

**ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS MINUTES –
May 21, 2019
Alachua County Extension Office**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Candace Aho, Rodney Clouser, Larry Hall, Janet Hearn, Randy Johnson, Winston Rushing, Cindy Sanders, Michael Santarsiero, Ward Scott (Chair), Carolyn M. Smith, Rhonda Sweat

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Andrew Alligood (Vice Chair)

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Zeichner, Principal Planner, Growth Management
Ken McMurry, Planner, Growth Management
Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Philip Leary, AICP, State Director, USDA Rural Development in Florida

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Nancy Deren

The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Rushing made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Clouser.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

II. New Member Introduction:

Chair Scott welcomed new member Carolyn McKeown Smith and she introduced herself to the Committee. Mr. Zeichner noted that she was appointed to the position of Alternate Member Chosen At Large. Chair Scott asked all those present to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2019, with the addition of including Mr. Clouser in the list of Committee Members Present, seconded by Mr. Rushing.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Attendance Report:

Mr. Zeichner said that all members are currently in compliance with attendance requirements. He said that the attendance sheet is included in the email notification for each Committee meeting with any members highlighted who must be present to meet attendance requirements; members should review the attendance report provided by staff prior to meetings. Staff also follows up by contacting any members as needed.

V. Chair's Comments:

Chair Scott requested to amend the Agenda by moving Item VI.(b) Discussion of Sunset Date to beginning of New Business. There was no objection from the Committee.

VI. New Business:

- a) Discussion of Sunset Date (12/31/2019) for Rural Concerns Advisory Committee per Resolution #17-21

Mr. Zeichner discussed the Committee's Sunset Date history, some of the related issues associated with Committee member terms, and the process for requesting a new Sunset Date. He asked if there was any discussion or if the Committee wanted to make a motion, which could be included in the background material of the County Commission agenda item requesting the extension. Committee members had questions and made comments regarding possible extension dates and rationales.

Chair Scott said a letter that includes a motion creates a public record, shows consensus among the Committee, and would be more visible than a motion.

Mr. Hall made a motion that the Committee be extended for an additional six years beyond the present Sunset Date to December 31, 2025, and the reason is because of the continued concern for agriculture in the County and the issues currently on the Committee's Workplan that need continued attention, and that the Chair be instructed to write a letter in support of that to the County Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanders.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

- b) Presentation on USDA Rural Development in Florida by Philip Leary, AICP, State Director

Mr. Leary introduced himself and gave a Powerpoint overview of the USDA Rural Development Program in Florida. There was discussion including questions and comments brought up by various Committee members, including determination of the viability of requested energy programs, the funding and provision of rural broadband, delinquency and default rates of USDA rural loans, USDA outreach to rural people about their programs, and the charter school application process.

VII. Public Comments:

Nancy Deren said she was glad the Committee was requesting a long extension. She said there is an organization called Institute for Local Self Reliance, ILSR.org, that's about rural broadband that may have some applicable ideas. She suggested it may be helpful to stop using the term "clustered rural subdivision" and use "agrihood", a term being used around the country.

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Chair Scott asked for an update on the Comprehensive Plan Update process. Mr. Zeichner said the Committee had previously discussed clustered rural subdivisions at its January 15th and February 19th meetings. At the County Commission meeting on March 28th, staff was directed to schedule public hearings on those matters the Commission had sufficiently defined and settled for public hearing; however, clustered rural subdivisions needed more discussion and thus were not included. Staff previously sent information and link to the Committee about the May 15th Local Planning Agency public hearing, where they made their recommendation to the County Commission. On June 25th, the County Commission is scheduled for public hearing for transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan amendments to State and other agencies for review. Other issues of interest to the Committee included BMAPs, Priority Focus Areas, and changes regarding rural transportation mobility districts to replace concurrency in the rural area. Clustered rural subdivisions will be addressed with the County Commission in follow up meetings along with other issues such as potentially reducing or eliminating paving requirements for some new subdivisions in the Rural/Agricultural area.

Mr. Clouser asked about new Census data about agriculture. Ms. Sanders said IFAS is updating that data on their website. Mr. Clouser said it would be good for the Committee to look at those changes. Mr. Zeichner said local foods procurement standards may be on the June 25th County Commission agenda, including the letter from the Committee to the County Commission on that issue as backup.

IX. Next Meeting June 18, 2019

Mr. Zeichner said Russell Anderson presented to the Committee about a year ago regarding fire mitigation. At that time, the Committee suggested he come back in a year with new research; staff can contact Mr. Anderson and see if he's available to come back at the June meeting. Mr. Rushing noted that would be a good idea and Chair Scott affirmed that as a potential item for the June 18th meeting.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Santarsiero made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Sanders.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Scott called the meeting to a close at 5:30 pm.

Approved July 16, 2019