

# PERKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planning Board Adoption Hearing – April 22, 2014

# THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- What can the County do to capitalize on its assets and address its challenges to make the Perkins County a better place for the people that live here now and in the future?
- Roadmap, or framework to guide future development and planning efforts in Perkins County
- Does not establish regulations
- Establishes goals, as well as policies and strategies to achieve those goals
- *Living document*—should be updated as conditions change

# PLANNING PROCESS

- County Commission appointed a Planning Board to guide the development of the Plan
- Community Survey
  - Online
  - Paper copies @ libraries, Courthouse, City Halls
  - Publicized in the newspapers/radio
  - High school
  - County Fair
  - Boss Cowman
- Interviews with Planning Board members
- Open House in Bison
- Public Forum in Lemmon
- Draft Plan Feedback Surveys
- Public Hearings

# MAJOR THEMES



- The need for more countywide collaborations;
- The need to further develop and promote the county's economic assets;
- The importance of, and the value placed on the county's land and natural resource base; and,
- The importance of the county's rural heritage and way of life.

# GOALS

1. *FOSTER COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY*
2. *PROMOTE AND GROW THE COUNTY'S ECONOMY*
3. *PRESERVE THE COUNTY'S LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES*
4. *PROTECT THE COUNTY'S RURAL CULTURE AND VALUES*

# GOALS, POLICIES & STRATEGIES



**Goals:** *Targets for the future*

**Policies:** *Guidance for decision making*

**Strategies:** *Steps to reach our goals*

# GOAL 1

## *FOSTER COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, & PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY*

- POLICY: Perkins County will pursue joint planning with its municipalities, school districts, Federal and State agencies, and special service districts.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Develop a set of guidelines that will allow for County review of public projects and plans within the County's jurisdiction.
- POLICY: Perkins County will encourage and support partnerships among organizations working within the county, such as economic development and housing organizations.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Explore the development of countywide economic development and housing studies and plans.
- POLICY: Perkins County will promote open communication and transparency in County government.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Redevelop the Perkins County website to include agendas, meeting minutes, and general public information.

# GOAL 2

## *PROMOTE AND GROW THE COUNTY'S ECONOMY*

- POLICY: Perkins County will support its agricultural producers.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Explore the development of regulations and incentives that will support and facilitate agricultural production, such as right-to-farm ordinances and additional tax incentives.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Conduct a feasibility study to explore value-added opportunities for the county's producers in order to pass more profit on to ranchers and farmers.
- POLICY: Perkins County will ensure that its infrastructure, housing, and services support the county's existing industries as well as economic growth.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Develop a Capital Improvement Plan to ensure that public infrastructure, and specifically, County roads are adequate to attract new development and support existing industry.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Develop a countywide housing strategy to ensure that there are housing options for employees of new and expanding businesses.
- POLICY: Perkins County will promote the county's existing economic assets.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Establish a working group to identify those economic assets within Perkins County that lack exposure and new avenues for promotion.
- POLICY: Perkins County will support efforts to diversify the county's economy in order to attract high-wage jobs.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Explore and offer resources to help existing businesses within the county expand, and attract new businesses.



# GOAL 3

## *PRESERVE THE COUNTY'S LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES*

- POLICY: Perkins County will promote development in a manner that is compatible with agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and environmentally sensitive areas.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Establish regulations that will allow for County review of proposed development within its jurisdiction that has the potential to negatively impact agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive areas and require the mitigation of undesirable impacts to the natural environment as well as a plan for viable potential reuse of the land.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Maintain the integrity of sensitive agricultural lands by keeping potentially disruptive uses separate from agricultural activities.

# GOAL 4

## *PROTECT THE COUNTY'S RURAL CULTURE AND VALUES*

- POLICY: Perkins County will promote the county's history, culture, and rural values.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Establish incentives that will help protect culturally and historically significant resources in Perkins County.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Encourage the use of a Perkins County history curriculum in the schools.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Create a driving tour and/or informational brochure highlighting historical, recreational, and tourism related assets in the County.
- POLICY: Perkins County will take an active role in encouraging the county's youth to remain in, or return to the community.
  - ▣ STRATEGY: Maintain connections with Perkins County youth through social media.

# Public Input



- Please share your thoughts with us.