

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 21, 2008 – 9:00 A.M
Charlotte County Administrative Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #207B
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alton Cheatham
Mike Jones
Arnie Sarlo
Chris Hencher
Dan Ryals
Andy Dodd
Matthew Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT

Commissioner Dick Loftus
Inga Williams, Planner III
Ralph Mitchell, Ext. Services

GUESTS

Ron Hamel, Gulf Citrus Growers Assn.

Members Excused

William Federer
Orrin Webb

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The **February 21, 2008**, meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:01am by **Chair Alton Cheatham** noting a quorum was present.

II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA - None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Cheatham announced this will be tabled for the next meeting.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Excavation and Zoning Ordinances

Mike Jones commented on the new Strategic Aggregate Report stating some of the recommendations seem to counter policies that have been put in place with the county. The report was provided to Andy Dodd for his review and **Chair Cheatham** said, due to the inconsistencies, he felt it would be important to keep track of how the Governor and Legislator respond to this report.

FLUM Excavation Designation

Inga Williams provided an update stating the Planning and Zoning Board voted 4-1 against adopting the new excavation and it will go before the Commission in April. A discussion ensued.

Rural Lands Stewardship - DCA

Chair Cheatham explained that DCA is reviewing the Rural Lands Stewardship. **Inga Williams** briefed members on information she received at a recent workshop where this matter was discussed and reviewed how DCA will move forward on this issue. **Chair**

Cheatham requested Ms. Williams to involve the Committee in any future meetings she may attend and suggested inviting a representative from DCA to present on this subject. **Andy Dodd** felt this issue should be kept as a permanent item under New Business. **Mike Jones** stated he would also like to see the Committee advised on population and fuel issues. **Inga Williams** added that the Growth Management Department anticipates the new Comp Plan to be a model for the rest of the state and it is her ambition to see the same for the East County Planning Area. **Andy Dodd** suggested involving stakeholders to ensure they are heard during this process. Discussion continued regarding other challenges.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Land Development Regulations (LDR) Status

Inga Williams advised two new modules have been received.

TDU Ordinance Revision Update

Inga Williams advised that she and the Growth Management Director visited Sarasota County and discussed the transfer of density development rights with their Commission.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

No further correspondence was discussed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

X. STAFF COMMENTS

Ralph Mitchell provided updates on several projects being offered by the County Extension Office and advised of his upcoming speaking engagement at the Southwest Florida Garden and Landscape Conference. **Mr. Mitchell** confirmed the Fertilizer Ordinance will be going to the Commissioners next month for approval and he shared information regarding a negative statement from the University of Florida concerning agriculture. Answering a question about the status of the five-county Citrus, Vegetable, and Livestock agent that would be covering Charlotte County, **Mr. Mitchell** said the position has been filled.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Andy Dodd responded to an inquiry by **Chair Cheatham** regarding the status on the countywide HCP and stated a consultant has been selected to do the work but negotiations are stalled pending a guarantee of Federal Funds.

XII. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

It was agreed to keep the East County Plan and Rural Land Stewardship on the agenda. **Mike Jones** will make arrangements for a future presentation.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Following a discussion, **Chair Cheatham** announced ANRAC will not meet during the month of March. The next meeting will be April 17, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Room #207B.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary

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