

# **City of Gainesville**

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



## **Minutes**

**December 16, 2019**

**3:00 PM**

**Modified**

**County Admin Bldg, 12 SE 1st St., Grace Knight Auditorium**

## **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, and Archer Commissioner Melanie Wells

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 190756. Minutes of the October 28, 2019 Joint Water Policy Committee Meeting (B)

**Attachments:** [190756 JWPC 10-28-19 Meeting Minutes 20191216](#)

**RECOMMENDATION** *Approve the minutes as drafted.*

The motion to adopt the previous meeting minutes passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 190757. Discussions and Presentations

**Attachments:** [190757 JWPC Septic to Sewer GRU 20191216](#)  
[190757 HogtownCreekWatershed\\_Map\\_SPhillips\\_20191216](#)  
[190757 HogtownCreekDesignConcept\\_Map\\_SPhillips\\_20191216](#)  
[190757 HogtownCreekReferendumOutline\\_20191216](#)

1) Septic-to-Sewer Conversion: Rick Hutton, GRU, presented an overview of the current status and plans for the future. He provided information on the statewide perspective that approximately 30% of the state is served by septic tanks. In some areas septic has been identified as having significant nutrient loads to impaired waters. The Florida Springs & Aquifer Protection Act established “primary focus areas” which are geographic areas around springs/significant water bodies where nutrient reduction efforts are focused. If septic tanks are more than 20% of the source of nutrients to an impaired water body, then there is a septic tank remediation program. Both advanced septic systems and septic-to- sewer conversions were aspects of this legislation. Some of the obstacles of septic-to-sewer conversions include accessibility, cost, homeowner acceptance,

and on-going proliferation of septic systems. Due to the cost associated with conversions, GRU described “targeting” areas as the most impactful. Funding considerations/options were discussed along with a case study of converting 2 local neighborhoods. There was also discussion with regard to comparing enhanced septic systems (2 types) to the conversion option. Shane Williams, ACEPD, estimated some approximate costs of the mechanical “NSF245” type system but will need to do further research on the anticipated cost of a passive system because it is new technology. In February, ACEPD hopes to return to the JWPC with better pricing information that might help in program development.

2) Newnans Lake Water Quality Improvements and Wetlands: Shane Williams, ACEPD, presented past work on Newnans Lake and Watershed, where it stands now, and future plans. Phase 1 was designed to identify sources and dynamics of phosphorus load in Little Hatchet and Hatchet creeks and identify load reduction projects. This was completed in Dec 2018, and Phase 2, construction of load reduction project and additional assessment components, would start in December 2019. Nitrogen sources were discussed, along with internal recycling of nutrients. Details surrounding the Nutrient Reduction Pilot Project were covered. Phase 3 will be a feasibility study for a treatment wetland. Future projects include nutrient reduction for Hatchet Creek and Gum Root Swamp, and possible septic tank upgrades. Alice Rankeillor, City of Gainesville Public Works, said the connection of Brittany Estate’s wastewater treatment package plant to GRU’s centralized sewer is a planned and budgeted project and provided estimates on the subsequent reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen loads.

3) Hogtown Greenway Paving Project: Steve Phillips, City of Gainesville, discussed the Hogtown Greenway. He provided historical information on the property acquisition, work done on a multipurpose recreational trail, and the referendum associated.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Hear presentations from staff, discuss and take any action deemed appropriate.*

**STAFF UPDATES**

Chris Bird with ACEPD suggested consideration be given to climate change and its impacts on stormwater, flooding, and future planning projects with a rising aquifer.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler asked who should be contacted to assess the drinking water for the Oak Park 100 Building. She has contacted the head of the Gainesville Housing Authority and will also reach out to GRU for water testing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ward to: have ACEPD staff bring information on costs of enhanced septic systems, eligibility of homes for passive systems, and have the group continue to discuss options. The group unanimously agreed to include it on the next agenda.

Next agenda items to include:

- Septic tank ordinance options, costs, etc.
- City and County staff to provide a brief discussion about their respective storm water assessments and how it is spent, efforts made, etc.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

February 24, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38.