

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

4:00 PM

City Hall Room 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Jack Donovan, Chair
Commissioner Ed Braddy, Member
Commissioner Craig Lowe, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan
Absent: Edward Braddy

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

070912. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2008 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for the January 30, 2008 meeting as circulated.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.

RUC Meeting Minutes Jan 30 2008.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS

070181. Forest Certification Stewardship Issues - Biomass Sustainability Ad Hoc Subcommittee (B)

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from Ed Regan regarding forest certification programs. Matt Langholz - Bioresource Inc, and Dave Conser - Alachua County Forester, Florida Division of Forestry made comments about using thinnings as a biomass fuel source.

Commissioner Lowe expressed his support for using thinnings in our program and asked if we had worked out what practices we would permit in a forest stewardship program.

Ed Regan responded that the principles had not been set yet but that there would be standards.

Commissioner Lowe expressed his concerns about sending out the RFP without the standards having been set. He also expressed concern about a number of issues regarding what wood products would be accepted as a biomass fuel source. He stated there were certain things that could be identified that would be acceptable like urban waste, vegetation management for utility lines and construction clearing. We don't want to incentivize forest conversions or growing exotic species not native to this area like tallow trees. He mentioned that the removal of exotics, (like Chinese tallow's) to restore ecosystems would be a great source of biomass if costs permit.

Commissioner Donovan added, or global warming cactus.

Commissioner Lowe continued his comments as to what should be allowed and how to incentivize the forest industry and private landowners in a manner to promote a more natural forest as opposed to maintaining a plantation type system.

Karen Johnson stated that what we are proposing to say in the RFP is urban waste wood, construction clearing are okay and that certification standards are going to be established. It will also say that a premium will be paid if our standards are met.

Commissioner Lowe further expressed concern about the percentage of nutrients left in the forest. He would like to see nutrients from soil fertility to be a factor in the process and the ash from the biomass plant be reapplied to the forest. He also brought up the issue of logging wetlands and limiting the amount to be accepted from that.

Commissioner Donovan made the following observations on the draft Forest Product Procurement Standards included as backup with the item. Item number one should not be number one; we should be emphasizing waste products. Commissioner Donovan referred to an article Nathan Collier had provided the City Commission on how biofuels are disruptive of the soil. He further asked the difference between the pulp industry and the wood industry and how much area is devoted to each in the forests west of Gainesville.

Karen Johnson suggested some language for item number one, which will now be a subsequent number. "Wood harvested as the primary product of forest plantations may or may not be accepted, pending development of GRU's forest certification program."

Commissioner Donovan agreed that may be a direction to head but that our team may think the wording is a little too stringent and maybe it could be phrased "will likely be accepted under certain stewardship practices."

Commissioner Donovan continued his observations with the wording of the last sentence under item number three related to fraudulent practices. He asked, will we bar them for a period of time or a permanent disbarment? Will we include it in the RFP? He further stated we should be careful on the wording. Staff recommended saying "up to and including permanent disbarment."

There was discussion on who should be penalized; the forestry operator, the landowner or the buyer.

Commissioner Donovan expressed his third observation on item number five regarding exploring some precise wording for the percentage of leafy matter.

Commissioner Lowe stated that his goal is to make sure we don't deplete the fertility of the forest soils.

Dave Conser suggested that the technical advisory committee talk to some scientists

in the field and ask what percent of nutrients are we cleaning off the site if we have 5% or 10% leafy material and twigs, and operationally how difficult will be it to leave a certain percentage in the woods.

Karen Johnson suggested that if the RUC follows Mr. Conser's suggestion we could still send out the RFP and issue an addendum. We could say preference will be given the sustainability of the forest soils is an important criteria for us and have the respondents describe their practices in detail.

Commissioner Donovan stated that what we are saying at this point is that we're going to include the procurement standards with some modifications in number 5 and with at least switching number one and two around, using the may or may not language and revision to the language for number 3 regarding fraudulent practices. Then we're going to be marching on with some speed to get the actual forest certification factors worked out for the standards.

Commissioner Lowe asked for clarification on item number five.

Ed Regan stated his notes said no whole tree harvesting without appropriate forest certifications. GRU intends to establish standards that will, to the extent practical, ensure long term sustainable soil fertility through, for example, retention of leafy matter and return of nutrients to the soil.

Commissioner Lowe asked to include a statement regarding biomass ash.

Rob Brinkman asked for GEAC to receive a copy of what is sent out to the respondents. Ed Regan replied he would see that they received it.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee authorize staff to incorporate the proposed Forest Procurement Standards into addendum #2 of RFP 2007-135 for Biomass Generating Capacity.*

This matter was Approved as Recommended, as Amended. The motion carried.

RUC Forestry Presentation October 9 2007.pdf

Backup for Forest Stewardship Item #070181 Oct 9.pdf

Memo to RUC re Backup for Item #070181 Feb 12 2008.pdf

Forest Product Procurement Standards Item #070181 Attachment Feb 12 2008.pdf

Backup for 070181 Draft Forest Certification Standards May 13 08.pdf

070772. Energy Supply Options Matrix (NB)

The Regional Utilities Committee agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee discuss the draft matrix received at the January 30, 2008 committee meeting which compares energy supply options on a wide range of criteria.*

Deferred

Backup for Item #070772 Energy Supply Options Matrix.pdf
Backup for Item #070772 Chilled Water Map.pdf
Backup for RUC item #070772 Mar 19 2008 re Matrix.pdf

MEMBER COMMENT**CITIZEN COMMENT****OUTSTANDING REFERRALS****070773. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)**

The Outstanding Referral list was not discussed by the RUC. The Committee agreed with Karen Johnson's suggestion to discuss the following items at the next meeting: Item #070772 regarding the Matrix; Item #061214 (combined with Item #070718) regarding photovoltaic polices; and Item #070744 regarding GRU's delinquent policies.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report updated from the November 28, 2007 report.*

No Action Taken

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report January 8, 2008.pdf
RUC Outstanding Referrals status report Feb 12 2008.pdf
RUC Outstanding Referrals status report March 19 2008.pdf

NEXT MEETING DATE**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.