

**ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS
MINUTES –October 20, 2020**

(This was a Virtual Public Meeting through Zoom)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Candace Aho, Dewayne Baines, Jean Chance, Rodney Clouser (Vice Chair), Christopher De Cubellis, Larry Hall, Janet Hearn, Randy Johnson, Winston Rushing, Ward Scott (Chair)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cindy Sanders

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Zeichner, Principal Planner, Growth Management

Ken McMurry, Planner, Growth Management

Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

OTHER STAFF:

Gus Olmos, P.E., Alachua County Interim Director Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

General Public:

Leela Robinson

Sandra Werner

The meeting began at 4:01 PM after confirming that there was a quorum of members connected via Zoom.

I. Approval of Agenda:

Chair Scott called the meeting to order and asked the Committee if everyone had a chance to look over the agenda. Staff shared the agenda on the Zoom screen.

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Staff shared the draft August 18th minutes on the Zoom screen.

Mr. Rushing made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Chance.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

III. Attendance Report:

Mr. Zeichner reviewed the attendance report, which Mr. McMurry shared on the Zoom screen, and noted that two members were highlighted on the report and must be in attendance at this meeting to comply with the attendance policy; one of these members was then confirmed in attendance and the other joined the meeting shortly thereafter. No other members were in jeopardy of noncompliance at this time.

IV. Chair's Comments:

Chair Scott noted that there was no response from the Board to the letter on Decision to Stop Using Inmate Labor that the Committee directed the Chair to send at the August 18th meeting. Staff shared the letter on the Zoom screen for members to review. Mr. Zeichner explained to the Committee the process that was used for this letter and all others for distribution to the County Commission and others that were copied.

Mr. Baines joined the meeting at 4:08 PM.

Mr. Rushing made a motion to resend the letter certified return receipt to the County Commission. Mr. Hall seconded.

Mr. Zeichner clarified what the process would be for sending the letter to the Commissioners by certified mail return receipt. He noted another option was to attach the letter to the minutes for the August 18th meeting for information as part of the normal submittal to the County Commission.

There was discussion by Committee members and the general public. The Chair noted it was particularly important that the County Commission pay attention to and address the issue in this letter especially since it was prompted by a member of the public. Ms. Robinson communicated that addressing the County Commission about prison labor is not a direction she wanted to go to address roadside litter; that the litter was an issue when there was prison labor and an issue when there was not prison labor.

ACTION: Motion failed with 3 in favor, 7 opposed.

Mr. Baines made a motion to attach the letter with the August 18th meeting minutes when they are submitted to the County Commission. Ms. Chance seconded. There was discussion and questions by members of the Committee.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business:

a) Rural Collection Centers & related Solid Waste matters

- Presentation by Gus Olmos, P.E, Interim Director Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

Mr. Olmos gave a presentation on Alachua County Rural Collection Centers, including general information on their use, current and future locations, accepted items, facilities and layouts of the centers, and maintenance issues. There were questions and discussion by Committee members on a variety of issues including regarding collection of yard waste, search for land for a new facility, use by County residents, recycling of glass and tires, hazardous waste collection, estimates of volume generated and collected, mandatory pick up areas, and Alachua County waste management in comparison to adjacent counties.

Ms. Robinson asked about the status of agreement with Keep Alachua County Beautiful and how it may have changed over the years. Mr. Olmos said that the Adopt a Road funding agreement hasn't changed from last year.

b) Discussion of "Hybrid/CMT" meetings

Mr. Zeichner provided background on the Governor's Executive Order 20-246 and aspects of Alachua County Emergency Order 2020-47 including notice of public meetings, public comment, virtual and physical attendance by staff, seating capacity, use of masks, and screening criteria. He also discussed virtual meetings in a workshop setting, subcommittee meetings, outdoor meetings, potential meeting locations, and cleaning protocols.

VI. Old Business

a) Follow up on potential locations for in-person meetings of Committee

Chair Scott suggested making a decision about the in-person meeting location and noted that the Farm Credit conference room has been offered to the Committee as a meeting option. Dr. Clouser said his questions about that location were the room and table dimensions which appear to be narrow, how many people would fit in the room with social distance, whether a quorum of Committee members is willing to commit to being physically present, and clarification of the criteria and procedures that would be in place. Mr. Hall said he would measure the dimensions of the room.

Mr. Zeichner said the Chair might want to consider appointing a subcommittee that could meet with staff and follow up as necessary on this issue. Chair Scott said he would not appoint a subcommittee; and

asked Mr. Hall to measure the Farm Credit conference room and communicate back to staff.

Mr. Baines suggested the GRU building on NW 39th Avenue and 6th Street as a location. Mr. Scott suggested Mr. Baines investigate the use of that facility and invited any Committee member to individually investigate any locations they were interested in. Mr. Zeichner said if any Committee members have other suggestions please email staff.

VII. Committee Member Comments:

There were no Committee member comments.

VIII. General Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

IX. Next Meeting: November 17, 2020

Staff asked about the agenda for the next meeting and the Committee did not identify anything in particular at that time.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Chance.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Clouser noted that the Chair had left, and called the meeting to a close at 5:56 pm.

Approved 3-16-2021