

**ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS MINUTES –  
August 20, 2019  
Alachua County Extension Office**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rodney Clouser, Larry Hall, Janet Hearn, Randy Johnson, Winston Rushing, Cindy Sanders, Ward Scott (Chair), Carolyn M. Smith

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Candace Aho,  
Andrew Alligood (Vice Chair)  
Michael Santarsiero  
Rhonda Sweat

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jerry Fankhauser, Lead Oversight Manager, UF/IFAS (Industrial Hemp Pilot Project)  
Kevin Korus, Alachua County Extension Agent

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

No public attendance

The meeting began at 4:03 PM.

**I. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Ms. Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes from July 16, 2019, seconded by Ms. Smith.

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. Attendance Report:**

Mr. McMurry said that all members are currently in compliance with attendance requirements. He said that since Mr. Alligood and Ms. Sweat were not in attendance at this meeting, they must be in attendance at next month's meeting to remain in compliance.

Chair Scott reminded members to always sign in when attending this meeting.

### **IV. Chair's Comments:**

Chair Scott shared with the committee regarding the County-sponsored Parliamentary Procedures Training for all County Advisory Committees, presented on April 6<sup>th</sup> by April Griffin. Mr. Clouser shared with the committee regarding Roberts Rule. Mr. Zeichner explained the handout from that presentation and said the video link would be forwarded to committee.

### **V. New Business:**

- a) Presentation on Hemp, by Jerry Fankhauser, Lead Oversight Manager, UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project –

Mr. Fankhauser presented the committee with a powerpoint presentation on the UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Update of August 2019. He explained the difference between industrial hemp and medical marijuana. There was discussion including questions and comments brought up by various Committee members and others present, including whether State could ultimately outlaw hemp, research on invasive potential, how to assure there are no "hot plants" in seed mixes, marketing, hemp products as alternatives to plastics, cost of testing, use for livestock feed, regulating growing distances from other farms, and means of communication regarding research and laws. Mr. Fankhauser said the best local contact for information is County Extension Office.

Mr. Zeichner asked about the Industrial Hemp Advisory Council to the Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Mr. Fankhauser said Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dean of Research, IFAS, is the IFAS member of that Council.

- b) Rural Concerns Advisory Committee Annual Workplan: FY 2019-2020 and Accomplishments Report: FY 2018-2019

Mr. Zeichner discussed the update of the Annual Workplan. The Committee requested to have the Annual Workplan FY 2019-2020 and the Accomplishments Report FY 2018-2019 continued to September's meeting.

Mr. Zeichner discussed information from Gina Peebles, Assistant County Manager, on the current status of the Fairgrounds. Chair Scott requested Ms. Peebles be on the September agenda.

Mr. Zeichner discussed the three current committee position terms that are ending on September 30, 2019, and the applications that have currently been received. He said

anyone interested in applying should do so by Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, including the members currently in those positions, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Santarsiero, and Mr. Alligood.

**VI. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments

**VII. Committee Member Comments:**

Mr. Rushing asked if staff was familiar with the WEBOR Movement [Wekiva Econlockhatchee Bill of Rights]. Mr. Zeichner asked for clarification, and Mr. Rushing mentioned Rights of Nature. Mr. Zeichner said the County Commission has had a discussion of a potential Comprehensive Plan policy relating to rights of nature that had been recommended by the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, but sounds like Mr. Rushing is referring to a separate citizen initiative for something in the County Charter. Mr. Rushing said he would like someone to come and explain to the committee what it is and potential impacts on agriculture. Mr. Zeichner said the Charter idea is not a County staff or Commission item but he could check with the County Environmental Protection Department to get ideas on who might be appropriate to discuss this with the Committee.

Ms. Smith asked about the Weyerhaeuser project on Highway 121. Mr. Zeichner said that project is in the City of Gainesville and outside the County's jurisdiction.

**VIII. Next Meeting September 17, 2019**

**IX. 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 October 15, 2019**