

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

October 25, 2021

9:30 AM

Jack Durrance Board Room, County Administrative Building

Joint Water and Climate Policy Board

*Commissioner Harvey Ward - Member
Commissioner David Arreola - Vice-Chair
Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler - Chair
Commissioner Melanie Wells - Member
Commissioner Anna Prizzia - Member
Commissioner Mary Alford - Member
Mayor Lauren Poe - Member*

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CALL TO ORDER: 9:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[210553.](#) **Minutes of the August 30, 2021 Joint Water and Climate Policy Board Meeting (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *Approve as drafted.*

Approved as Recommended

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[210554.](#) **Exploring Models of Practice: The Future of Solar Energy in Alachua County (B)**

a. *GRU Solar Programs Presentation- Ed Bielarski, General Manager for Utilities*

Questions followed from Commissioner Wheeler, Alford, and Prizzia specific to GRU related to battery use, scale of solar use, how we could expand solar and the challenges associated with bringing on more solar

b. *Duke Power Solar Programs Presentation- Vanessa Goff, Director, Renewables Business Development and Dorothy Pernu, Manager, Government & Community Relations*

Questions followed from Mayor Poe about state regulations related to the 75 MW threshold and from Commissioner Alford about peak load challenges

c. *Equity Considerations in Solar Presentation- Sean Mclendon, Alachua County Office of Sustainability, Equity, and Economic & Strategic Development*

Sean talked about community solar level ideas, equity, and also mentioned that staff are planning to submit a DoE grant to help us with technical support look at the equitably and the development of a pilot project.

Questions followed from Commissioner Alford on tools (like smart meters) we can use to reduce peak demand and increase conservation efforts,

utility scale battery use, and where to place solar to reach our goals. Commissioner Arreola commented on what is happening at the federal level, and Commissioner Prizzia looks to see partnerships with GRU and NAACP and other community leadership to improve outreach and education of the community, and what is being done on conservation efforts. Mayor Poe provided summary comments related to GRU efforts and would like additional information about the DoE grant and asks that Sean meet with the city general manager and discuss at a future city agenda.

Citizens John Nix, Jerry Crawford, Ms. Younger, Nancy Derin, David Hastings spoke on the item.

RECOMMENDATION *Receive presentations.*

CITIZEN CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Heather Langford, Sustainability Manager with the County's Manager Office:

- i. The County initiated the County's Greenhouse Gas Inventory using ICLEI Consulting.*
- ii. The Climate Vulnerability Analysis was on the Alachua County BOCC agenda for Tuesday, October 26, 2021.*

STAFF UPDATES

Stephen Hofstetter reminded Board that the next meeting is a week earlier than normal, on Dec. 13, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

December McSherry, Dorothy Pernu spoke.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Board member suggestions for the December meeting included:

- i. Irrigations issues*
- ii. Surface water quality and stormwater (flooding) concerns in urban areas (funds for purchasing homes?)*
- iii. Clearing (of trees) with new development*
- iv. Climate Vulnerability Analysis update*
- v. DOE grant application update*

ADJOURNMENT: 11:50 a.m.