

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUDING REMARKS AND THE NEXT STEP**

The planning team that has worked throughout the Fall Semester 2006 has conducted meticulous fact finding, investigative research, creative problem solving, open communication and interaction with representatives from the Village of Panama and a very revealing interview with two well informed stakeholders in Panama in order to formulate and document a workable Action Plan for the establishment of a Fire Barn and Community Hall in Panama. The presentation of this report to the Panama Village community culminates the efforts of 17 students, 2 Extension Educators and One Professor/Extension Specialist who made a commitment to offer thoughtful advice and technically sound and justifiable assistance to the community to guide their efforts towards the fulfillment of their 10 year long aspiration for a community center in the village. The presentation of this report also symbolizes a baton exchange from the planning team to the Village stakeholders and community leaders whose responsibility will be to take this document to the community at large and follow through towards the accomplishment of the recommended Action Plan. Whereas the role of the planning team has come to its logical conclusion, the continuing role of the Extension Specialist and the 2 Extension Educators will now move towards technical assistance and education needed to assist the village in implementing the Action Plan.

### **Proposed Time Line**

It would be very presumptuous to predict a time line for effectively accomplishing all the objectives contained in any Action Plan, and this Action Plan is no exception. The planning team is very optimistic, hopeful and reasonably confident that some very critical decisions made on the basis of recommendations contained in this Action Plan can and need to be made within a two year period starting in January 2007. Assuming that these decisions are made within that time period, it is believe that the Village of Panama would be empowered and ready to break ground for the Fire Barn and Community Hall, sometime during 2009.

The success of this venture is now vested with the stakeholders of the Village of Panama who could make the difference between 10 long years of dormancy, patience and hope to the final realization of their dream for a community center at Panama for current and future generations.