

Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 9:00 am

E. Jay Carlson Building

Large Conference Room

18400 Murdock Circle

Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Dodd, Chairman

Nigel Morris, Vice-Chairman

David Kemeny

Dan Ryals

Scott Schroeder

MEMBERS EXCUSED

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lindsay Harrington

Mitchell Aman

Joel Beverly

Joe Powell

GUEST SPEAKERS

None

STAFF

Commissioner Tiseo's Admin. Assistant Morgan Cook – Commission Liaison

Shaun Cullinan, Planning & Zoning Official

Jie Shao, Principal Planner

Marie Valeus, Administrative Assistant II

GUESTS

Steve Smith, Gulf Citrus Growers Association

Sue Hill, Charlotte Water Company

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The **November 18, 2021** the meeting of the ***Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee*** was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by ***Chairman Dodd***.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dodd called for a motion on the minutes of the September 9, 2021 ANRAC Meeting. *Nigel Morris made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan Ryals; the motion passed unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

- **Mineral resource extraction discussion/ordinance/changes**

Shaun Cullinan said all the issues going on in DeSoto County regarding the phosphate mining operations, the lawsuits, our Commissioners are concerned about water quality issues. We have been researching prohibiting the mining of phosphate. Not the use of phosphate fertilizers for agricultural operations, but the mining, the processing, the gyp stacks, (gypsum stacks) things like that. Based on our understanding, we either don't have phosphates or we may have some, it is not economically viable because of how far down it is. Staff wanted to see how other communities were regulating this.

Mr. Morris said at the end, you will touch on oil and gas?

Mr. Cullinan said that is something we understand we do not have here in Charlotte County.

Mr. Ryals said we have mineral rights. He said about 45 years ago, people were blasting through fields in Charlotte County and they told us it is down there, but it is probably easier to go through China to get to it.

Mr. Cullinan said the focus was phosphate. We will bring your comments and concerns to the BCC so if you want that to stay in here, we can do that. We were going to leave it out since it was not economically feasible to get to it.

Mr. Cullinan said the County Attorney's office has read all this and they are comfortable moving it forward.

Mr. Morris said on page 2, under special provisions #3, third line from the end, it says Mineral Extraction Resource (MRE) it should be Mineral Resource Extraction. He said on that note, George Will had a lovely article in the paper saying back in the 20's we were going to run out of oil. Just make sure we are not doing something bad. He feels we need to make sure phosphates are used here. Not exporting it out to another country.

Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Morris do you want to take this as presented, or remove the oil and gas?

Mr. Morris said he wants to take it as presented.

Mr. Ryals said technology is finding oil. He said in DeSoto County, those people sold their land for phosphate like 50 years ago. He is more concerned with property rights.

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Mr. Dodd said Dan would like to see oil and gas come out of this ordinance. How do the rest of you feel about this?

Mr. Kemeny said he is not against phosphate mining at all. He doesn't feel he has phosphate. He wondered if they were going to ban fertilizer at Home Depot. He said he manages his fertilizer at home.

Mr. Schroeder said if it is not an issue, why mess with it. He wants good water quality. Do not want to see what happened up in Tampa.

Mr. Morris said this whole issue comes back to what I said. Mosaic was called on the carpet. They are paying attention now. Previous mining companies sold land to farmers with a 20 year reserve on mining. It is there and we have to have phosphate. We have to improve the way we mine it. There is no way to guarantee there won't be any failure.

Mr. Dodd said it tends to not include oil and gas.

Morgan Cook said this can be changed back if you don't want it now.

Jie Shao asked Shaun about the policy number 2.5.3 or 2.5.4. They discussed the title. (Phosphate mining or mineral/oil extractions)

Sue Hill said she agrees with Mr. Morris. If we go this direction and we say later on we can change it, it is very difficult to change any rule.

Mr. Dodd asked if anyone wanted to make a motion?

Mr. Kemeny said he would make the motion, against forwarding this to the BCC, **Dan Ryals** seconded the motion. **Mr. Kemeny** said it seems like a lot of wasted time for a lot of people. It's like worrying about fleas on a dog that I don't have.

Motion not in favor of this change/ordinance for phosphates was 3 to 2 against forwarding to the BCC as is. (it is regulating something that does not matter)

Old Business

- (we are still dealing with the earth moving next meeting)
- **Mr. Dodd** said he thinks we will be losing a member – Mr. Aman's job duties changed and he cannot attend these meetings. He will probably resign.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Hill said they may happen in the future, but they care about water conservation.

Steve Smith said he thinks it was the right decision, in his mind, it is a moot point on phosphate. He agrees with this board. He said there are other ways to go about water quality. Everyone is in favor of water quality and clean water.

There was a little discussion about the problems Tampa had, any spills and problems. The Charlotte Harbor being called impaired, SWFRPC looked into it and people from the phosphate industry said it is good how they pointed out all things before having problems.

STAFF COMMENTS

None

MEMBER COMMENTS

None

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- Brandon Moody – Water Quality updates
- Joanne Vernon update on mining changes

NEXT MEETING

- ❖ January 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the E. Jay Carlson Building large conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dodd asked for a motion to adjourn. Nigel Morris motioned to adjourn; seconded by Dan Ryals; the Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.



Andy Dodd,
Chairman

Minutes of the Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Approved this 13 day of Jan 2022.