

Several community meetings to be held across Perkins County are scheduled for the week of March 22. The events, sponsored by the Perkins County Planning Commission, will seek input from local citizens about the future of the county.

Locations and times of the community meetings are as follows:

- March 22, Zion Lutheran Church, Grant, 6:30 p.m.
- March 23, Community Hall, Madrid, 6:30 p.m.
- March 24, Legion Hall, Venango, 9 a.m. to Noon.

County citizens can attend the events at any location that is convenient for them. Youth are especially encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be available prior to and during the sessions.

The Planning Commission of Perkins County has called the meetings in order to gather citizen input for updating the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan provides information on the various assets of the area, such as demographics, future land use, facilities, roads, housing and other aspects.

The plan also includes a vision for the future and various goals and objectives for providing a good environment for jobs, standard of living and families.

Facilitating the events will be Danielle Hill of Lincoln. Hill is executive director of the Nebraska Housing Developers Association and has extensive experience in facilitating community development events.

Ann Burge, executive director of the Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation, is acquainted with Hill saying, “Danielle’s experience will be valuable in organizing citizen input at the community meetings.”

According to Dennis Demmel, president of the Perkins County Planning Commission, “The comprehensive plan has been updated only in minor detail over the years. The community meetings will be the first opportunity in 10 years for a thorough update based on citizen input.”

The comprehensive plan was originally adopted in the year 2000.

“The results will be valuable for individuals, organizations and businesses in Perkins County,” said Demmel.

Survey forms are also being used to gather citizen input and are available in the office of the Zoning Administrator, located on the second floor of the Perkins County Courthouse.

Surveys are also available online at: <http://www.co.perkins.ne.us/zoning.html>. Click on “Community Survey.” The current comprehensive plan of the county is also available at the website.

The information gathered from the community meetings and surveys will be analyzed by the planning commission and then incorporated into an updated comprehensive plan.

A public hearing will also be held at a later date for comment on the draft of the plan before

formal adoption.

More information on the community meetings is available by calling Chris Loeffler, planning and zoning administrator at 352-2703.

In case of inclement weather, the meetings will be postponed by one week, with the same starting times and locations.