

**MINUTES OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
November 16, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
Pine County Public Health Large Conference Room**

County Commissioner Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were County Commissioner Matt Ludwig, Planning Commissioner Skip Thomson, Planning Commissioner Jeff Shute, Planning Commissioner Richard Glatty, Public Member Al Hancock, Public Member James Sloan, and Public Member John Von Rueden. Also present were County Administrator David Minke, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, and Land & Resources Manager Caleb Anderson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

County Commissioner Hallan added Item 3, a report of the goals and objectives from the previous comp plan to the agenda. With the addition, County Commissioner Ludwig moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Public Member Hancock. Motion Carried 7-0 (Planning Commissioner Glatty was not present as of yet).

County Commissioner Ludwig moved to approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2015 committee meeting. Second by Planning Commissioner Thomson.

Land & Resources Manager Anderson noted that we did indeed receive a grant from the Initiative Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to be used to assist in hiring a consultant to help facilitate the public input portions of the process.

Anderson also gave an update on the progress of locating a consultant using the grant. It was noted the search committee interviewed the U of M Center for Rural Design as the steering committee's first choice, however did not feel it would be a good fit. The search committee then met with Brian Ross of the Great Plains Institute in a similar interview and the committee did feel as though Ross and the Institute would be a good fit for our project and services. Ross has a lengthy history of facilitating public input and comprehensive plans. Anderson presented the committee with a list of proposed services which could be provided for a total of \$7,700. Anderson questioned if there is anything from the proposed list of services that could be cut since the grant from the Initiative Foundation (\$5,000) would not fully cover this amount. Planning Commissioner Thomson moved to go forward with the full scope of services from the Institute. Seconded by County Commissioner Ludwig. The committee directed Caleb and Land Services Director Schroeder to draft a contract for consideration by the County Board of Commissioners.

Land and Resources Manager Anderson lead the committee through the background data which has been collected thus far and much of the data was discussed. It was noted that a figure of Public Land per Resident could be useful. Additionally, County Administrator Minke noted that additional employment by sector, top property taxpayers, retail sales, and general employment figures should also be gathered. Planning Commissioner Glatty noted he would like to see the number of parcels for agriculture and forestry. Topics which are not at the forefront of our

conversation should also be addressed in this comprehensive plan. County Commissioner Hallan and Planning Commissioner Thomson discussed the topic of created wetlands along with a brief discussion of mining. Public member Sloan noted it would be good to look at open land versus economic development potentials also.

Land and Resource Manager Anderson directed the committee's attention to the Preliminary Survey draft which was included in the handouts. He noted that it had been floated to several employees to ensure they understood the questions. The committee was concerned the questions were too open ended. With the addition of the consultant, the committee felt it was best to lean on the consultant for the drafting of the survey. Staff members Schroeder and Anderson will work with the consultant once the contract is in place to draft the survey.

The committee then briefly reviewed the strategies that were in the previous comprehensive plan. Some discussion was had on several of the topics. Planning Commissioner Glatly questioned if the previous comprehensive plan strategies should be used to help promote some of the new ideas? It was noted that it will be important for committee members to review the previous strategies and highlight any that members feel are important to touch on again. Planning Commissioner Thomson discussed Feedlots, as it is something that Pine County has never dealt with and it has just fallen to the state. It was noted much more information would need to be gathered about feedlots.

The next meeting will be on a Wednesday afternoon following the gathering of the preliminary data.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By Kelly Schroeder