



## **ALACHUA COUNTY Environmental Protection Advisory Committee**

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**David W. Moritz, Chairman**  
**Scott Knight, Vice-Chair**  
**Neesha Anderson, Secretary**  
**Mark Brown, Staff Liaison**

### **MINUTES**

August 4, 2020 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Environmental Protection Department  
408 W University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601  
(ZOOM Meeting Presentation)

**Board attendees:** George Hochmuth, David Moritz, Bruce Blackwell, Scott Knight, Bettina Moser, George Papadi, Elaine Young, David Gold, Neesha Anderson, Sean King

**Staff attendees:** Mark Brown

1. Call to Order-Determination of Quorum at 6:01 pm
2. Review and adoption of Agenda. Motion to adopt agenda passed unanimously
3. Review and adoption of July 2, 2020 Minutes. Motion to approve minutes passed approved unanimously.
4. Introduction of New EPAC Members - 3 new members joined EPAC. Two new members, David Gold and Sean King, were present and introduced themselves. Sean is a registered engineer working for an international engineering company (Wood), undergrad and graduate school through UF (Center for Wetlands); earning a PhD. David is a retired dental hygienist and has volunteered with many organizations.
5. EPD staff briefing points
  - a. Nov 5th ballot item (charter amendment) – copy of new ordinance provided EPAC members; ordinance will be on ballot for the November election. The ordinance proposes when certain areas currently within unincorporated Alachua County are proposed for annexation into municipalities, certain natural resource features (Strategic Ecosystems, Significant Habitat, Listed Species, Significant Geologic Features) will continue to be evaluated and regulated based on the same land development code criteria as applied within the unincorporated areas. If voter-approved at the election,

EPD staff will collaborate with representatives within each of the nine municipalities to assist with evaluation and implementation of the criteria.

- b. Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board has decided to delay decision on the water use permit application submitted by Seven Springs/Nestle for proposed increase in withdrawal rates from Ginnie Springs/Santa Fe River. Alachua BoCC will be writing a letter (see EPAC October 2019 meeting for our recommendation). David Moritz suggested reaffirming our original letter which recommends less pumping.
  - c. Alachua County tree regulation code general discussion scheduled for Aug 18th BoCC meeting. EPAC had extensive discussions with Steve Kabat last year and suggestions have been incorporated in the draft language to be provided to BoCC.
6. Elaine Young explained that the County Public Works Dept. (PWD-Solid Waste) is proposing the use of incinerators and grinders within a proposed Storm Debris Management Area located within the County's NE Landfill property; where vegetative debris (downed trees, limbs, etc.) collected, transported and temporarily stockpiled after hurricane events. Mark noted as the debris material is stockpiled in the area, the material will be grinded small enough to be acceptable for burning at the bio-mass plant. Only vegetative material that can't be grinded will be burned on-site with incinerators installed within a few small trenches. Any additional non-vegetative material disposed by citizens along the curbsides (e.g. appliances) will be separated from the vegetative material and transported to appropriate designated landfills. Several sites were evaluated for the management area, the selected site has the fewest natural resource features (pine plantation). All the other sites have considerable presence of wetlands and gopher tortoise burrows; neither of which located within the proposed site. Elaine suggests that PWD transport the material to Leveda Brown or the COG/GRU Deerhaven bio-mass plant facilities. Mark noted neither facility has sufficient acreage for disposal of the material. In addition, Leveda Brown facility has other commitments for the limited space and the Deerhaven facility is owned by City of Gainesville; so any potential available area would be prioritized for use by the City. An additional public meeting will be scheduled by Solid Waste, anticipated presentation in September or October.

Mark also mentioned a proposed temporary disposal area within +/- 20 acre portion of a 60-acre tract owned by the COG-Parks Dept. along SR 121; to be used for separating vegetation from other material collected during street sweeping operations conducted by the COG-PWD. As is currently conducted with the operations, the vegetative material would be composted and re-used within projects and sites owned by the COG. The remaining non-vegetative material will be transported to appropriate landfill facilities. The objective is for COG's PWD -Solid Waste Division to utilize the site for disposal and separation for 5-10 years until locating and/or acquiring another site appropriate for such use. After Solid Waste discontinues use of this parcel, rather than re-establish a pine plantation, Parks Dept. will probably propose the designated area for recreational ballfield facilities. The remaining +/- 40 acres of the property will remain in the current native habitat and continue to be managed accordingly as conservation lands. Scott Knight raised a concern over heavy metals in street sweeping debris as it may create a toxicity issue over time if it is dumped somewhere that is not lined; particularly copper and cadmium. Subsequent meetings with COG-PWD has indicated staff is still

in the evaluation phase and will be providing additional technical and design information; including information relative to the toxicity issue associated with their current street-sweeping disposal operations.

7. Community Conversation on Climate Change - Scott Knight suggested reaching out to someone from Miami Beach. Other suggestions included Climate Reality Project and CLEO Institute. Bruce Blackwell reminded us of a joint county-city climate change committee. David Moritz, Neesha Anderson, and Sean King will reach out to potential speakers, maybe bringing some potential speakers to the next EPAC meeting. Sean King will contact Thomas Frazer. Neesha Anderson will reach out to CLEO Institute. Neesha Anderson suggested we reach out to the Citizen Climate Advisory Committee (CCAC) after the committee is formed so that they're aware of EPAC's Community Conversation. Mark Brown said he would invite the CCAC liaison to the next meeting.
8. September 1, 2020 – suggest items for next regular meeting  
Bettina Moser would like to discuss night time light pollution. Mark noted County staff refer review and coordination of light pollution issues to COG staff and officials since the sources are primarily within Gainesville.
9. Public comments - none
10. Motion to Adjourn - Motion to adjourn by new David, seconded by Elaine. Passed unanimously.  
Adjourned at 7:43 pm