



## City of Plainwell and Conestoga Rovers & Associates Solidify Development Partnership of the former Plainwell Paper Mill

The Official Development Agreement for the Plainwell Paper Mill property was Approved on April 12, 2010 during the City Council Meeting.

Plainwell, Michigan - April 13, 2010 - Years of preparation, planning and anticipation for the potential redevelopment of the former Plainwell Paper Mill have culminated into an historic event in which the Plainwell City Council approved a Development Agreement with Conestoga Rovers & Associates (CRA). This is a significant milestone in the Plainwell Paper Mill's redevelopment and will significantly help propel the project forward.

The Development Agreement provides for:

- Relocation of CRA's Kalamazoo office to the mill site and 30 jobs
- 1 million dollars of private investment that will be used for building upgrades
- Relocation of City Hall to the site
- Reinforces the City's "Vision for Tomorrow" concept plan that will create a mixed use development
- Recovery of 1 million dollars of City investment through cash or in-kind investments into the site
- A timeline that establishes development progression

Having a Development Agreement in place, the Plainwell Paper Mill project is even more fundable to a variety of federal, state and local granting agencies and potential investors that a strong public / private partnership has been built. Mayor Rick Brooks summed it up best when he said, "just as there was an enormous amount of excitement in the late 1880's with the birth of the mill, so should there be now at its re-birth."

Already, \$1,639,000 in grant funds have been approved by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and other grant applications that were pending are now bolstered by a formal Development Agreement. CRA Vice-President Wayne Bauman stated that "while there is still a lot of work to do, the momentum is there due to the strong partnership between the City, CRA and Weyerhaeuser."

Plainwell City Manager Erik Wilson further emphasized the momentum by stating, "how many Superfund sites in the United States can boast both the developer and municipality occupying the site? I believe the Plainwell Paper Mill redevelopment will be a model for the State and perhaps the nation in how successful public/private partnerships can bring new life to Superfund and underutilized Brownfield sites.

Additional information on the Plainwell Paper Mill site can be found at [www.plainwell.org/development](http://www.plainwell.org/development).

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