

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

August 7, 2017

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lauren Poe (City of Gainesville); Mayor Virginia Mance (Town of Micanopy); City of Gainesville Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos; Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly, Alachua County Commissioner Robert Hutchinson.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

170065. Minutes of the April 3, 2017 Joint Water Policy Committee Meeting (B)

Attachments: [170065 - JWPC 4-3-17 Meeting Minutes 20170605](#)

RECOMMENDATION Approve the minutes as drafted.

Approved, with passing 4-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

170280. Update on Proposed Stormwater Code (NB)

Gus Olmos gave a presentation to the committee updating progress on the proposed stormwater code. The presentation included the results of the case studies and a University of Florida soil study. This would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on August 22nd. The purpose of case studies was to look at existing projects and compare the additional costs of complying with new regulations to the initial costs. Five projects, two in eastern Alachua County and three in western Alachua County, were chosen. Upgrades to meet the standards proposed code resulted in an estimated 0-2% increase in total cost of the project.. Gus reported that the UF Soils study indicated that current stormwater basin construction practices are not adequately removing nitrates prior to groundwater discharge. Use of engineered soils showed marked reduction in nitrate levels. County staff recommended moving forward with the portions of the proposed code addressing discharge to surface waters but not the groundwater standard. Recommendations for groundwater were pending further analysis.

There was a discussion among the commissioners and staff about: the limits, scope, and consensus of the studies; the County Public Works department's examination of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies and how that fits into code reform process; stormwater basin size and the factors that go into determining it; reduction of pollution at the source by examining the Land Development code and LID options rather than solely relying on stormwater basins; the reason and purpose behind the delay on recommending the pollution reduction standards for groundwater; the difference between the codes for the City and the County.

Citizen Jim Konish presented a concern and distributed documents (attached) regarding sanitary sewer overflows.

Citizen Donald Shepherd spoke in regard to the stormwater code.

RECOMMENDATION *Hear a presentation from ACEPD staff.*

170281.

Update on Proposed Wetland Code (NB)

Stephen Hofstetter gave a presentation to the committee about the wetland protection component of the update to the County Water Quality Code. The objective of the reform is to establish minimum standards for wetland protection consistent with current county wetland buffer and avoidance requirements. The presentation focused on exemptions to this countywide code. If implemented there would be no retro-active changes to areas with approved wetland impacts. Agricultural lands would not be impacted. Two major exemption areas are being considered: redevelopment areas (sites where impervious area exceeds 40 percent) and urban core exemption areas. An urban core exemption zone would be determined by established zoning that is multi-family or more intense (i.e.: commercial, industrial, and institutional zones and fully- developed single-family residential zones). Unincorporated areas would not be impacted by the code. The exemptions would be equally applied to all municipalities in Alachua County.

There was a discussion among the commissioners and staff about: brownfield versus greenfield development and its applicability to the exemptions; how the exclusion areas would be determined moving forward; how the intents behind zoning classifications are considered, County versus City water body buffers; code conflicts between City and County.

RECOMMENDATION *Receive an update from staff.*

170282.

Discussion of City/County Efforts Towards Water Quality Improvements for Creeks (NB)

Sally Adkins discussed current initiatives that address the water quality of the creeks, including the Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plan and the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership. Reports were provided for commissioners to review. Stacie Greco brought up a meeting between Gainesville Regional Utilities, Alachua County Health Department, City of Gainesville, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, The Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, and Gainesville Clean Water Partnership in the near future that would discuss the concerns.

There was a discussion among the commissioners and staff about: the primary causes of coliform presence in the creeks; what programs would be most effective; how resources can be allocated to address the issues.

RECOMMENDATION *Discuss.*

STAFF UPDATES

Deferred due to time constraints.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Boyes spoke about proposed phosphate mines in Union and Bradford County and the potential for impact on the Murphree Wellfield. He requested that the City, County, and GRU develop a position on the issue and make it known to Union County and Bradford County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Robert Hutchinson for the JWPC to request that the Gainesville City Commission send a letter to the Bradford and Union County Commissions stating the City of Gainesville and Alachua County's concerns regarding the potential impact of phosphate mining to the wellfield.

The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Robert Hutchinson: to move the Joint Water Policy Committee meetings to City Hall so that the meetings can be televised.

The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 4, 2017

ADJOURNMENT