

Crook County Land Use Plan

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, May 21, 2025

3:00 pm

Present:

CCLUPSC Members:

Judy McCullough
Scott Graham
Randy Faust
Randy Gantz
Jeff Carrier
Brandon Riddle
Dawn Anderson
Mark Erickson

Elected Officials & County Staff:

Bob Latham, County Commissioner
Fred Devish, County Commissioner
John Davis, County Commissioner
Morgan Ellsbury, County R&B
Charlie Harrison, Fire Warden
Randy Leinen, Land Use Commission
Melissa Jones, County Clerk
Caleb Peters, Planning Office

Consultant Team:

Megan Nelms, Y2 Consultants
Michael Surface, Y2 Consultants

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm. The group went around the room and did introductions, as well as those present on the virtual TEAMS meeting.

II. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW UPDATES

Megan provided an update on how the stakeholder interviews were coming along. She thanked the committee members for their input and contact information they had provided so far. She had a few names where email addresses were incorrect and bounced back, or she lacked phone numbers, so she displayed the list of stakeholders and asked for people to speak up and help fill in the spreadsheet, or to please send her the contact information via email after the meeting.

The committee had a few additional comments on the proposed stakeholder list. Randy G. stated that more ranchers and folks in agriculture needed to be contacted. Megan asked all committee members if there was anyone else that they feel should be interviewed as a stakeholder, to please send her their contact information and Megan or Michael would make contact. Megan did ask the committee members to give the people a heads up about the plan development process, its purpose and why they were being asked to be interviewed so they didn't blind side them with a phone call or email.

Judy, Randy F., and Dawn stated they would like to sit in on the interviews. Megan appreciated their interest, but explained that generally, stakeholder interviews are conducted by the consultant team, one-on-one with the interviewees. Megan reiterated that the questions are very general and not meant to steer the conversation in any one direction. She also stated that the committee would receive a summary of all the stakeholder interviews and key themes and takeaways from them in the final Public Engagement Summary document.

There was general discussion about recording all the stakeholder interviews or other ways to preserve them. Megan reassured the committee that she and Michael take detailed notes and they will not

leave out important topics brought up at any stakeholder interview and that all information gathered during the interviews will be provided to the committee.

III. DRAFT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Megan presented the draft Public Engagement Plan to the committee and explained the purpose of the document. She stated that it is an outline of the variety of ways the project team intends to engage and interact with the public and residents of the county during the planning process. Megan requested that the committee members review it and get her any comments or questions. The document will then be placed on the plan website.

IV. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

At the previous meeting, the steering committee had requested a conversation with the Board of Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the plan and its outcomes. They were worried that it would be another document that would “just sit on the shelf” and not be utilized. There was general discussion between the steering committee and the BOCC about why the plan was being completed/updated, the Commissioner’s thoughts about how the plan will be utilized and the importance of the role of the steering committee. The BOCC reiterated that they were depending on the Steering Committee to take the lead on plan development so that it ends up being a well thought-out plan that will benefit the County for many years to come.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm. The next regular steering committee meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2025, at 3pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room and virtually on TEAMS.