

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

December 4, 2017

3:00 PM

Modified Agenda

**County Administration Building, Grace Knight Auditorium
12 SE First 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 3:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: City of Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe; City of Gainesville Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos; Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly; Alachua County Commissioner Robert Hutchinson

Absent: Micanopy Mayor Virginia Mance

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted as drafted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[170584.](#) Minutes of the August 7, 2017 Joint Water Policy Committee Meeting (B)

Attachments: [170584 JWPC 8.7.17 Meeting Minutes 20171204](#)

RECOMMENDATION *Approve the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting as drafted.*

Approved as drafted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[170581.](#) Alachua County Environmental Protection Department Update on Proposed Stormwater Code, Wetlands Code and Irrigation Design Code (NB)

Commissioner Mike Byerly voiced his concerns over allowing the Stormwater Code to be opt-in for municipalities rather than County wide.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a program to allow the City/County or non-profit/land-trust to purchase and rehabilitate wetlands in areas with existing development via tax incentives or strategic purchasing.

RECOMMENDATION *Hear an update from staff.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos to: have County staff draft a letter requesting that University of Florida's Conservation Clinic look at the viability of challenging the State's preemption of fertilizer point-of-sale bans by passing a local ordinance.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

[170582.](#) Discussion of City/County Efforts Towards Water Quality Improvements

for Creeks. (NB)

Staff presented a proposed outline for a report on past, current, and potential efforts addressing the reduction of bacteria levels in urban creeks to be written jointly by Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Gainesville Regional Utilities, City of Gainesville Public Works, City of Gainesville Parks Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department, Gainesville Clean Water Partnership, and Alachua County Health Department. There was a discussion about introducing nutrient pollution, invasive species, and other environmental threats into the report. There was further discussion about a land purchasing program for wetland rehabilitation. The need for an updated Hogtown Creek Watershed Study and a hydrologic study was identified. Commissioner Robert Hutchinson requested staff assistance for GIS analysis of property turnover rates along creeks.

RECOMMENDATION*Discuss.*

A motion was made by Mayor Lauren Poe: to move forward with the bacterial analysis plan brought forward by staff, to request from City of Gainesville Public Works an update on the Hogtown Creek Watershed Study and corresponding hydrologic report and the executive summary for the existing study (circa 1970s), for Commissioner Robert Hutchinson to give an update on a land acquisition program at the next meeting, and for staff to give a brief analysis of the resources required to add an invasive species analysis to an updated hydrologic report.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

170583.**Lessons Learned from Hurricane Irma (NB)**

There was a discussion about flooding in Alachua County and the City of Gainesville as a result of Hurricane Irma.

Alice Rankeillor of City of Gainesville Public Works Stormwater Division discussed where in the City of Gainesville flooding occurred, the causes of flooding, and how the department responded to calls and work orders during and after the storm event. The department will implement internal recommendations on its Rapid Assessment program and identify areas of significant infrastructure damage. It will seek federal funding for repairs. In the long term, Annual Maintenance Practices, Floodplain Management Policy, and the Watershed Management Plan will be updated in response to challenges identified as a result of the storm.

Anthony Cunningham, Water/Wastewater Systems Officer at Gainesville Regional Utilities, discussed the Water/Wastewater department response to the storm. There were no major safety issues despite abnormal working conditions. GRU was able to provide continuous water service. Generators installed at various lift stations as a result of 2004 hurricane season worked as needed. Rapid assessment teams were implemented to great effect. As a result of the 2016 hurricane season, there was improved documentation for federal aid requests. The department learned how to better manage work shifts and personnel during emergency situations over extended periods. Communication, especially via social media, needs to improve to meet modern customer service expectations. Inflow and infiltration continued to be a major challenge. The storm helped pinpoint weak points in the sewer system and a major assessment program is underway.

No jurisdictional communication conflicts or interdepartmental miscommunications

were identified in discussion. A suggestion was made to make the definition of “safe working conditions” (with respect to weather) a coordinated standard. The need for improved communication via social media was re-emphasized.

RECOMMENDATION*Discuss.***STAFF UPDATES**

Staff provided answers to questions that had been asked in meetings prior:

1. Is there any issue with installing a well at Grace Marketplace to irrigate a community garden?

An irrigation well is legally permitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District. However, considering its location within the wellfield protection zone for the Murphree Water Treatment Plant wellfield, GRU would prefer that no well is installed so as to protect the quality of its potable water supply.

2. What is the progress for the fertilizer/compost study?

Watson C&D had partnered with the City of Gainesville to make compost with food waste from several businesses within Gainesville. The project coordinator is no longer working at Watson C&D, however, and the project has fallen through.

3. Can educational signage be displayed at “big box” stores in areas selling fertilizers?

The County is revising its fertilizer codes soon. There’s a possibility to implement sign requirements in the code.

4. Which program is more important for nutrient reduction – septic tank conversion or pet waste education?

Due to time constraints, the answer will be deferred to the next meeting.

5. Can a point of sale septic tank inspection be required for our area?

No. There is a state preemption that would prohibit a point-of-sale septic tank inspection requirement.

CITIZEN COMMENT**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Robert Hutchinson: to set future meeting times at the discretion of the Committee Chair (preferably 2 hours prior to MTPO meetings) and to request that the County investigate using MeVo or similar technology to livestream meetings.

Approved with passing 4-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 26, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.