

Meeting set Tuesday for input on county's 2020 comprehensive plan

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WALHALLA — The Oconee County Planning Commission will sit down with a planning firm and the public next week to discuss the county's 2020 comprehensive plan.

The Methany-Burns Group, hired to manage the plan's update, will be hosting a series of interactive meetings with the public in order to gather as much input as possible. Tuesday's 6 p.m. meeting will be just the first of two or three workshops that will take place over the next year, according to county zoning administrator Adam Chapman.

The planning commission will meet with the group several times during the planning process to develop the 2020 plan, which should be adopted by county council in late 2019.

The plan is required by the S.C. Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 and must be reviewed every five years and updated every 10. Factors during planning include population, natural resources, community facilities, economic development, housing and land use.

The commission will review and make changes before recommending the plan to council. A public hearing will be held on the draft before council adopts it for 2020.

The 2010 comprehensive plan was "mostly done in-house," according to Chapman.

Current goals include preserving, protecting and enhancing the county's natural resources, utilizing all tools and funding sources for economic development, establishing suitable land use for Oconee's various lifestyles, managing community facilities and expanding access to the arts and cultural heritage.

Presentations that will be given Tuesday are available at oconeesc.com, and those who cannot attend but wish to send comments to the planning commission may do so by emailing Chapman at achapman@oconeesc.com.