

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

February 24, 2020

1:00 PM

Modified

County Administration Building, Jack Durrance Board Room

12 SE 1st Street

Joint Water Policy Committee

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present:

City of Gainesville Commissioner Harvey Ward
City of Gainesville Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos
Alachua County Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler
Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly
Archer Commissioner Melanie Wells

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[190992.](#) Joint Water Policy Committee December 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes (B)

Attachments: [190992 JWPC 12-16-19 Meeting Minutes 20200224](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Approve the minutes as drafted.*

The motion to adopt the previous meeting minutes passed unanimously.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

[190994.](#) Proposed Schedule for 2020 Joint Water Policy Committee Meetings (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *Approve the proposed schedule of meetings.*

The motion to adopt the JWPC meeting dates for 2020 passed unanimously.

[190993.](#) Committee Discussion Items (B)

Attachments: [190993 JWPC Foxgrove Featherwodd Septic to Sewer GRU 20200224](#)
[190993 JWPC County Septic Tank Ord 20200224](#)
[190993 JWPC Alachua County Stormwater Assessment 20200224](#)
[190993 JWPC City Stormwater Mgt Util 20200224](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss all items and take any action deemed appropriate.*

Septic Tank Discussion:

1) Stacie Greco and Shane Williams, ACEPD, presented responses to the 3 questions asked in previous meetings: (1) Work with local septic tank installers to get real costs about retrofitting systems/implementing ordinance; (2) The County being the supplier of the materials for the denitrification layer; and (3) They provided an estimate of about 25-30% existing septic systems in County

would require aerobic instead of in-ground nitrogen reducing biofilter (INRB) due to depth to groundwater limitations. Next steps - ACEPD will continue to monitor Poe Springs retrofit, will await the court decision on the BMAP challenge, and will request FDEP extend retrofit rebated funds to Alachua County. ACEPD is hopeful to come back to JWPC with a presentation on progress of next steps in late summer/fall. The hope is for more data to be available before an ordinance requiring all new systems have an INRB.

2) Rick Hutton, GRU, provided an overview of the Fox Grove/Featherwood septic to sewer alternatives. He explained option types including gravity, low pressure, or a combination of the two. Additional information included estimated costs and discussion of septic to sewer conversions using the ConnectFree program. Residents of Fox Grove & Featherwood are considering options and GRU is formulating policies for low pressure sewer systems. There will be an update on ConnectFree to the City Commission soon. Additionally GRU requested cost share grant funding from the St. Johns River Water Management District to help pay for sewer connections for ConnectFree applicants near creeks. City Attorney Nicolle Shalley answered Commissioner Hayes-Santos regarding guidelines surrounding mandate for sewer connection.

Redefining the Role of JWPC to include Climate Change:

1) Steve Hofstetter, ACEPD, came with direction from the joint City/County Commission meeting on Feb.3rd to clarify future involvement of JWPC with regard to climate change. Issues discussed included name change, role of JWPC in selection committee and overall scope of involvement.

Stormwater Assessments:

1) Shane Williams, ACEPD, said the County's assessment is non ad valorem and is set at \$40/ERU. Most residential properties pay on a tiered structure. Assessment is split 50/50 between water quality and drainage system maintenance. Some current projects benefitting from the assessment were discussed.

2) Sally Adkins, Gainesville Clean Water Partnership, spoke about the City's stormwater assessment billing, services, and programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

Motions referred to respective commissions and approved:

1) Refer to County Commission a request to consider adopting a policy wherein County owned and maintained septic tank systems at time of replacement be of the INRB type to establish a baseline research plan and to consider the formation of a residential experimental model wherein the County subsidizes the system to monitor results

2) For the sole item on the April 20th JWPC agenda be for County and City staff to make presentations on what their respective entities have done and are currently doing to address the issues of climate change

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 22, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 2:55.