

Wis.Community – Moving Along



The Plan



- Plan was to build a website to cover Wisconsin, and provide places for discussion, news, calendars, documents, and other information
- Organized by topic and by geographic location
- Built around “communities” which reflect topics and locations
- People can subscribe to various parts of the site and receive updates via email or (planned) text message



Inspirations



- Wanted to model a newer hipper version of local mailing lists like tellall
- Provide a space for community discussions
- Mini web sites for organizations and groups that do not have one
- Build some organizing tools for groups to build capacity and communicate with each other
- Start a mini-journalism project to allow us to surface un-reported stories in Wisconsin



In the Hopper



- Finding a more effective use for text messaging and web notifications from the site
- Possibility of a podcast or TV show – integrating with Roku channel
- Plans to record local governmental meetings for purposes of more transparency
- More effective collaboration with other news media and blending of original and aggregated work



Things that happened



- Received a small grant from Save The Hills Alliance to fund environmental work
- Held film/fundraiser of Look & See – a film about Wendell Berry – there will be more.
- Became a member of LION Publishers – lionpublishers.com – that has been helpful
- Have done video of multiple meetings and events
- Exploratory work on building a Roku channel



Experiments



- Audio comments by Heyoya – so far not much traction there
- Doing some testing of setting up web notifications
- Working on better integration of video from partners like Valley Media Works
- Pearltrees – a shared bookmarking system. It appears on front page as “what we’re reading” - need to get more involved.



Starry-Eyed Dreams



- Do regular video/audio of government meetings
– requires volunteers and/or interns
- Produce an at-least-monthly television show or podcast of interesting people/projects in the state
- Work more with action groups in the state to use the internal tools of the site including CRM, text messaging, shared calendaring, etc.
- Build community-based directories of all kinds of resources



How can I help?



- Get an account and start contributing – there will be some upcoming on-line sessions to help
- Submit your events and resources
- Like the Facebook page and like/share the content there
- Post events to the site
- If you have a website – link to things
- Leave comments on the site
- Become a paid member



Ideas???? Questions???



- So – what do you think could be happening that would be helpful or interesting to YOU?



Immediate Needs



- Need some people to volunteer to do video recording of meetings, etc. - possibility of student interns
- Need to have people willing to be editors of some of the communities
- Need more content of all kinds
- Could really use some help maintaining the events calendar
- Please suggest more communities, particularly if you are willing to manage

