



**Plan Ascension
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
November 16, 2009**

MEETING SUMMARY

- Jeff Winston provided an overview of the Draft Preferred Scenario. Discussion on the preferred scenario included explaining the need for expanded sanitary sewer service areas, increasing potable water pressure in some areas, improving drainage and need for widening roads. The policy implications are that these infrastructure improvements will cost money. Jeff explained that this is a 25 year plan and won't happen overnight.
- Jeff explained that this is the critical point in the process. He acknowledged that we may not have heard from everyone in the parish however this plan reflects the attitudes of the local elected officials and general public. It was noted that we can't afford to keep doing what we are currently doing. Do we want to make a change in a new direction or is it too easy to keep doing what we have been doing? The reality is that it may get a lot more expensive to develop in Ascension Parish.
- A concern from the school board is how the sewer policy recommendation may affect residents and schools. What will it mean for new schools if no new package treatment plants will be allowed? There needs to be a transition for how to handle the infrastructure need in the interim. It currently costs approximately \$225,000 to build a sewer package plant at a school. But there is an understanding that schools may not want to deal with DEQ compliance issues and maintenance requirements and would prefer sewer service.
- A concern from the Department of Public Works is whether eminent domain, essentially quick take authority, will be politically viable.
- Jeff explained that it may come down to a question of values. The job of the Technical Review Committee and the Project Team is to paint a picture for the parish. Decisions and their outcomes will have to be weighed heavily. The goal is to have a livable parish. There may have to be tradeoffs.
- The TRC was requested to think about their individual master plan efforts for their departments and determine how changes may need to occur to accommodate the preferred scenario.
- There currently is no sales tax dedicated for sewer or potable water infrastructure. How will we pay for these needed improvements?
- The Comprehensive Plan may need to include different standards for development inside the sewer districts, outside the sewer districts and inside the sewer districts but within a floodplain.