



# **Rural Concerns Advisory Committee**

**Annual Work Plan: FY2019-2020  
Accomplishments Report: FY2018-2019**

# Committee Responsibilities

- Establish the importance of our rural, unincorporated agricultural and historic settlements
- Assist in the development and evaluation of policies and programs affecting the rural areas of the County
- Represent the rural areas in the County's various community planning processes and hearings
- Assist in the recognition and determination of the needs of the County's rural residents and advise the Board accordingly

# FY2018-2019 Activities

Nine meetings held with presentations on:

- Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan Update
- Status of Countywide Radio System
- Clustered Rural Residential Subdivision Policies, Local Food Policies, and Comprehensive Plan Update
- Local Food Procurement Standards
- USDA Rural Development in Florida
- Extension of Sunset Date of Rural Concerns Advisory Committee
- Vegetative Fire Mitigation
- Hemp and UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project

# FY2018-2019 Activities

- Submitted comments to the County Commission on the following:
  - Extension of Sunset Date of Rural Concerns Advisory Committee
  - Local Foods Procurement Standards
  - Countywide Radio System
  - Draft proposed Truth and Reconciliation for Alachua County's History of Racial Injustice

# FY2019-2020 Work Plan

- Continue education efforts for the County Commission and citizens of Alachua County on agricultural issues and other issues affecting the rural area including support of local markets, local farmers and tours
- Make recommendations to BOCC on any Agricultural Issues and other issues affecting the rural area and emerging issues in the rural area and at the rural-urban fringe
- Monitor Evaluation & Appraisal and Update of the Comprehensive Plan as well as implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code on rural lands and relating to agriculture and local food production
- Continue discussion of energy conservation methods that may impact the agriculture community and/or the rural area

# FY2019-2020 Work Plan

- Continue to promote and coordinate education of Best Management Practices for agriculture producers, governmental organizations and citizens of Alachua County
- Continue to review and comment on management of Alachua County Forever properties, including development and implementation of business plans for timber harvesting, cattle grazing and hunting leases
- Review law enforcement services relating to the rural area
- Work with City of Newberry and County officials in further development of the Alachua County Equestrian Center and UF IFAS Extension site

# FY2019-2020 Work Plan

- Provide input where appropriate on the following, including but not limited to:
  - County water supply issues
  - Septic systems
  - Stormwater issues
  - Fire services issues
  - Fairgrounds development project
  - Invasive species control programs conducted by the County
  - Feral hog management
  - Integration of emergency response systems for the rural area
  - Effective means of enforcing rules and rights relating to private roads and easements in the rural area
  - Rural transportation systems
  - Internet broadband in rural areas

# Questions / Comments?