

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 21, 2009 – 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
Chris Hencher
Andy Dodd
Matthew Sullivan, Jr.
Fred Walters

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Dan Ryals
Orrin Webb
Arnie Sarlo

STAFF PRESENT

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Inga Williams, Principal Planner
Ralph Mitchell, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ron Hamel, Gulf Citrus Growers
Richard Woodruff, Wilson Miller
Suzanne Chwala-Grant, PWR
Gene McAvoy, Hendry County

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
The **May 21, 2009** meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:00am by **Chair Alton Cheatham** noting a quorum was present.
- II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**
Andy Dodd requested a discussion on the proposed Tiered Impact Fees be added under New Business.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Chair Cheatham entertained a motion to approve the January 15, 2009 minutes of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** as written. Moved by **Chris Hencher** and seconded by **Matthew Sullivan**, the vote passed unanimously.
- IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None**
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
Agricultural Landowners' Perspective/Smart Charlotte 2050 (Richard Woodruff)
Richard Woodruff made introductory remarks and provided members with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Agricultural Landowners' Perspective/Smart Charlotte 2050:

- Maps & Designations – Urban Service Boundary
- Agricultural Landowners
- Smart Charlotte 2050 Talking Points – East Charlotte Agricultural Landowners Group
- Policies
- Private Property Rights Proposal
- Conservation Subdivision Density Matrix
- Transfer of Density Rights Proposal

(Inga Williams arrived at 9:45am)

Chair Cheatham provided additional comments and suggested a question and answer period take place before a recommendation is voted on and for the Committee to decide on what action, if any, needs to be taken with respect to these recommendations. He added he felt the ideas put forth are worthy of study and input whether as a Committee or as individuals. **Inga Williams** advised the deadline for all public comments that will be utilized to re-draft the Element is October 1, 2009. Transmittal hearings will follow in November with the Planning and Zoning Board and will go before the Board of County Commissioners in December. **Andy Dodd** felt the Committee should support the efforts put forth by this group, but stated he feels it is too early to make any recommendations to the Commissioners at this time. He suggested members go online to study the information and add their own comments. **Chair Cheatham** also urged everyone to go to the website and review the information carefully. He reiterated the importance of providing input while the opportunity is still available. As a point of discussion, **Vice-Chair Jones** agreed with **Mr. Dodd** that it is premature for ANRAC to be making specific recommendations to the Commission, but suggested it would be prudent to communicate that the Committee at least agrees in principal with some of these issues and feels they are worth further consideration.

ACTION: Michael Jones made a motion that ANRAC send a letter to the Commission stating their support of the recommendations for maintaining flexibility for the East County agricultural property owners and for incentivizing programs that County Staff will adopt and put into the Comprehensive Plan and also to encourage continued dialog on these points. The motion was seconded by Chris Hencher. Following a discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

East County Plan and Smart Charlotte 2050 Updates

Chair Cheatham advised this topic will remain on the agenda for the next several months and members will be asked to provide input with regard to their personal recommendations before the Committee makes an overall recommendation. He reiterated his request for members to review the Natural Resources section as it contains key elements.

Multi-County AG Agents

Chair Cheatham provided background information on this topic and opened the floor for discussion.

ACTION: Andy Dodd made a motion to submit a letter to the Board of County Commissioners to financially support the Multi-County Agriculture Agent Program. Matt Sullivan seconded and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Tiered Impact Fees

Andy Dodd made known the Commission is considering revising the Impact Fee Ordinance and creating a Tiered Impact Fee System. He provided information as to why he feels the Committee needs to object to the adoption of this system and asked **Commissioner Loftus** to comment further. **Commissioner Loftus** stated he also has concerns as far as the trip mileages are concerned and was surprised that expenses are so high. **Mr. Dodd** provided additional information and advised it is not the tiered systems he objects to but rather the increased costs. **Chair Blago** suggested the Committee make a motion objecting to this proposal as it has been put forth.

ACTION: Andy Dodd presented a motion, seconded by Fred Walters, stating, in the absence of better cost data, ANRAC will not support the tiered impact system and objects to this proposal. Chair Cheatham asked for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

On-going Excavation Concerns

Chair Cheatham reported he has contacted Water Management District Staff as well as a representative from Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association and is not aware of any on-going excavation concerns at this time relative to the FARMS program. He added discussions between the County Attorney's Office and County Staff are continuing with regard to resolving details and when finalized, will come back to the Committee in the form of a report. **Inga Williams** advised excavations are now being handled by the Growth Management Department. Director, Jeff Ruggieri, is now the Excavation Administrator as Barbara Jefferies has resigned and is no longer with the County. **Ms. Williams** explained the work she has been doing and the progression of the process to date as well as upcoming hearings. **Chair Cheatham** requested a status report be provided by **Ms. Williams** at an upcoming meeting.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Hamel thanked the Committee on behalf of Gulf Citrus for their support with the motion they made today concerning the East County property owners.

He introduced **Gene McAvoy** who provided additional information and comments on the Multicounty AG program.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Ralph Mitchell provided an overview of the Fertilizer Ordinance Summit that took place in April, and spoke of the Fertilizer Ordinance Public Forum scheduled for May 27, 2009. **Mr. Mitchell** also advised of other past and future events that his office is involved with.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

Matt Sullivan inquired about the status of the proposed Silver Plant saying he heard it was to break ground by the end of the year. **Inga Williams** responded that it was her understanding Legislature did not authorize this to move forward. **Andy Dodd** confirmed it would require a special session to break ground.

XI. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Nothing further was reported.

XII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Cheatham advised three people have stated they will be unable to attend on July 16th and recommended this meeting be cancelled. A discussion ensued. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **August 20, 2009** at 9:00 a.m. in Room #119.

Chair Cheatham reminded the Committee that member packets will no longer be mailed but instead, will be available on the County website approximately one (1) week prior to the meetings.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary