

Strategic Planning Meeting

Mike Easterwood and Artie Menefee of the Economic & Community Development Institute of Auburn University facilitated the strategic planning meeting hosted by the Tribe on Saturday, March 31, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to establish the four focus groups to help the Tribe in its five and ten year strategic plan.

You may ask the question what is strategic planning and why do we need it, the answer is multi faceted. Strategic planning is a process by which the Tribe will attempt to anticipate and plan for the future to place the Tribe in the best possible position to maximize its strengths in relation to available opportunities. Strategic planning offers an action oriented approach to making our community a better place to live, provides a community based method of allocating resources on the most important issues facing the Tribe, and recognizes the importance of both internal and external issues and opportunities facing the Tribe.

The four focus groups established are economic development (business development), infrastructure (water, sewer, streets/roads, communications, etc.), education (all aspects of

Tribal education), and community services (recreation, health care, housing, law enforcement, fire, social services, court, etc.). The groups have begun meeting but welcome any input Tribal Members may have.

The strategic planning project began with a grant funded through ANA. After receiving the grant award, a Project Steering Committee was established to guide overall strategic planning; the initial meeting with Auburn University and the Steering Committee was held on site. In January the Committee traveled to Choctaw, Mississippi to meet with representatives from the Choctaw Steering Committee to learn from their efforts. The focus committees have been formed and will meet during April, May, and June to select strategic goals and develop the action steps necessary to achieve their goals. In July Auburn University will draft a strategic planning document prepared from the information developed by the focus groups. After making any needed changes, the strategic plan will be adopted by the Tribal Council as a policy guide; target date for completion is August of 2007.



Mike Easterwood of Auburn University



Left to right, Artie Menefee, Edith Williams, PCI Community Development Planner, and Mike Easterwood.



A crowd of about 75 attended the Strategic Planning meeting