Martin Laws, AICP
Central Savannah River Area
Regional Commission
What is a Rural Community? Is it a definition?

2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria

The Census Bureau's urban-rural classification is fundamentally a delineation of geographical areas, identifying both individual urban areas and the rural areas of the nation. The Census Bureau's urban areas represent densely developed territory, and encompass residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses.

For the 2010 Census, an urban area will comprise a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core. To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters. The Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas:

- Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people;
- Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people.

“Rural” encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area.
What is a Rural Community?

Is it cultural?
What is a Rural Community?

Do we know it when we see it?
Central Savannah River Area
Population – 454,901
2010 U.S. Census
Savannah River Area
Central Savannah River Area

Augusta-Richmond County – 200,549
Columbia County – 124,053

11 Counties – 130,299

4 counties with populations over 15,000
6 counties with populations less than 11,000

2010 U.S. Census
Central Savannah River Area

Taliaferro County – 1,717

Burke County – 23,316

2010 U.S. Census
Central Savannah River Area

Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance

Goal: Create an Ordinance to address potential influx of industrial chicken houses
Central Savannah River Area

Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance

1. Met with stakeholder group
2. Created a draft “Chicken House Ordinance”
3. Reviewed “Chicken House Ordinance with Stakeholders
4. Present to Public For Input
Central Savannah River Area

Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance
Central Savannah River Area

Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance

Issues

1. People felt threatened about their ability to use their property
2. Concerns were voiced regarding fees for potential owners
3. There was a perception that the ordinance did not take into account the issues of local farmers
4. There were certain individuals who just wanted to throw a “Spanner in the works”
Central Savannah River Area
Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance

Issues & Solutions
Central Savannah River Area
Taliaferro County Chicken Ordinance

Issues & Solutions

1. People felt threatened about their ability to use their property
   Education of a larger stakeholder group regarding the ordinance
2. Concerns were voiced regarding fees for potential owners. Helping individuals understand that companies who wish to place these types of facilities in jurisdictions are aware of fees and are willing to pay reasonable amounts.
3. There was a perception that the ordinance did not take into account the issues local farmers had. Working with local farmers to gain insights on how they perceive their needs.
4. There were certain individuals who just wanted to throw a “Spanner in the works”
Have strong advocates by your side
Central Savannah River Area

Takeaways

1. When Planners are outsiders, we must take steps to make our clients (those rural residents comfortable with us)
2. People and connection
3. Inclusion
4. Always be Nice....