

**MINUTES OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
February 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse Board Room**

A. Call meeting to order

County Commissioner Matt Ludwig called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Approval of Agenda

Caleb Anderson added Item G3, Focus Group Meetings to the agenda. With the addition, Al Hancock moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Steve Hallan. Motion Carried 5-0.

D. Roll Call

Members present: County Commissioner Matt Ludwig, County Commissioner Steve Hallan, Planning Commissioner Richard Glattly, Public Member Al Hancock, and Public Member John Von Rueden.

Also present were County Administrator David Minke, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, and Land & Resources Manager Caleb Anderson.

Members absent: Planning Commissioner Skip Thomson, Planning Commissioner Jeff Shute, Public member James Sloan,

E. Approval of Minutes

Richard Glattly moved to approve the Minutes of the November 14, 2015 committee meeting. Second by Steve Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Old Business

Background Data Update

Caleb Anderson shared an updated document containing background data. Suggestions from the 11/14/15 meeting were incorporated into the document.

Several suggestions were made by the Steering Committee to improve the display of graphics, clarify ambiguous data descriptions, and cite data sources.

G. New Business

Community Survey Results

Anderson gave a background on the collection of the survey. 521 responses were collected. The group agreed that the level of responses collected was a success.

Ludwig asked if residents that rent their home were well represented in the survey. The group thought renters may be less likely to participate in the survey as they are more transient and potentially less committed financially to the success of the community.

Schroeder commented that she was surprised by how high the respondents ranked sustainable built infrastructure as a priority.

Ludwig noted that protection of the environment was shown to be an interest of the respondents.

The group agreed that economic development is a major interest of the respondents.

Glattly noted from question 7 that implementing county wide zoning was an interest of 5 respondents, while "less regulation" was identified as an interest of 5 respondents.

Hallan shared that he was not surprised to see interest in expanded access to high speed internet. He remarked that constituents often request the County do something to improve internet speeds.

Glattly commented that he was surprised that supporting agriculture was not an exceptionally high priority of the community. It was noted from the background data that farming is becoming a smaller segment of the population's employment.

Public Meetings in Early March

The group reviewed the questions from the consultant, which were listed on the agenda.

Hallan commented that he felt it was important to build trust in the comprehensive planning process.

Minke suggested that effort be made to have at least one commissioner at every meeting to help connect the participants with the policy makers that will be using the Comprehensive Plan.

Glattly commented that he felt it was important to build trust in the comprehensive planning process, share survey results and background data, and showcase the diversity of opinions.

The group agreed that it should not be a priority of the public meetings to solicit feedback on the background data and survey results.

The group agreed the public meetings should not be used to find compromise positions on tough issues that have already been identified. Rather the goal should be to collect viewpoints on issues.

It was suggested that some topics that could be focused on would be economic development, blight, and noise.

The group did not identify that the public meetings should be used to discuss commonly held but likely untrue perceptions about the County or particular issues.

Focus Group Meetings

The group agreed to wait until the conclusion of the general public meetings before selecting topics and scheduling focus group meetings.

Ludwig expressed concerned that our public meetings are not being held in enough regions of the County. It was reasoned that additional general meetings could be held in uncovered areas during the series of focus group meetings.

Schroeder asked what the purpose of the focus group meetings will be considering that specific topics will be discussed at the general meetings. Anderson commented that perhaps by holding more focused meetings, individuals interested in more specific topics will attend while they otherwise may not attend a general meeting.

H. Adjournment

Motion by Hancock to adjourn. Second by Halan. 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54.

Respectfully Submitted By Caleb Anderson

DRAFT