

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 15, 2010 – 9:00 A.M
Charlotte County Administrative Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #B-106
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Jones, Acting Chairman
Andy Dodd, Secretary
Chris Hencher
Dan Ryals
Arnie Sarlo

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Fred Walters
Matthew Sullivan, Jr.
Orrin Webb

STAFF

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Allison Turner, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ron Hamel, Gulf Coast Citrus Association
Barbara Carlton, P.R.V.C.G.A.
Karen Goodheil

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

The **April 15, 2010** meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:19a.m. by **Acting Chair Jones** noting a quorum was present.

II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andy Dodd presented a motion to approve the January 21, 2010, minutes of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** with corrections. The motion was seconded by **Chris Hencher** and following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Loftus spoke of his recent trip to Washington and his meeting with Senator Nelson regarding the EPA Nutrient Standards. He stated that the Senator agreed fully with the concerns that were expressed and will be working to help resolve these issues. **Acting Chair Jones** advised there will be additional discussion on this and said it is an issue that ANRAC has been following for some time. **Commissioner Loftus** made known that he would be going back in May and hoped to schedule a follow-up meeting at that time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

East County Plan and Smart Charlotte 2050 Updates

Acting Chair Jones advised that the Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) Report has been received for the County's Comprehensive Plan Amendment and a summary was previously provided to members. He noted that Item #6 was of particular interest and stated recommendations and additional discussions will be on going. **Andy Dodd** made additional comments and offered to draft a letter objecting to the State's attempt to take away the local control of land use issues, especially relating to Eastern Charlotte County.

Motion: Andy Dodd presented a motion proposing that the Committee communicate with the Commission concerning DCA's response to the County's Comprehensive Plan proposal. Seconded by Dan Ryals, a discussion followed. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ecosystem Services concerning Agriculture and Farming

Acting Chair Jones advised that there has been no new movement on this front and therefore, no additional information to report at this time.

EPA/DEP Numeric Standards and Statewide Stormwater Rule Update

Acting Chair Jones brought members up-to-date regarding EPA's settlement of a court case to take over the process of establishing numeric nutrient criteria for the state of Florida. He confirmed that hearings are taking place and asked **Ron Hamel**, Gulf Coast Citrus Association, to present additional updates. **Mr. Hamel** presented members with handouts and provided additional information.

Barbara Carlton commented on her observations from a meeting she attended in Ft. Myers and suggested the need to educate children in the classroom on these issues.

Acting Chair Jones provided an update on the State Stormwater Rule and made known that this is going on simultaneously with the other issue. **Mr. Hamel**, commenting on BMAPS (Basin Action Management Plans) and water quality and stated that meetings have been canceled and this seems to be in a holding pattern. He added that because of this, he could not imagine the Stormwater Rule moving forward at this time. **Acting Chair Jones** explained the importance of BMAPS.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

VII. **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**- None

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Acting Chair Jones responded to **Karen Goodheil's** inquiry about alternative uses for land that would have a less benign effect on the water quality and about a passage in the Comprehensive Plan regarding a sustainable plan. **Ms. Carlton** further addressed **Ms. Goodheil's** comments and concerns.

Ms. Goodheil provided members with information on her background and spoke about sustainable communities as well as rooftop Chef's Gardens, Victory Gardens, Food Bank Farms, Food Co-ops, and the need for healthy, locally grown produce. **Acting Chair Jones** thanked **Ms. Goodheil** for her comments and suggested other venues she might find helpful.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Allison Turner provided updates on upcoming programs and events and presented members with handouts. She announced that the Environmental Extension Services Department has been reorganized, is now under Parks and Recreation, and will soon be called Community Services. In addition to upcoming events, members were also provided information on Laurel Wilt disease which has now been discovered in Florida.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- *East County Plan and Smart Charlotte 2050 Updates*
- *EPA/DEP Numeric Standards and Statewide Stormwater Rule Update*

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Acting Chair Jones advised that six (6) affirmative votes are needed to elect officers and stated elections will be tabled for the next meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **May 20, 2010** at 9:00a.m. in Room B-106.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary

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