Pickens council gets growth plan

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PICKENS — "2030 Pickens County: A Comprehensive Plan" has cleared its last hurdle on its way to Pickens County Council.

The document, more than 100 pages long and 16 months in the making, was revised during the last two county Planning Commission meetings, most recently on Monday night, when commissioners voted unanimously to send the amended version to County Council.

The document has come under fire from landowners concerned a comprehensive plan would restrict their rights. Many changes concerned landowners' rights and taxpayers' costs.

During a discussion of objectives in the section on natural resources, Commissioner Trey Whitehurst objected to the use of the word "protect" when talking about private property within the county.

"'Protect' is a very powerful word," Whitehurst said. "We've got DHEC doing this, the EPA doing this. Who are we protecting against?"

In several instances, objectives and proposed policies were substantially modified or dropped. In one instance, commissioners deleted two policies on transportation planning.