

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 17, 2008 – 9:00 A.M
Charlotte County Administrative Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alton Cheatham, Chairman
Mike Jones, Vice-Chairman
William Federer, Secretary
Chris Hencher
Dan Ryals
Andy Dodd

Members Excused

Arnie Sarlo
Matthew Sullivan, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT

Commissioner Dick Loftus
Inga Williams, Principal Planner
Jason Thompson, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ron Hamel, Gulf Citrus Growers Assn.

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

The **April 17, 2008**, meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:03am by **Chair Alton Cheatham** noting a quorum was present.

II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Andy Dodd asked that the Environmental Lands Acquisition Program be added as a topic of New Business.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Cheatham entertained a motion to approve the **January 17, 2008** and **February 21, 2008** minutes of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** as written. Moved by **Orrin Webb** and seconded by **Andy Dodd**, the vote passed unanimously.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Rural Land Stewardship Update

Michael Jones advised Al Reynolds was unavailable for today's meeting but would be invited to share information next month. At **Andy Dodd's** request, **Ron Hamel** answered questions and presented information about the program currently being conducted in Collier County.

(Dan Ryals arrived at 9:13am)

Inga Williams said the Smart Charlotte 2050 consultants met with staff this week and will be meeting with the Commissioners in June. A three day Charrette is

scheduled for July and staff has been asked to identify Stake Holders throughout the county willing to be interviewed and participate in Focus Group meetings. Information was provided regarding a guest speaker planned for this event and it was stated the RFP has gone out for the Easy County Planning Guide. **Mr. Hamel** provided further information and offered his assistance if needed.

Environmental Lands

Andy Dodd reported the Commission will be authorizing funds for Environmental Lands at their next meeting and led a discussion regarding properties that are being considered for recommendation. No action was taken due to abstentions and the resulting reduction of a quorum.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Cheatham distributed copies of the letter sent to the Commission as approved at the January meeting. Also mentioned was an article recently published in the Charlotte Sun Newspaper. **Michael Jones** summarized the action that was taken by the Commission at the Land Use Hearing and **Inga Williams** offered comments on the application process if the Ordinance is approved. A discussion ensued.

***ACTION:** A Motion was presented by Andy Dodd and seconded by Orrin Webb that the Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Committee opposes making this issue a Legislative process rather than allowing it to continue in Quasi-Judicial relating to requiring land use change for the excavation zoning. Following further discussion, the vote passed unanimously.*

Ms. Williams advised the Commission provided her with Chair Cheatham's letter and she will be reviewing it with Barbara Jeffries.

Chair Cheatham asked for additional comments on items of Old Business. **Ms. Williams** provided information on the dates for the 2050 Plan and said she has nothing new to report on Land Development Regulations. She stated the 2050 consultants have requested that future meeting dates be finalized by June and she hopes to have a schedule at that time. **Chair Cheatham** inquired about procedures for the upcoming Charrette stating he would like to ensure the Committee's representation at the meetings. **Ms. Williams** gave an overview and a timeline of events to follow.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

X. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Williams stated the consultant has been approved for the US 17 Corridor Study and has joined together with landowners and their private consultants. She also added the Build-out Study is due in October.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Cheatham requested that the Committee be added to the consultant's mailing list and provided with updates. Discussion continued.

XII. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Chair Cheatham said the Rural Land Stewardship presentation will be next month. Following a discussion, it was decided the Committee would meet every other month with the understanding a special meeting could be called if needed. It was noted several members will be at the Cattleman's Convention in June and this might result in the lack

of a quorum. All Old Business topics will remain on the agenda and members were instructed to contact the Recording Secretary with any additional items.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **June 19, 2008**, at 9:00 a.m. in Room #119.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary