

Appendix A
South Branch Township Public Input Sessions for Master Plan

Three public input workshops were held for the South Branch Township Master Plan development. An article was published in the Crawford County Avalanche, flyers were distributed, and phone calls were made to invite persons to the public input session. The workshop was held at the South Branch Township Fire Hall on June 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Twenty people attended and participated in the workshop. Comments have been organized by category and do not represent any prioritization issues or concerns.

South Branch Township Assets to Protect	
Natural Resources Fresh Air South Branch of Au Sable River, Mason Track Variety of Birds Watershed and Wetlands Wildlife Forest Riparian Forest All Three Au Sables Animal Habitat – food plots, protect against pollution Quality Drinking Water Kirtland’s Warbler Habitat	Community Services/Infrastructure Protection, Police, Fire, EMS, Township Office Educational System
Community Character Community that pulls together People – must keep Piece and Quiet Community Value Natural and Clean Rural nature of Township/larger tracks of land	Planning/Zoning/Regulations Zoning Code and Zoning – allow for “Little Cabin” Septic and Well Regulation Larger Lots of Land
Development Public Land Ownership Protect from Blight and Sub-standard Structures No “Big Box” Business Lack of Private Land Ownership	Miscellaneous Access to Snowmobiles Cross County Ski Trails Access to Public Lands Large Recreational Property Ownership

South Branch Township Problems to Address	
Natural Resources Infractions on River System - Need Better Enforcement Must Clean Up River – Salt, Oil, Runoff	Community Services/Infrastructure Refuse Services - Recycling, Dumping Improved Road System - Lack of, doesn't meet needs Infrastructure Fire Department Location - Needs to be more Centralized County Sheriff – Need for more Need Full-time Fire Chief/Zoning Enforcement Officer New Comers vs. Locals – problem providing services
Community Character Camping Trailers – people living in, leaving unattended Small Log Homes – Need to be kept up, Trailers being used for Hunting	Planning/Zoning/Regulations Better Planning & Zoning - Sub-division, Roads, Long Range Planning Lack of Enforceable Blight Ordinance Gravel Pit – need to close or enforce Current Ordinance Too Restrictive, Doesn't Fit Area
Development Need For Industrial Parks Home Business – Need to do correctly	Miscellaneous Driveways - can't get up/in, need for numbering system Limited Funding – Need for Millage

<p>South Branch Township Vision 2025</p>	
<p>Natural Resources Safeguard Natural Resources Hybrid Trees – Replace Jack Pine More Birds & Birdwatchers Promote Conservation & Protection of Wildlife Clean Water & River Property Set Aside For Educational Nature Center Natural Resources in South Branch – Energy, Wind Mills No Oil Wells</p>	<p>Community Services/Infrastructure South Branch Park Better Road System Volunteer Services Community Fine Arts Center Sub Fire Station & EMS Emergency Clinic Senior Housing Water Tower/Infrastructure/Water System</p>
<p>Community Character Secure Neighborhoods More People No Urban Sprawl No Yard Lights No Blight</p>	<p>Planning/Zoning/Regulations Controlled Density Smaller Lots – Cluster Development Still Have Large Lots</p>
<p>Development Increased Light Commercial “Neighborhood Business” Forest Dunes has Golfer & Homes Condos Affordable Housing Capitalize On Cottage Industry, Home Business Meat & Vegetable Market</p>	<p>Miscellaneous Drug Free Community “Fire Wise” Community No Stray Cats & Dogs</p>