

## **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** The Members of the County Commission

**DATE:** January 29, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Departmental notes for the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Brookings County Commission Public Hearing on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan as amended.

**PREPARED BY:** Robert W. Hill, County Development Director

As an introduction for the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Public Hearing I would like to go through the process that the Brookings County Planning Commission used in the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

During the process we did keep the Brookings County Commission aware of our progress as it moved along and are also participated in several of our meetings, even attending the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Public Hearing that the Brookings County Planning Commission held.

Community meetings were held in Brookings County from September 2013 to March 17, 2014. They were held at Volga, White, Elkton and Brookings cities. The Mayor of Bushnell did attend the meeting White also. Afton, Argo and Brookings Townships had presentations in their local jurisdictions, the Brookings County Towns and Townships meeting at the Swiftel Center and the Lake Poinsett Area Development Association also met with County staff.

A survey was developed and mailed out to 552 individuals of rural unincorporated households across the county through a random sampling. The survey was also available on-line and at various meetings.

221 surveys were returned, 139 from the online format and 82 from the paper format.

The original concept was to revise the Comp Plan and base it off of the latest trends in the Planning arena. After a couple of draft versions were produced it was decided to shift to a more South Dakota type of document.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Planning District then stepped in and assisted in assembling everything that had been captured up to that point and the 2016 Version is what will be heard on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

I would be remiss if I did not mention some of the many people who assisted us in the development of this plan. Meghan Thoreau, a former Brookings County Development Department staff started the ball rolling for us, John Wallner was an intern who assisted in inputting a lot of the data that was produced, a SDSU Sociology Class, Rural Community Development course, Richard Haugen, Luke Muller, Todd Kays, our Brookings County Planning Commission and the most important are the citizens of Brookings County who assisted the Planning Commission in developing this plan.

The Planning Commission also met four times in 2015 to review the plan in depth and made several recommendations to improve the document.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Brookings County Planning Commission made eight (8) amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The amendments were added to the document and it was posted to the Brookings County website for the public to review the plan that you will either approve or reject on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.