



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

1:00 PM

Comp Plan Workshop 2

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner JC Deriso
Commissioner Judy Schaefer
Commissioner Steven Hickox
Commissioner Elton Langford
Commissioner Jerod Gross

PRESENTATION

Comprehensive Plan

The DeSoto 2050 Comprehensive Plan workshop focused on reviewing the county's future land use framework, existing growth patterns, and long-term planning strategies. Representatives from the Central Florida Regional Planning Council presented data on parcel sizes, land ownership, environmental overlays, historic resources, and current future land use categories, explaining how the county's comprehensive plan directs growth toward areas with existing or planned infrastructure while preserving agricultural and conservation lands. Discussion also covered the origin of the county's "new community" overlay areas, including the 2x4 Ranch and other large-scale development concepts that were identified during earlier comprehensive plan updates but never fully developed. Board members and staff discussed the challenge of balancing private property rights, state planning requirements, infrastructure needs, and the desire to preserve DeSoto County's rural character. Commissioners noted that many development entitlements and future land use designations were established nearly two decades ago and emphasized that while growth cannot realistically be stopped, the county can work to guide it responsibly and compatibly. Public comment centered heavily on opposition to increased density and concerns about the county becoming urbanized like neighboring coastal communities. Residents raised issues including traffic, noise, crime, strain on water and public services, loss of farmland and wildlife habitat, and preservation of historic and rural identity. Several speakers advocated for stronger protections for agriculture, historic resources, and authentic community character, while others encouraged broader public participation in future workshops by holding evening meetings. The CFPRC representative acknowledged those concerns and stated that future comprehensive plan updates could include clearer locational criteria for development, revisions to agricultural policies, and additional protections for rural and historic areas. The workshop concluded with discussion about the realities of state growth laws, property rights protections, and potential legal limitations on reducing development entitlements, while staff indicated that future workshops will begin examining specific policy

and text amendment proposals as part of the DeSoto 2050 planning process.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Deriso adjourned the meeting at 3:02PM

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

J.C. DERISO
ACTING CHAIRMAN

BOARD DOCUMENTS 05-12-2026 BOCC COMP PLAN WORKSHOP

Attachments: BOCC Comp Plan Workshop 05-12-2026 Speaker Cards

NOTE: For quasi-judicial matters, any party desiring a verbatim record of the proceeding of this hearing for the purpose of an appeal is advised to make private arrangements for the production of a record and anyone wishing to present documents or other written evidence to the Board must provide eight (8) copies of the written material . If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.