



## **RECOMMENDATIONS – Transition Program Working Group Horse Business Facility Regulations Study**

A transition program that encourages existing businesses to seek County approval under newly adopted regulations is important to the goal of achieving enduring land use compatibility. The Working Group is seeking fairness for:

- existing businesses that have been previously approved,
- existing businesses that have been operating responsibly but are not approved by the County, and
- neighbors whose property rights are impacted by irresponsible businesses.

The Working Group makes the following recommendations for the adoption of a transition program for horse business facilities.

1. **Public Outreach.** Extensive outreach regarding any newly adopted regulations should be done by the County. For example, a staff member knowledgeable about the regulations should hold some open house events to work with the public. Perhaps Working Group members could be asked to help guide prospective applicants through the process. Perhaps Linda Hoffmann could remain involved. Other outreach methods to be used could include the County's website and other electronic media, press releases, e-mails to all attendees at public meetings during the study process, flyers in tack shops, feed stores, etc., direct mail to discoverable businesses.
2. **Incentives.** A transition program should be offered for a period of one year. Any application filed before the close of the transition program would be eligible for transition program incentives. During the transition program period, businesses would only pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the County's usual fees. It is also noted that the intent of the new regulations is to eliminate or significantly limit the need for consultants to assist with the preparation of application materials.
3. **Existing Approved Businesses.** Some kind of special consideration should be extended to businesses that have gone through a review process under the existing regulations and have been operating legally. This consideration could be a provision associated with their existing approval that would allow for additional expansion of the business up to the next level of review that would be required under the scalable system.