



To: Members of the Desha Forward Steering Committee  
From: Jennifer Tanner, SGI Project Manager  
Date: February 10, 2009  
RE: Status Report: Discovery Report & Priority Issues

### Desha Forward Mission Statement

*Desha Forward will create and implement a strategic planning process for the county that is inclusive of all its citizens incorporating these core values: honesty, cooperation, trust, and focus on the future.*

On January 22, 2009, members of the DeshaForward steering committee met at the Arkansas City Courthouse to hear and presentation of the findings of the DeshaForward Discovery Report. Those present also decided upon the priority issues for the process going forward.

Overview of Meeting
The discovery methods used to collect data for the discovery report were discussed. An overview of the assessment rating system was also provided. A high-level brief of the demographic and economic base analysis and the discovery report findings and recommendations was provided.
The Discovery Report Draft will be placed on the DeshaForward website pending review by the executive committee.
Chris Hays, co-chair of the e-Community Committee, gave a brief report of the committee's activities since the last Steering Committee meeting. A request for volunteers was made to assist the e-Community Committee in conducting a public survey. Volunteers should contact Jim Daniels (870-222-3880) or Chris Hayes (870-377-0752) for more information.
Based on the report given by SGI, the Steering Committee was asked to identify priority areas that would be the focus of the DeshaForward strategic plan. After possible priority areas had been identified, the group voted on their top choices. The priority areas will be Infrastructure, Workforce, Education, Housing, and Economic Development.
Nominations were held at that time for Co-chairs for each committee and the executive committee would work with those names and others until those positions are filled.

Status and Next Steps
The Executive Committee has filled the chair positions for each committee with two chair-people.  <b>Committee Co-Chairs are:</b> Infrastructure- Kenny Gober & Michael Jones Housing- Annett Cowen & Melissa Gober Education- Heath Moncrief & Bobbie Lehman Workforce- Ray Shepherd & Bob Ware Economic Development- Ellen Smith, Doc Bilberry, & Don Cash
Each of the committees needs members from both the steering committee and the residents yet to be involved with DeshaForward. Interested individuals are welcome to join at any time. Each committee will prepare an initial report for the general Steering Committee Meeting.
The next general Steering Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7pm at McGehee's Municipal Building.