
Dean Nielsen
DJ Buthe
Kevin Crisp



The Envision 2035 Task Force will hold its next meeting on April 5th in the County Commission meeting room. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome anyone who wishes to attend.

Information about Envision 2035 including meeting schedules, minutes & agendas, and maps can be found on the county's web site at the address listed below. Or use the QR code.

<http://envision2035.minnehahacounty.org/dep/pl/envision/envision.aspx>