

Joint Water Policy Committee- Monday August 26th, 2019, 1:00 PM
County Administration Building, Grace Knight Auditorium
12 Southeast First Street, Gainesville, FL

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Present: Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly, Alachua County Commissioner Robert Hutchinson, City of Gainesville Commissioner Harvey Ward, City of Gainesville Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos, and Archer Commissioner Melanie Wells

- 1) Administrative Items
 - a. The motion to adopt of the agenda, changing the order of items 2 and 3, passed unanimously
 - b. The motion to adopt previous meeting minutes passed unanimously.
 - c. Commissioner Ward was voted as Chair. Commissioner Hutchinson was voted vice-chair.
- 2) Municipal Wastewater Collection System Boundaries: GRU staff gave a presentation on the Urban Cluster boundary. GRU cannot automatically extend water and sewer service outside of this line. GRU staff presented concerns that that this policy encourages low density development on well and septic systems or drives development into neighboring communities. Discussion followed on the origins of the Urban Cluster line and on specific residential developments and whether a trend towards development outside of the Urban Cluster was actually present. There was discussion on septic tanks versus central sewer and the potentially higher carbon footprint of central sewer was discussed. The question of whether the inspection and maintenance of septic tanks can be mandated was mentioned.
- 3) Potential Alachua County Septic Tank Ordinance Scenarios: EPD staff gave a presentation on the impacts of a potential County septic tank ordinance. Several scenarios were considered based on when a septic tank enters the permitting process with Department of Health (New construction permit or repair permit) and location the ordinance would affect. Costs of nitrogen reducing systems were discussed and the need for better cost comparison was noted. The passive In-Ground Nitrogen Reducing Biofilter was discussed. This system was recently installed in Poe Springs Park and is being monitored by EPD. The use of nitrogen reducing media in stormwater management was also discussed.
- 4) Consumptive Use Permitting Legal Discussion: Discussion on challenging consumptive use permits was discussed and staff gave an update on the application for renewal of permit near Ginnie Springs by Nestle with the intent to bottle water. There was discussion on whether the County can claim to be an affected party.
- 5) Hogtown Greenway Recreation Facilities Discussion: Staff noted that a copy of the County Chair letter sent to the City is on the agenda packet.
- 6) Creek Digging Update: EPD staff gave an update on the problem of businesses that organize shark tooth digging tours in the urban creeks and outreach efforts by EPD to educate these businesses that digging in creeks violates County Code.

- 7) Commissioner Comments: There were no Commissioner Comments
- 8) Additional Updates from Staff: The agenda for the October meeting was discussed. The Committee previously requested that the topic of raising US 441 through Paynes Prairie be on a future agenda. Due to the large number of agencies wanting to present on this topic it will take an entire meeting. Staff has scheduled this for the October meeting.
- 9) Public Comments: A member of the public provided suggestions on the monitoring of the Poe Springs septic system. Specifically the impact of pharmaceuticals on denitrification was brought up. It was also suggested that similar nitrogen reducing septic systems serving other land uses, such as assisted living facilities, should be monitored.

Adjourned at 2:55.