

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Chapter 2- Comprehensive Plan  
**Author:** Kimberly Barlett, Community Planner  
**Department:** Development Services  
**Meeting Date:** November 5, 2024  
**Item Description:** Discussion of an **update to Chapter 2- Needs and Opportunities**

### Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends **approving the update to Chapter 2—Needs and Opportunities of the Effingham County Comprehensive Plan.**

### Executive Summary/Background

- Updates are required for all local governments every five years.
- The method used to understand the needs and opportunities for Effingham County was through public engagement sessions focused on asking questions and providing activities.
- This was done using a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis. SWOT Analysis is a tool used to understand an organization's internal and external challenges and assets so that organizations may plan to benefit from their assets and overcome their challenges in the future.
- There were multiple public input opportunities held during the planning process. Two of which included stakeholder meetings and a public workshop. Meetings (12/1/21, 2/8/22, & 4/20/22).
- The public engagement process identified three areas of focus for the residents of Effingham County. These three topics represent shared ideas and concerns from the survey, meetings, and listening to public input: Environmental Stewardship, Preserving Rural Character, and Balanced Growth.

### Alternatives

1. **Approve an update to Chapter 2- Needs and Opportunities**
2. **Deny an update to Chapter 2- Needs and Opportunities**

**Recommended Alternative:** 1

**Other Alternative:** 2

**Department Review:** Development Services **FUNDING:** N/A

**Attachments:** 1. **Draft of Chapter 2- Needs and Opportunities**