

**ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS MINUTES –
July 16, 2019
Alachua County Extension Office**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Andrew Alligood (Vice Chair)
Larry Hall
Winston Rushing

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Russell Anderson, MSDP, Natural Resource Specialist – Climate Scientist

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Rachael Santarsiero

The meeting began at 4:03 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda:

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes from May 21, 2019, seconded by Mr. Johnson.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

III. Attendance Report:

Mr. McMurry said that all members are currently in compliance with attendance requirements and no issues are foreseen for the next meeting. He said that the attendance report is included in the email notification for each Committee meeting. Members should review the attendance report provided by staff prior to meetings,

and if any member has a question about their attendance they should contact staff for clarification of their status.

IV. Chair's Comments:

Chair Scott said he would make his comments on the Committee extension on that Agenda item under Old Business.

V. New Business:

- a) Follow-up Presentation on Vegetative Fire Mitigation – Russell Anderson, MSDP, Natural Resource Specialist – Climate Scientist

Mr. Anderson presented a follow up to his presentation to the Committee a year ago on Vegetative Fire Mitigation. There was discussion including questions and comments brought up by various Committee members, including fire resistance of succulent plant material and other types of plants, effective buffer sizes, incorporation into residential development plans and landscaping, and potential for requirements for new development. Also discussed were succulents as food source for animals or pests, risk to agricultural and domestic animals, and economic impacts and opportunities for farmers.

VI. Old Business:

- a) Board of County Commissioners Approval of Extension of Rural Concerns Advisory Committee Sunset Date to December 31, 2025.

Chair Scott commented on the May 23, 2019, Chair letter to Board of County Commissioners recommending extension of the Sunset Date and congratulated the Committee on the extension. Copies of the letter were given to the Committee members.

- b) Upcoming positions posted on Advisory Board Website (current terms ending 9/30/19)

Ken McMurry said that there are currently three positions with terms ending on September 30, 2019. The current members whose terms are ending, Mr Alligood, Mr Johnson, and Mr Santarsiero, can reapply on the County website. He said that two applications have currently been received.

VII. Public Comments:

There were no Public Comments

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Ken McMurry said that the Committee Annual Workplan is due by October 1st and copies had been given to members to begin reviewing for discussion at the next meeting.

Chair Scott asked the Committee if there was interest in receiving a presentation on agricultural marijuana. Ms. Sweat said that agricultural hemp is currently receiving a lot of attention from distributors and owners from out of state. Committee members discussed various aspects of production and medical uses. The Committee said they were interested in receiving a presentation on hemp and Chair Scott asked staff if they could find a speaker.

Ms. Sanders said that there was a meeting in progress with the City of Newberry and adjacent landowners to the future Canterbury fairgrounds and IFAS sites regarding the adjacent access easement (discussed at the July 9 BoCC mtg in relation to finalizing the site contracts). The Chair asked staff to distribute the outcome of that meeting by email to the Committee.

IX. Next Meeting August 20, 2019

X. Adjourn

Mr. Clouser made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Johnson.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approve August 20, 2019