

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, November 19, 2009 – 9:00 A.M
Charlotte County Administrative Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Jones, Acting Chairman
Andy Dodd, Secretary
Chris Hencher
Arnie Sarlo
Matthew Sullivan, Jr.
Fred Walters
Orrin Webb

STAFF

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Matt Trepal, Planner III
Ralph Mitchell, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ron Hamel, Gulf Coast Citrus Assn.
Suzanne Chwala-Grant

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Alton Cheatham
Dan Ryals
Orrin Webb

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
The **November 19, 2009** meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:02am by **Acting Chair Mike Jones** noting a quorum was present.
- II. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA** - *None*
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Acting Chair Jones entertained a motion to approve the August 20, 2009 minutes of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** as written. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
Commissioner Loftus reported that he met with Senator Nelson in Washington and reported the Senator expressed concern for Agriculture and other related matters. He further stated he met with a representative of Broward County regarding funding for pump replacements.

V. NEW BUSINESS

East County Plan and Smart Charlotte 2050 Updates

Matt Trepal confirmed the Plan was recommended for approval of transmittal to DCA by the Planning and Zoning Board on November 9, 2009. As the process has moved forward, the East County Plan has been wrapped into the Comprehensive Plan as a whole, but he acknowledged that work is still being done to develop a guide for East County. He confirmed a public draft has not been completed as of this date.

Andy Dodd advised he has been working with the East County Land Group and stated they have been tracking this process closely. He confirmed comments were provided at the recent P&Z meeting and he presented an overview of the documents that were discussed. He stated that the East County Land Group would be meeting with staff tomorrow. Discussion continued regarding the proposed changes. It was confirmed to **Acting Chair Jones** that more discussion would take place before this is brought to the Board for approval on December 15, 2009. **Mr. Dodd** advised that an Ordinance Review would follow DCA approval and there will be more details to talk about in the future as these Ordinances come before the Board. Staff was complimented on their efforts by both **Mr. Dodd** and **Acting Chair Jones**.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

On-going Excavation Concerns

Mr. Trepal presented members with an update and provided a copy of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Charlotte County to Coordinate Permitting of Certain Excavation Activities. **Commissioner Loftus** confirmed the Memorandum has gone before the Board and has been approved. **Acting Chair Jones** provided additional comments.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Ralph Mitchell introduced himself and provided members with an update of upcoming events within the County that he felt would be of interest to the Committee. He also advised that the low bait wax scale has moved to the West Coast and has been found in Charlotte County. **Mr. Mitchell** went on to thank ANRAC, the Commissioners, and Ron Hamel for their support with the Multi-County Agent Program and he spoke on the Gateway Project and an upcoming awareness program sponsored by the University of Florida.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

Acting Chair Jones commented that he attended a workshop last week at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee and advised on

the agriculture and farming information that was discussed concerning ecosystem services. He felt this is a very interesting area that he thinks the Committee should track not only because he believes there will be opportunities to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners but because this strikes at the heart in most of the areas that are represented on this Committee. He added that he would like to table this discussion for a future meeting.

XI. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- Ecosystem Services concerning Agriculture and Farming

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 21, 2010** at 9:00a.m. in Room B-106. **Acting Chair Jones** advised that the 2010 Meeting Schedule is now available online.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary