

**ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS
MINUTES –January 19, 2021**

*Workshop – Virtually and
Alachua County Growth Management Department
10 SW 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, Conference Room 207*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Candace Aho, Dewayne Baines, Jean Chance, Rodney Clouser (Vice Chair), Christopher DeCubellis, Janet Hearn, Winston Rushing, Juan Salva, Cindy Sanders

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Larry Hall, Sandra Werner

STAFF PRESENT:

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

General Public:

No Public present at beginning of meeting either in person or virtually. (Several individuals who did not identify themselves connected later via Zoom and disrupted the meeting as described under II. below.)

Acting Chair (Vice Chair) Dr. Clouser started the workshop at 4:03 PM after confirming that there were nine members connected via Zoom.

Mr. Zeichner said this is a workshop and there would be no action taken by the Committee. Staff shared the Workshop Topics for Discussion on the Zoom screen and Mr. Zeichner reviewed the listed topics. He also noted the public can attend virtually with an option to participate in person, and that staff is present in the Growth Management conference room and at the building entrance to direct them to the conference room. He said the video recording of the workshop would be posted as a public record on YouTube per the County Emergency Order.

I. Review of Attendance Report & draft minutes from Oct. 20th meeting and Dec. 15th workshop, for information & review only (for approval at a future meeting)

Staff shared the Attendance Report on the Zoom screen. Mr. Zeichner noted one member, Mr. Baines, has been present at 3 of the last 5 meetings, and needs to be present at the workshop today; Mr. Baines did

log in to the workshop by phone. Mr. Zeichner said staff followed up with the County Manager's Office regarding Mr. Baines' flight schedule that was delayed and his late connection to the December 15th workshop via Zoom, and it was determined that under the circumstances he should be counted as in attendance at that meeting.

Dr. Clouser called each member's name to confirm their attendance. All members were present except Mr. Hall and Ms. Werner. Mr. Zeichner asked for any public, either in person or on Zoom, to identify themselves; there were none.

Dr. Clouser said he would like to have Mr. Olmos to present next, rather than review the previous draft minutes, as the Zero Waste topic was time sensitive.

II. Presentation on Zero Waste by Gus Olmos, Interim Director, Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

Dr. Clouser introduced Mr. Olmos and noted there is an online workshop on this topic on Thursday. Mr. Zeichner said staff had sent an email to Committee members that explained the workshop webinar would be subject to Sunshine Law requirements and that, if any advisory committee members are planning to attend, in order to stay in compliance, they should just listen and not speak in case there are other members there. Mr. Olmos said he would provide more information at the end of his presentation about the way that workshop would be managed.

Mr. Olmos started his presentation on Zero Waste on the Zoom screen. He noted and discussed aspects of the County solid waste management collection system and goal of zero waste, including: the County and City of Gainesville have had a contract with WCA since 2008 that expires on 10/1/2021, and are looking at alternatives to extend the contract or put out an RFP for a new one; residential solid waste and recyclables are managed and processed at Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station, and whatever is not recycled is transferred to New River Regional Landfill in Gilchrist County; commercial waste is done by the private sector with 4 franchised commercial haulers that the County has an agreement with; construction and demolition material (C&D) are primarily managed by the private sector without County involvement; and in Alachua County about 5 lbs. of garbage and recyclables are generated per day per person on average, about 28% of that gets recycled, and the rest is managed as solid waste with 33 loads per day, or 750 tons, going to New River Regional Landfill. He discussed the background and history

of the Zero Waste project, the meaning of the term Zero Waste, the necessary community involvement, County waste diversion and disposal trends, and potential Zero Waste strategies.

The workshop was disrupted during the presentation at approximately 4:25 PM by several unidentified people who connected via Zoom, some or all of whom shared inappropriate audio and visual material, including text on the screen that was offensive to ethnic and religious groups. After staff attempted but was unable to mute and remove the individuals from the Zoom session, the workshop was terminated.

III. Draft amendments to Bylaws for review & input (for action at a future meeting after the 21 days written notice required by the Bylaws)

Not discussed due to disruption of workshop.

IV. Priorities for meeting or workshop topics (see attached list of potential topics identified by Committee at December workshop)

Not discussed due to disruption of workshop.

The meeting was ended due to disruption at 4:25 PM.

Approved 3-16-2021