

# Minutes

**Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 9:00 am**  
**Charlotte County Administrative Center**  
**18500 Murdock Circle, Room #B-207**  
**Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094**

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Jones, Chairman  
Andy Dodd, Vice Chairman  
Dan Ryals  
Chris Hencher  
Matthew Sullivan, Jr.  
Steve Smith  
Orrin Webb

## MEMBERS EXCUSED

Wes Brumback

## MEMBERS ABSENT

## GUEST

Gio Ijpkemeule

## STAFF

Matt Trepal, Staff Liaison  
Inga Williams, Principal Planner  
Ralph Mitchell, Staff Liaison  
Gayle Moore, Recording Secretary

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## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The **November 8, 2012**, meeting of the **Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee** was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by **Chairman Jones** who noted that there was a quorum present.

## ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- **Chairman Jones** indicated that he will have an item for discussion.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Mr. Dodd** asked to have the minutes clarify that when he teleconferenced in to the September meeting, he did not vote and that his vote was not necessary for the quorum – it was agreed that the appropriate wording would be 'unanimous vote of the members present'.

Further discussion ensued regarding the need to discuss with the County Attorney the Committee's need to have the phone-in protocol meet the standard already in place for other committees and boards, where phone-in is allowed.

**Mr. Sullivan** moved approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2012 meeting, second by **Mr. Dodd**. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Duffy** spoke regarding the election results and the new members on the Commission. She also mentioned items which had recently been considered, including the landfill, and IMPAC, as well as pursuing the "job creation" atmosphere needed in the County. Improving permitting process is an ongoing process, and **Commissioner Duffy** offered her assistance in the permitting process. She asked whether the Committee wanted her to continue or if they wanted one of the newly-elected Commissioners as liaison, since new assignments would be made shortly to include the new Commissioners; **Chairman Jones** welcomed her continued participation with the group.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- ❖ **Alternative Fuel Production Update – Chairman Jones** addressed this item, and the possibilities for Committee members in participating in the bio-fuels projects. He mentioned the BP 'bombshell' last week that they are getting out of the business, despite their extensive investment in building the business. They will just develop and market their technology without getting into production, which is characterized as a basic business decision in a highly-competitive global market. Because of the size of their participation, this is a big change for the US market; looking for others to step into the breach, as this promises to be a major fuel going forward.
- ❖ **Proposed Article XXIII Excavation and Earthmoving; Ms. Williams** spoke in the absence of Ms. Vernon; comments having been received from former Board members, they are now awaiting the new members' input and think they will be walking the draft ordinance around in January to get all Commissioners' up to speed. **Mr. Dodd** asked about the accompanying resolution regarding fees; **Ms. Williams** clarified the Ordinance and Resolution would be presented together. **Chairman Jones** directed everyone to the online version with updates and comments visible.
- ❖ **Review of Draft Revisions to ANRAC Rules of Procedure (original ORD 92-82) –** Chairman Jones reminded the group that revision of this enabling ordinance was undertaken in order to more easily seat new members, with respect to the balance of commodity classification of membership. **Chairman Jones** asked the group to participate in the review; **Ms. Williams** led the group through the changes made so far, directing the members' attention to the various places where she struck out the initial membership material and on into the specifics of membership composition. Discussion ensued on the potential changes which will be reflected in the new draft ordinance, with extensive attention given to the advisability of specifying commodity seats rather than simply requiring that a percentage of the membership be involved in commodities production in general. Length of term and options for reappointment were also discussed, as well as doing away with the Nominating Committee as being unnecessary.  
  
**Mr. Dodd** moved to adopt the revisions to ORD 82-92 as discussed; **Mr. Hencher** seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- ❖ **Calusa Green Landfill Update –** discussion of the proposed text amendment material from Calusa Green applicants regarding removal of their property from the Prime Aquifer Recharge Map. **Ms. Williams** navigated to the online documents in order to facilitate discussion of the proposal. She said it was scheduled to go before P&Z in December, after staff met with the

South Florida Water Management District regarding the map issues. She also noted that she understood applicants had removed certain elements from their original recommendation, including the biosolids and the composting. **Mr. Dodd** commented on the controversy regarding the recharge map during the Smart Charlotte 2050 process and basis for requesting removal of your property from the map if you can demonstrate there is no recharge happening there. Further discussion ensued. **Commissioner Duffy** contributed that she had heard the biosolids element was being removed, noting it is already being done at Zemel Rd., therefore is not a problem; **Chairman Jones** discussed the food security issues that had been raised by area residents and growers.

- ❖ **Nominating Committee Update – Mr. Sullivan** reported that the individual he had in mind for membership had indicated he could not do it. Further discussion on the seats to be filled ensued; there is one empty seat (Mr. Waters – real property) to be filled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Chairman Jones** noted that it was time once again to review the *USDA Ag Census* which had recently been generated. Discussion ensued about the particulars of what that survey shows, including acreage farmed, number of farms in the County, and the like. There was also some discussion including **Mr. Sullivan** about acres planted, new acreage being developed and trees becoming mature. **Mr. Hamel** noted there was currently a shortage of nursery trees for people wanting to replant, and also mentioned the issues with the Water District wanted to reallocate the water originally meant for land which wasn't currently producing. The effort to retain the water was successful, with help from Commissioner Putnam's office. He cautioned that all commodities need to stay aware of these occasional incursions and be active in working to prevent water being reallocated. **Chairman Jones** noted that payroll for hired farm labor was 6.9 million for Charlotte County which he noted was significant; but he asked, where do they live – it seems they may be coming in from outside the County. **Mr. Dodd** spoke to the issue of acreage and how it was being used; he concluded that it was one-third each woodland; one-third pasture, and the final third covers everything else, with 90% of the revenue coming from that one-third of the land. Buffalo raising in the area was also discussed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Ms. Gio Ijpkemeule** from SWFWMD introduced herself as the new contact for the District; she had a map to distribute showing current FARMS projects in the County/region. Further discussion on the program. She also mentioned that there will be a FARMS program meeting to review the required changes to the contract language and to reestablish the facts on the water allocation, because the information had been poorly disseminated in the past, resulting in concern amongst the growers that SWFWMD would be reducing water allocations. **Ms. Ijpkemeule** then proceeded to clarify the language; she also discussed changes to the contract, which concern: The contract provisions covering the use of offset or conserved quantities; the status of Standby Quantities; the Survivor Provision, and new indemnification and disclaimer provision language. She noted that these items will be the subject of the Districts Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> FARMS Work Group meeting. **Ms. Ijpkemeule** offered apologies for the format in which news was originally released that caused discomfort to the growing community; **Mr. Dodd** asked if the contract was available online to be reviewed, but **Ms. Ijpkemeule** said she didn't think so. She then spoke briefly about projects in Charlotte Co. and the projected savings of five million gal/day total, and discussed how they track the figures. She also spoke about possible growth in the funding for the projects. **Chairman Jones** had some questions about how the funding was being allocated; further discussion ensued.

**Chairman Jones** thanked Ms. Ijpkemeule for presentation, and he also offered comment on a program where landowners are being paid to store water for the District, instead of multi-million dollar water storage being built and run by the government.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

**Ralph Mitchell** provided information and calendars for 2012. He also mentioned the arrival of an invasive orchid new to the area. There is also soon to be another Charlotte County AG tour in the spring.

**Matt Trepal** provided news of progress on the Land Development Regulations rewrite process.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

*None*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

The 2013 meeting schedule was handed out. **Chairman Jones** indicated that as this was the final meeting of the year, it was necessary to take care of officer elections for the coming year, and he indicated that he would not be renewing his appointment which is expiring in December. He opened the floor for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary; he opened by suggesting Mr. Dodd for the Chair position, and said he would also entertain nominations for Vice-Chair and Secretary.

**Mr. Sullivan** nominated Wes Brumback; **Mr. Ryals** nominated Mr. Webb; there was general merriment over the nomination of these absent members. **Mr. Dodd** seconded the Brumback nomination. **Mr. Sullivan** asked if it was against the rules for the recording secretary to also be the Committee Secretary, but it was concluded that was not possible. Chairman Jones clarified the duties of Committee Secretary (handling official Committee correspondence.) **Mr. Hencher** nominated Mr. Webb and **Mr. Dodd** seconded **Chairman Jones** gave the slate; it was seconded and voted; the Recording Secretary was asked to advise the nominees of the action.

**Mr. Sullivan** expressed the appreciation of the Committee for the Chair's good work to date.

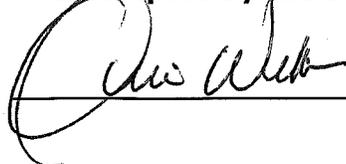
#### **NEXT MEETING**

❖ *January 10, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Room B-207*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m. as moved by **Mr. Sullivan** and seconded by **Mr. Hencher**.

**Approved by the Committee on:**  
**January 10, 2013**  
**And accepted by the Secretary:**

  
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