![LSL Planning, Inc. logo](Community Planning Consultants)

September 24, 2013

LeNolon Edge, AICP
Director
Planning and Building Services
Jasper County
358 Third Avenue
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Re: Jasper County Comprehensive Plan: Sub-Task #7: Existing Land Use

Mr. Edge:

In preparation for the creation of the Existing Land Use Map for Jasper County, we have created a custom classification system which is tailored to specific conditions within the County. This will allow us to gain valuable perspective upon current conditions on how land use is being used within the County boundaries. The Existing Land Use Map represents a "snapshot" of where specific activities upon the land are taking place. Creating a cogent, concise land use classification system is critical to gathering and representing these real-world activities taking place on the land.

The classification system is primarily based off of the widely-used United States Geologic Service (USGS) land use/land cover classification system. Certain items such as "tundra" and "high-rise multi-family apartments," or other geologic or architectural features not applicable to Jasper County, were omitted. The recommended classification system is as follows:
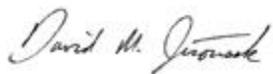
- Agriculture
    - Croplands
        - Corn, soy bean, tobacco, hay, grain crops (wheat, oats, barley, rye, etc.)
    - Orchards
        - Peaches, apples (any type of berry)
        - Ornamental horticulture (sod, floriculture, nurseries, other)
    - Confined feeding operations (livestock and poultry)
    - Permanent pasture (if can be deciphered from shrublands)
    - Farmsteads
- Residential
    - Single-family attached/detached, mobile, multi-family, condos
- Commercial
    - Malls
    - Traditional/historic commercial buildings
    - Outlets

- o Rural businesses
- o Offices
- o Golf courses
- ☐ **Industrial**
  - o Metal production (smelting, milling, forging)
  - o Petrochemicals
  - o Wood processing (mills, not timber tracts)
  - o Aggregates (stone, clay, glass, cement, brick)
  - o Industrial parks
- ☐ **Mining**
  - o Sand mining operations
  - o Other extractive practices (not including timber; see below)
- ☐ **Timber**
  - o Tracts which are dedicated to logging, lumbering, or any other for-profit activity which involves cutting, skidding, on-site processing, and loading of trees
- ☐ **Institutional**
  - o Religious (places of worship, religiously-affiliated campsites)
  - o Educational
  - o Correctional
  - o Government administration
  - o Recreation (parks, playgrounds, open spaces; indoor and outdoor)
  - o Cemeteries
- ☐ **Undeveloped**
  - o Shrub/Grass lands (prairie-type of grasses, ferns, dogwood, bluegrass, etc.)
  - o Forest (broadleaf – maple, elm, ash, cherry, oak, aspen, birch; coniferous – pine, spruce, hemlock)
  - o Barren (sand dunes, beaches)

Understanding that the mapping project may be a higher level view of Jasper County, the specific subdivisions under each classification can be used as land use descriptions within the body of the plan or pulled out separately if the use has a significant enough presence. Additional or all subdivisions can also be used if the mapping project becomes detailed enough for a higher level of refinement, such as separating out types of commercial land.

As the mapping strategy is developed, we can provide additional assistance and map review. If you have any comments or questions regarding the land use classification, please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone (616-336-8176) or by email at jirousek@lslplanning.com.

Sincerely,

David M. Jirousek, AICP
Senior Planner