



Lewis Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Community Meeting – Mineral American Legion Bldg November 30, 2023

Meeting Summary

Attendees: 37

The meeting began with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (see handout) and questions from the attendees. Then there was a facilitated workshop with the prompting question “What is your vision for Lewis County in 20-years?” Participants were asked to write 5-10 statements about what they hope Lewis County will be like in 2045, covering topics such as transportation, housing, land use, recreation, jobs, etc. Next, participants were asked to star the top 3 priorities. The participants paired up and shared their top 3 priorities. Together, each team was asked to agree on a combined 3 and write each priority on a notecard. These were shared with the whole group and organized, by the group, into topics. The results of the workshop are provided below. Finally, staff shared the next steps which are to produce notes from this meeting and each of the upcoming community meetings throughout the county and post them on the webpage. Attendees were encouraged to sign up to receive email notifications so they will find out when new meeting notes are posted. The information from all the meetings will be provided to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners and will be used by staff to inform updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

The results of the workshop are below in order of participants’ priorities. Under each priority topic are details or explanations provided by the participants; the bullet points are not in any hierarchical order.

1. Infrastructure

- Improve services and infrastructure.
- Improve cell services and broadband.
- Ensure sufficient fire, EMS, police/sheriff, water and power facilities and services for East Lewis County.
- Adequately fund Lewis County Fire District 9 and the Sheriff.
- Plan infrastructure improvements to keep pace with development.
- Expand recycling services throughout East Lewis County and add plastic recycling.

2. Land Use

- Maintain rural character.
- Preserve small family farms.

- Grow locally owned, small businesses and prevent larger corporations from overtaking the unique character of Lewis County.
- Keep large, big-box commercial development near Interstate 5.
- Protect property owner's rights to have on-site private wells.

3. Housing

- Encourage development of new affordable housing options including housing for seasonal workers at National Park and traveling health care workers.
- Provide housing tax relief for seniors and low-income families.
- Consider capping property value/property tax for residents.
- Limit short term rentals which are taking the place of residential housing.

4. Forestry and Farms

- Protect and preserve forest lands, no net loss.
- Work with the state and federal governments to properly manage forests for timber production and as wildlife habitat.
- Support and grow working farms.

5. Recreation and Environment

- Create more public parks/open spaces with connected regional trail system.
- Provide more access to federal and state public lands.
- Protect Mineral Lake, maintain water quality and preserve the "natural state" of the shorelines.

6. Economic Development

- Ensure a strong robust economy in small unincorporated communities like Mineral.
- Provide financial assistance to locally-owned businesses in gateway communities to ensure they survive "shoulder season."

7. Transportation

- Provide public transportation options to East Lewis County.

Other ideas

- Better code enforcement, particularly unpermitted junk yards.
- Within rural areas, ensure that the rural community's interests take precedence over urban interests or interests from outside the county.
- Encourage and support more involvement from citizens in Mineral and East Lewis County in county and state initiatives.



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