

Residents asked to rate county's vision statement

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Article Last Updated; Wednesday, November 04, 2009 12:01AM

On the Net

To view the vision statement and other information about the Comprehensive Plan, visit www.laplatacountyplan.com.

A clearer image is emerging of what La Plata County is and hopes to be.

Six months into their comprehensive planning effort, county planners have crafted a draft "vision statement" that synthesizes feedback received from residents at public meetings, online and at informational tables at public events.

Now county residents are being asked to rate how well the vision statement reflects their true feelings about the place they live.

The nine-page document includes a survey at the end that asks respondents to rate their support of the assertions in the statement on a scale that runs from "not at all" to "right on!" Earlier this year, county commissioners voted to scrap a more than 400-page land-use code that was passed last year but never was put into effect for fear it would create more red tape and increase sprawl rather than combat it.

Instead, the county is creating a Comprehensive Plan - a central guiding document that will inform all its functions - and from that, it expects a land-use code will flow easily.

The vision statement was part of a status update Jason Meininger, the county's senior long-range planner, provided to county commissioners on Tuesday.

"We're six months into it, and we're still on schedule," he said.

Commissioner Kellie Hotter said, "We can tell you're going to every corner of our community and that's important." Meininger expressed optimism about the level of public participation so far.

"We're actually getting really good penetration, I think," he said.

Commissioner Joelle Riddle expressed concern about the length and complexity of the vision statement.

"This is really kind of overwhelming," she said.

Meininger said a final draft of the statement should be available for public review in December and the land-use planning component of the effort will get under way early next year.

"It should be much quicker and easier because we have all of this," he said, referring to public input so far.

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