



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 25-00803**

**Agenda Date: 10/7/2025**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

Workshop on Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Update: Environmental Protection and Resilience

**Presenter:**

Ben Chumley, Principal Planner, Growth Management Department

**Description:**

This is the third in a series of County Commission workshops to discuss potential updates to the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan as part of the Evaluation and Appraisal process. This workshop will focus on various environmental protection and resilience topics which relate primarily to the Conservation and Open Space, Stormwater, Energy, and Potable Water & Sanitary Sewer Elements the Plan. Staff will provide an overview presentation on these elements and will highlight conceptual staff recommendations for potential updates. Staff is seeking direction from the Board on potential updates to bring forward as proposed amendments to the Plan.

**Recommended Action:**

Receive presentation and provide any direction to staff on potential updates to bring forward as proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

**Prior Board Motions:**

N/A

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Strategic Guide:**

All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

**Background:**

Alachua County is in the process of evaluating and updating its Comprehensive Plan as required by Florida Statutes. Section 163.3191, F.S. requires that, at least once every 7 years, each local government shall evaluate its comprehensive plan to determine if plan amendments are necessary to reflect a minimum planning period of at least 10 years as provided in s. 163.3177(5) or to reflect changes in state planning requirements since the last update of the comprehensive plan, and to notify the state land planning agency as to its determination. The statutes also require each local government to comprehensively evaluate and, as necessary, update its comprehensive plan to reflect changes in local conditions. The last evaluation and update of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan was in 2018-2019.

The Florida Department of Commerce establishes due dates for each local government to make its determination as to whether any amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are necessary to reflect changes in state statutory requirements. Alachua County's due date for making its determination was April 1, 2025. The County submitted a letter to the Florida Department of Commerce on March 31, 2025 notifying the Department of Commerce that amendments to the County's Plan would be necessary. In accordance with the statute, the required amendments to the Plan must be transmitted for state agency review within 1 year of the County's notification letter (by March 31, 2026).