

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

April 23, 2018

1:00 PM

**County Administration Building, Grace Knight Auditorium
12 SE 1st Street**

Joint Water Policy Committee

*City Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (Chair)
County Commissioner Mike Byerly (Vice Chair)
Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe (Member)
County Commissioner Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson (Member)
Micanopy Mayor Ginny Mance (Member)*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

*PRESENT: Representative Virginia Mance (Town of Micanopy), City of Gainesville
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos, Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly,
Alachua County Commissioner Robert Hutchinson*

ABSENT: Mayor Lauren Poe (City of Gainesville)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[171012.](#) Approval of the February 26, 2018 Joint Water Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (B)

Attachments: [171012 JWPC 2.26.18 Mtg Minutes 20180423](#)

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 JWPC meeting as drafted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[171013.](#) Update on Proposed Codes: Wetland Code, Stormwater Code, Fertilizer Code, and Irrigation Design Efficiency Code (NB)

County staff gave updates regarding the County wetland code adopted on January 23, 2018. Staff have sent out notices to all of the municipalities within Alachua County. The County website has been updated to include pertinent information and required forms. There are plans to add more features to the website to aid in communication. The initial applications for review are anticipated to arrive within the upcoming weeks. A few in-progress developments that were relying on mitigation efforts to offset wetland impacts and which do not meet the current standards are in a transitional phase and under review.

County staff gave updates regarding the County stormwater code. Fulfillment of the County Board of Commissioner's request to have additional cost analyses is still underway. Results are anticipated to be presented at the July 3rd public workshop.

County staff gave updates regarding the County fertilizer code. Investigation into point-of-sale signage communicating the county-wide winter ban on fertilizer is still underway. A representative of the County Attorney's Office stated that, in their opinion, the requirement of a sign or pamphlet at the point-of-sale would be placing conditions on the sale of fertilizer and would thus be in violation of the State code.

There was a discussion about: the likely outcome of challenges to both the hypothetical local law and the existing State law in the judicial system; a similar State pre-emption situation in Ann Arbor, Michigan; the room for interpretation in the State code; presenting retail stores with a voluntary request to display signage.

A motion was made by Representative Mance to: refer to the City Commission, County Commission, and each municipal government in the County a request that they sign a letter to fertilizer retailers requesting them to encourage compliance with the County fertilizer code.

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Approved with a passing 4-0 vote.

Stacie Greco gave an overview of the water conservation program and update on irrigation design code. The County, along with UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC), had identified trends of increased water consumption due to irrigation and increased installation of irrigation systems in newly constructed homes, which motivated the creation of the irrigation design code. The code/program, which is in its second year of implementation, so far has 71 registered installation professionals, 25 of whom are qualified to self-inspect, and has been successful in drawing these professionals to irrigation efficiency trainings. Over 420 designs have been reviewed and inspected through the County's online portal. No municipalities have opted into the code. The County does not yet feel it has enough data points to evaluate the water savings as a result of this code.

There was a discussion about: the ability of the County to prohibit or disincentivize built-in irrigation systems (during development, pre-consumer choice); irrigation runoff's role in the sizing of stormwater retention basins; consumer error in utilizing irrigation timers; the role of utility rate tiers and independently metered irrigation systems in disincentivizing irrigation; current irrigation code requirements; a requirement for all municipalities in the County to comply with the code; the role of the County's open space ordinance in irrigation and yard size; the code's fees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byerly to:

1) have the members of this committee refer to their respective governments a request to find ways during the upgrade of their respective land development regulations to disincentivize the default installation of irrigation systems in new developments, including, but not limited to, ideas such as independent metering.

2) have County staff provide any data they have on the impact of the County's Open Space ordinance on yard size.

3) have County staff conduct an analysis of fees required by the irrigation design code. Public Comment: Donald Shepherd spoke about the effect of high water bills on individuals who are retired and agricultural runoff.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear staff updates.

[171014.](#)

ACEPD and City Staff Update on Clean Creeks Report (NB)

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department; Alachua County Health Department; Gainesville Regional Utilities; City of Gainesville's Public Works Department; the City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department; and the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership have an initial draft of the report. There is a meeting planned for early May to start work on editing the draft. The final report should be completed by June and delivered at the June JWPC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear staff updates.

171016.

Department of Doing Update on the Joint Water Supply Plan (NB)

The Department of Doing gave an update on the Joint Water Supply Plan. This plan is intended to holistically address water conservation instead of focusing on just one area of concern, such as irrigation.

Pierce Jones of PREC gave a presentation on a data utilization tool to show water consumption patterns and prepare comparative analyses across GRU's service area.

There was a discussion about: the implementation of the Florida Water Star program in Osceola County; the (dis)incentives driving its implementation; the mechanisms through which the program could be implemented in Alachua; the persistence of water savings after implementation; the need for a holistic approach to water conservation; the timeline of the Water Supply Plan and its accompanying ordinance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byerly to:

1) refer to County/GRU staff a question regarding the County's/GRU's authority to require Water Star appliances in new connections to the public water system.

2) refer Dr. Jones' presentation to staff for consideration of points contained therein during the land development code review process.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

There was a discussion about: the Committee's confinement to generating referrals; the dissemination of referrals to other parties for actionable response; the relative impact of indoor vs. outdoor water use in context of conservation.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear a presentation.

171020.

Alachua County Update on Land Acquisition Adjacent to Creeks (NB)

Commissioner Hutchinson delivered his conclusions from discussions with both staff and private enterprises and relayed a need for the micro-acquisition of land (i.e., small strips of land) to act as corridors for access. There was discussion among commissioners about: the role of government in undertaking this endeavor vs. a private trust; the long term outlook of such a program; the possibility of a revolving fund or joint fund; the managers of property once acquired.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchinson to: refer to the County's Land Conservation Board and the City's Nature Centers Commission (or other appropriate board) a request to look into a micro-acquisition program for lands in the County and

develop recommendations for the County Commission and City Commission, respectively.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

There was a discussion about: the City's potential land acquisition program for parks in annexed lands; the County's role in developing parks/purchasing land pre-annexation.

RECOMMENDATION *Hear an update.*

171021.

Update on Hogtown Creek Watershed Management Plan (NB)

Alice Rankellor presented an update on the Hogtown Creek Watershed Management Plan. She outlined four areas that the City Public Works Department had designated as flood improvement projects and which had flooding associated during Hurricane Irma. The City is currently pursuing grant funding to study Hogtown Creek and the development of a hydrologic model for the area. The existing model of Hogtown Creek has not been updated since the 1970's and a need to incorporate the Hogtown Creek Prairie into that model has been identified. The cost estimate will be finished soon. Another City project led to the development of a hydrologic digital elevation model (DEM) which will be useful for the study. Additionally, there is a planned TMDL study for Lake Kanapaha in five years, and the Hogtown Creek study will provide a head start on that project.

There was discussion about: the bacteriological problems at Hogtown Creek; erosion and sedimentation problems at Hogtown Creek; the ability of the City to use stormwater funds to acquire land in a method similar to the proposed land micro-acquisition program for erosion projects; previously proposed erosion mitigation projects; the Archer Braid Bike Trail and its proximity to Hogtown Creek Prairie and Hogtown Creek.

RECOMMENDATION *Hear an update.*

STAFF UPDATES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia Mance announced that she was no longer the mayor of Micanopy. As such, a new nominee to the committee may soon be put forward by the Alachua County League of Cities.

MEMBER COMMENT

The floor was opened up to allow commissioners to ask any questions about the recent sanitary sewer overflows near Hogtown Creek. There was a discussion about: the fines given by the County; the cost and issues surrounding the re-location of infrastructure away from creeks; Lift Station 1.

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 25, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.