



# Payette County Comprehensive Plan

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NO.1 (10/26/20)

### *Attendees:*

- Sheri Freemuth, J-U-B Engineers
- Addison Coffelt, J-U-B Engineers
- Dianne Olson, TLG/J-U-B Engineers
- Patti Nitz, Payette County Administrator
- Mary Butler, Payette County staff
- Chad Brock, New Plymouth
- Leslie Teunessin, Local Business Owner
- Jennifer Riebe, Planning and Zoning Commissioner
- Craig Smith, Planning and Zoning Commissioner
- JoAnne Smith, Chairman of the Payette Soil and Water Conservation District
- Rudy Endrikat, former County Commissioner
- Fred Visser, Sand Hollow resident/ Local Business Owner
- Karen Riley, Planning and Zoning Commissioner
- Chad Henggeler, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
- Farrell Rawlings, Planning and Zoning Commissioners
- Kevin Border, New Plymouth resident
- Jeff Williams, local business owner and Mayor of Payette
- Rick York, Mayor of New Plymouth
- Ken Bishop, Mayor of Fruitland
- Danielle Hass, paralegal for the USDOJ

### *Non-Attendees (submitted comments after meeting):*

- Rick York
- Mary Holladay
- Kit Kamo

### *Meeting Goals*

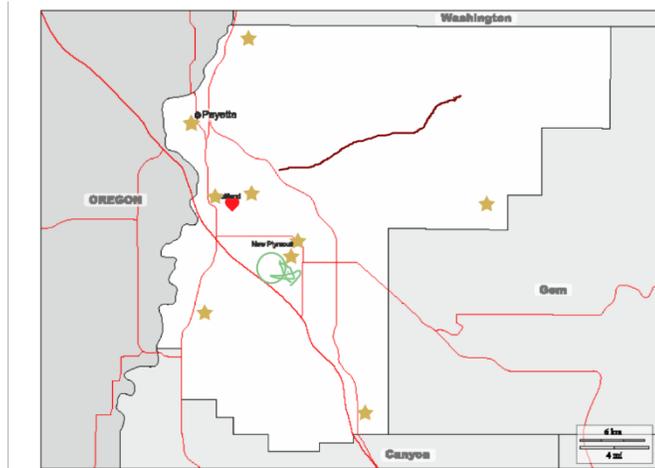
- Understand purpose and impact of the Payette County Comprehensive Plan
- Clarify role and responsibilities of CAC members and planning team
- Gather input to inform the vision statement for Payette County

### *Introductions/Annotation Activity*

Payette County, J-U-B staff and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members introduced themselves, including any organizations they represent and prior planning experience. CAC members participated in an interactive annotation activity on Zoom in which virtual stamps were placed on areas that members broadly live, work and recreate. The screenshot of the activity is copied below and demonstrates the wide representation of CAC members from areas across the County.



## WHERE DO WE LIVE WORK AND PLAY



### *Work Plan – Draft sent to Committee on 10/23/20*

Sheri Freemuth, J-U-B, explained the Work Plan and highlighted the Public Outreach Plan. Freemuth emphasized the intent for a robust education effort, in addition to future public involvement activities. Freemuth highlighted the education aspect of the outreach as this work will allow community members to provide informed input. She explained following details of the Work Plan:

- a Goal & Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan
- b Phases, Tasks & Milestones/Tentative Schedule
- c Public Outreach Plan overview

### *Advisory Committee members role for the Comprehensive Plan*

Freemuth highlighted the role and expectations of the CAC and the value of this role, including:

#### *During meetings:*

- Listen to each other's different ideas.
- Provide input on various items.
- Ask clarifying questions when needed.
- Communicate with Planning Team ahead of time if cannot make a meeting.

#### *Between meetings:*

- Discuss the issues with organizations or others that you represent. Bring their concerns back to CAC meetings.
- Attend public events.
- Watch for emails with mini-surveys, questionnaires and schedule polls.

#### *CAC Value:*

- CAC input will be integrated throughout the process.
- Each CAC meeting will have different opportunities to provide valuable input.
- CAC coordination with organizations or interests CAC members represent is important to help the plan represent the wide range of County residents.



## Vision and Goals Overview

Freemuth provided an overview of the concept of Vision Statements, Goals and Objectives as guiding principles for the plan and future plan implementation. She summarized the themes from the 2019 survey administered by the County. This survey focused on future land use and had nearly 350 responses. The themes included:

- Preserve Agricultural Land
- Accommodate Residential land use, but not within prime agricultural areas
- Work with cities to encourage commercial uses and residential subdivisions where public services are provided
- Provide more recreational uses and amenities (trails, youth activities...)
- Support small businesses; encourage new shops and restaurants

## Interactive Activities

### Issues and Opportunities:

Facilitator Dianne Olsen, J-U-B/TLG, led CAC members through interactive poll activities to solicit input on the issues and opportunities for Payette County over the next 10 years. CAC members and the Planning team asked follow-up questions on responses and discussed their answers.

Overall, the CAC expressed interest in growth management and preservation of the rural character.

### Poll Results:

#### One word that comes to mind when you think of Payette County in 10 years?

- 6 responses; Community, crowded, rivers, supportive, great
- 3 responses after meeting: home, agricultural, livable

*The following diagram illustrates a Word Cloud representation of responses.*



- **Share one sentence that comes to mind when you think of Payette County in 10 years?**
  - What happened to the rural lifestyle?
  - Rural
  - Supportive
  - Uncongested
  - Way too much growth on prime agriculture ground
  - Still a quiet respite in an increasingly frenzied world



- A strong community growing, encouraging small business, and maintaining a rural lifestyle.
- I feel as though the county may be ripe to grow exponentially with subdivisions.
- 3 responses after meeting:
  - A community that will see growth together in not only it's smaller-scale economic values, but also a community that has grown in sustainable work force job opportunities, as well as, a larger scale police, fire/EMT dept to further assist the individuals throughout our community who respect and render the services of all law enforcement/Emergency personnel.
  - Agricultural county with three cities that are great places in which to live.
  - An economically viable county with a balanced mix of business, family housing and amenities that make it very livable and desirable.
- **Top 3-5 issues or challenges for Payette County**
  - Changing the TDR process
  - Unchecked growth
  - Traffic
  - Loss of Ag lands
  - Preserving Prime farm ground
  - Planning development
  - NIMBY sentiment
  - Aging farmers – average age of farmers is 58 YO. Who are we saving Ag land for?
  - Sprawl
  - Limited infrastructure
  - Growth on prime ag land, limited infrastructure, structured growth, maintaining rural ideals/values
  - Protecting property rights
  - Consistent plan
  - Affordable housing
  - 3 responses after meeting:
    - 1a. Demand for housing vs. Traditional Agricultural practice - Land?
    - 1b. County & Main road development – Connect more roads/Road improvement/Stop lights at major intersections
    - 1c. Senior Citizen support - Meal efforts & community involved volunteer work.
  
    - 2a. Keeping ag lands in ag uses.
    - 2b. Keep roads and bridges in good condition as growth increases.
    - 2c. Providing jobs for our children.
    - 2d. Providing starter homes for young families.
    - 2e. Providing a safe place to raise a family and educate our children
  
    - 3a. new folks moving in that want to change the communities and their family values,
    - 3b. more population growth puts pressure on roads, county and city services including but not limited to EMS, fire, and law enforcement,



- 3c. finding a balance between home businesses and neighbors wanting solitude,
- 3d. protecting farmland while allowing landowners to have some control over their land,
- 3e. Spill over from Oregon's acceptable drug use.

- **Top opportunities for Payette County?**

- Planned growth
- Highway 95 corridor for farm stands
- More businesses
- Job growth
- Set an example for preserving Ag land
- Airport development
- Attracting new businesses
- Business Growth with good transportation avenues
- Controlled growth
- Attracting new small businesses, attracting talent, controlling growth with proper planning
- We have a low cost of living, conservative values, and low crime rate. Can we act fast enough to accommodate the surge of people moving to the State of Idaho?
- **3 responses after meeting:**
  - 1a. Stable job growth/More local businesses - Any decline in unemployment.
  - 1b. Economic growth.
  - 1c. Parks/Green belts/Sportsman Access points – More community inclusive activity sites.
    - 2a. Let Oregon keep doing what they are doing, do not copy them.
    - 2b. Encourage ag businesses.
    - 2c. Encourage cities to develop areas within city limits.
  - 3a. Payette County is a fabulous, close knit county with many opportunities for families including the county fair, numerous parks, rivers, and outdoor recreation areas,
  - 3b. Payette County has great leadership from their county commissioners, community leaders and locals who volunteer and make a difference in throughout the county,
  - 3c. we have 3 great cities that are able to accommodate much of the growth,
  - 3d. we have unused, non-farmable lands that could be used for other uses,
  - 3e. we are ideally located on I-84, and US 95, along with Union Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Northern RR, within 50 minutes of a major MSA and airport.



### *Next Steps*

- a **Public Outreach Event #1** – CAC members agreed on the on December 8 at 7 p.m. as the date for the virtual public open house. Before and after, displays at Fruitland City Hall and Payette County Courthouse will be available for public viewing. These displays will include comment opportunities.
- b **The Planning Team will develop draft vision statements and issues and opportunities lists.** The CAC will have the opportunity to view these and provide feedback before these are shared at the public event.
- c **Schedule for Future CAC Meetings** – CAC members expressed a preference for days of the week other than Monday but 7 p.m. is a good time. Patti will send scheduling email before next meeting.
- d **CAC members to watch their email for communication from the Planning Team** on scheduling, vision statements and other items.
- e **Subsequent CAC meetings** will include additional time to review technology. Members are recommended to Zoom from individual computers to allow for the best possible interaction and engagement.
- f No further questions or comments.

*Thank You for attending and for responding to the follow-up email with comments on the Draft Work Plan and responses to tonight's questions.*