



Lewis Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Community Meeting – Randle Fire Station January 29, 2024

Meeting Summary

Attendees: 12

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 select their 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. Land Use

- Maintain rural character.
- Protect farm and forestry lands from additional development.
- Support small businesses that support rural community.
- Keep large, big-box commercial and industrial development near I-5.

2. Housing

- Encourage new more affordable single family residential options.
- Encourage more affordable long term rentals.
- Regulate short term rentals, which are taking the place of residential housing.
- Consider capping property value/property tax for residents.
- Streamline the residential permitting process.

3. Infrastructure

- Ensure sufficient fire, EMS, police/sheriff, water and power facilities and services for East Lewis County.
- Improve power grid/lines, create redundancy, to reduce the number of power outages in East Lewis County.
- Reduce flooding on public roads

4. Transportation

- Restore regular bus routes to East Lewis County
- Provide transportation for students for after school activities (e.g., trades training at local businesses)

5. Economic Development

- Grow locally owned, small businesses and support existing small businesses (e.g., loans).
- Add essential retail like pharmacy in existing unincorporated towns.
- Increase food sovereignty and security by supporting local farms that produce food and businesses that distribute the food locally.

6. Social Services

- Expand social services (e.g., resources for low income families, etc.) into East Lewis County.
- Expand trades training for youth.