

# NORTH ZEEB ROAD TASK FORCE IS FORMED

The Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners appoints citizens to a new Task Force to address issues and concerns regarding the proposed Yard One development.



At their regular meeting on April 4, 2004, the Board of County Road Commissioners appointed four local citizens to serve on the newly formed, **North Zeeb Road Task Force**. In March 2006, a Public Notice was placed in local newspapers to seek citizens interested in participating on the Task Force. The Road Commission received 10 letters of interest and resumes, which were provided to the Board for review and consideration at their April 4, 2006 meeting.

The Task Force – which is comprised of eight members – will provide guidance to the Road Commission as it prepares a revised proposal for the Yard One Planned Unit Development (PUD) in Scio Township. The citizens who were appointed to a six-month term on the North Zeeb Road Task Force include area residents **David Read, J. Carter Strothman, P.E., Janet Kreiling, and Mona Walz.**

In addition to the four Scio Township residents, other members of the Task Force will include **Tim Eder**, Road Commissioner; **Marty Mayo**, Chair of the Scio Township Planning Commission; **Tony VanDerworp**, Director of Washtenaw County Planning & Environment; and long-time Scio Township resident, **Richard DeLong**, Director of the Scio Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

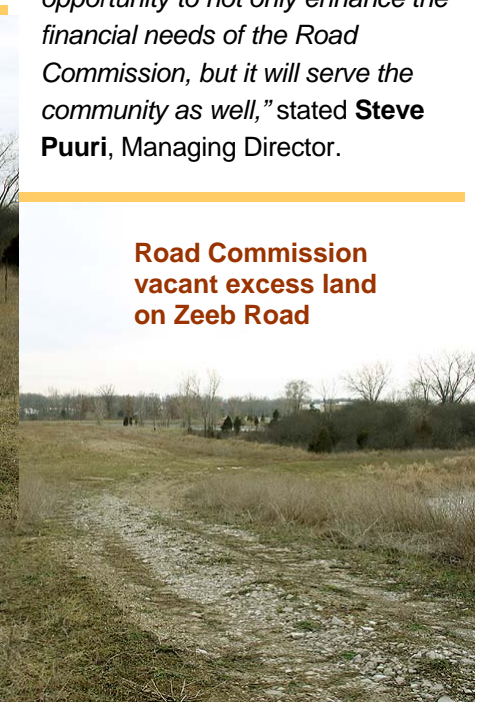
Various Road Commission staff will also be available to provide information to the Task Force, respond to questions and extend administrative support.

In early 2004, the Road Commission began seeking proposals to develop its excess property located at 555 North Zeeb Road by advertising to lease a portion of its 35 acres of excess land. Several viable commercial candidates submitted their proposals to lease the property, including Costco, which was ultimately approved by the Board of County Road Commissioners in September 2005.

The terms of a 50-year lease was worked out between Costco Wholesale Corporation and the Road Commission, and a proposal by Costco to develop approximately 12 acres of the excess Yard One property to build a Costco Warehouse Club facility, was presented to the Scio Township Planning Commission on

February 13, 2006. However, the PUD application was withdrawn by the Road Commission on February 27, 2006, due to a number of public concerns regarding the proposed development. The Road Commission understood that the consensus of the comments and concerns expressed by citizens and the Scio Township Planning Commission was that the proposed development did not align with the Scio Township Master Plan. Subsequently, as a result of the public outcry, as well as the meeting with the Scio Township Planning Commission, Costco chose to terminate its lease with the Road Commission, indicating that company representatives did not feel they had the support of the local community for their development.

*"The loss of this business venture will not discourage us from moving forward with the development of this property, as we believe it is an opportunity to not only enhance the financial needs of the Road Commission, but it will serve the community as well,"* stated **Steve Puuri**, Managing Director.



**Road Commission vacant excess land on Zeeb Road**

*“We are confident that the North Zeeb Task Force will help the Road Commission develop a proposal that will fit in well with the Scio Township Master Plan. We want to be sure we adequately address upfront any concerns the township officials and public may have, as we prepare a revised proposal for our development; and we believe the*

*establishment of this Task Force is an important first step in the right direction to achieve that goal,”* concluded Puuri.

The charge of the North Zeeb Road Task Force will be to provide guidance to the Road Commission as it prepares the revised Yard One PUD proposal for resubmission to

Scio Township for consideration. The Task Force will also provide feedback to the Road Commission on conceptual proposals, extend guidance on outreach initiatives to the public, and consider suggestions on the development of a “North Town Center” in relation to the Yard One PUD.



**Current WCRC administration building and surrounding property along Zeeb Road in Scio Township.**

For additional information on the North Zeeb Road Task Force, please contact **Val Cooper**, Public Information/Community Relations Officer, at (734) 327-6675.

Look for regular North Zeeb Road Task Force updates on the Road Commission website at [www.wcroads.org](http://www.wcroads.org).