

LEGISLATIVE FILE #171012

Joint Water Policy Committee - Monday, February 26, 2018, 1:00 PM
County Administration Building, Grace Knight Auditorium
12 Southeast First Street, Gainesville, Florida

MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL 1:02 PM

PRESENT: Mayor 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)

ALSO PRESENT – Chris Bird (ACEPD), Gus Olmos (ACEPD), Shane Williams (ACEPD), Stephen Hofstetter (ACEPD), James Link (ACPW), Sally Adkins (Gainesville Clean Water Partnership), Jim Troiano (SJRWMD), Phil Mann (CoG), Kristen Sealey (GRU), Jennifer McElroy (GRU)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approved with passing 3-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 4, 2017 Joint Water Policy Committee Meeting (B)

Attachments:

RECCOMENDATION *Approve the minutes as drafted.*

Approved with passing 3-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 1 ACEPD AND CITY STAFF UPDATE ON PROPOSED CODES: WETLAND CODE, STORMWATER CODE, FERTILIZER CODE, AND IRRIGATION DESIGN EFFICIENCY CODE

County staff gave updates regarding the County wetland code adopted on January 23, 2018. The code, which was effective immediately upon ratification, is applicable to all areas within the county. The code establishes surface water and wetland buffer protection, defines prohibited and authorized impacts, lists exemptions, and outlines the submittal and review process for applications. A self-certification form can be submitted electronically for review by County staff.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos raised concerns about the code's potential to delay City developers by requiring communication with an additional governmental entity. Commissioners and staff discussed impacts to the development review process, the rigor of a self-certification process, accountability, the impact of the State's newly updated wetland definition on the code, and the potential for wetland reclamation to be added to the code.

County staff gave updates regarding the County stormwater code. On November 2, 2017, County commissioners requested additional cost analyses before coming to a conclusion on the proposed code. Staff projected that the additional analyses would be finished in May 2018, with a public workshop to be held in June 2018.

Commissioners and staff discussed the County's decision to rescind recommendation of engineered soils, the effectiveness of Low Impact Development (LID) practices, the gaps in knowledge of effectiveness of engineered soils and LID practices, the application of engineered soils to septic tanks, and the enforcement of sinkhole repair requirements in stormwater basins.

Commissioners and staff discussed the state law preempting local governments from implementing point-of-sale bans on fertilizer and options for displaying signage about the County's winter fertilizer ban within stores.

Commissioners and staff discussed the County's irrigation code for unincorporated sections of the County. While the code does not impact municipalities, that decision may be revisited in the near future. There was further discussion about hurdles to the development review process if the code was implemented county-wide, irrigation system inspection, and updating the City irrigation code to match the standards of the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byerly to:

- 1) Have County staff be prepared at the County's June workshop on stormwater with recommendations for structuring a research program that will allow the board to move towards determination regarding the efficacy of engineered soils under stormwater basins.
- 2) Have County staff report back to the JWPC meeting the voluntary and regulatory options for displaying signage regarding the fertilizer ban in stores following County staff's meeting with County and City attorneys
- 3) Have County staff present what they have learned after two years under the current irrigation ordinance at the County's June workshop on stormwater and to have County staff to be present at the City Commission meeting for discussion on the current irrigation code.
- 4) Disseminate all of the above information to all municipalities in the County.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

Commissioners and staff discussed the relative importance of pet waste education and septic tank reduction towards nutrient reduction. Staff stated that within urban environments such as the City of Gainesville, pet waste programs were the most cost efficient for urban creek protection.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchinson to: request that all municipalities in the County and the County itself investigate the incorporation of pet waste reduction strategies into their land development codes

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

ITEM 2 ACEPD AND CITY STAFF UPDATE ON CLEAN CREEKS REPORT

Staff stated that each agency has been working on their section of the draft report as outlined at the previous JWPC meeting. Staff scheduled to meet on March 20, 2018 to discuss drafts and edits. The final report should be completed by June.

STAFF UPDATES

Staff requested to postpone update reports on the bacterial analysis plan, Hogtown Creek Watershed Study, and hydrologic report to the next meeting.

Staff discussed the resources required to add an invasive species analysis to an updated hydrologic report requested by Commissioners at the previous JWPC meeting. After consultation with the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (PRCA), it was suggested that the undertaking would require a hired consultant. Additionally, staff were unsure which department would be the proprietor of the analysis. Commissioner Hutchinson requested that further discussion on the topic take place at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Byerly requested information from City commissioners and staff regarding the Plum Creek/Weyerhauser development, specifically in regards to the recently adopted county-wide wetland code. Commissioners and staff mutually agreed that there had been no progression of the development in recent months, and it looked like plans for the development were uncertain.

There was further discussion regarding the City's procedure when working with developers in areas with intense impacts to wetlands.

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 23, 2018

ADJOURNMENT 2:42 PM