

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.  
Grace Knight Conference Room

12 Southeast First Street  
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Special Meeting.

**PRESENT:** Chair Anna Prizzia; Vice Chair Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler and Commissioner Ken Cornell

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, and Deputy Clerk Casey Miller

Chair Prizzia called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Wheeler moved** approval of the agenda

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cornell

**The motion carried 4-0 with Vice Chair Alford not present.**

Items for Discussion

1. Presentation on Proposed Changes to Codes Related to Landscape Irrigation and Water Conservation 23-0523

**Recommended Action:** Listen to staff presentation and authorize advertisement of an adoption hearing. Approve Chair Letter on landscape irrigation wells.

**Fiscal Consideration:** Staff are proposing the creation of the Alachua County Water Conservation Fund, which is to be supervised and used by EPD for water conservation and resilient landscaping projects and programs to the extent money is available in the fund. The fund shall consist of all money recovered by the county in an action against any person who is found in violation of these articles.

**Strategic Guide:** Environment

Water Resources Program Manager with EPD Stacey Greco presented the above item.

**Vice Chair Alford entered the room at 10:05am**

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Proposed Irrigation Design Code Changes:

- Applicability:

- New Systems and modifications (additions) to existing Systems (clarifies that retrofits that reduce system or water use do not need approval)

- Florida Water Star Certification:

- Gold Certification – no fees, review, or inspection by Alachua County (Currently allow silver)

- Application approval process changes:

- Temporary systems need to submit basic information – no fees
  - Proposed definition change from two year to one year for temporary irrigation

- Make Site plan sketch optional if under threshold of 1,500 sq. ft. of irrigated landscape and three zones (currently required for all systems)

-Design Standards Change:

- Limit irrigation to 50% of permeable area in single family lots (currently max 60% high volume rotors or sprays)
- Maximum 0.25 acres of irrigation on single family lots (currently 0.5 acres)

Commissioner Cornell, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Prizzia, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey, Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, Commissioner Wheeler, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, and Water Resources Program Manager Stacey all presented comments.

## Proposed Irrigation Design Code Changes/Clarifications

- For new installations:
  - the controller must be outside and accessible to staff
  - builder/developer responsible for ensuring compliance after inspection and before sale
- Property owners responsible for:
  - marking property boundaries if irrigation is within 20 feet
  - adjusting timers after 60-day establishment period
  - ensuring free of leaks after improvements such as fences and gutters
  - inspecting systems annually (no documentation required)
- Commercial properties (includes common areas of subdivisions)
  - Maximum of 50% of permeable areas shall be permanently irrigated
  - High efficiency nozzles must be used for turf
  - Trees must have separate zones for adequate establishment
  - Must register with the County and provide documentation of annual irrigation system inspection/audit
- Use of Awards:
  - Create the Water Conservation Fund for money collected due to violations
  - Funds to be used for water conservation and resilient landscaping projects and programs

Chair Prizzia, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Alford all presented comments

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## HOA Florida Friendly Landscaping Code

### Proposed Changes:

- HOAs must keep a contract on file with Alachua County
- Fines would go to Water Conservation Fund

Chair Prizzia, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, Commissioner Cornell, Assistant County Attorney Corbin Hansen, Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

## Staff Recommendation

- Authorize staff to advertise a public hearing and Proposed revisions to:
  - Chapter 77, Section 77.03, Definitions
  - Chapter 77, Article VI Irrigation Design Code
  - Chapter 77, Article VII HOA FFL Code
  - ULDC Chapter 406, Article VIII Springs and High Aquifer Recharge
- Approve Chair Letter regarding irrigation wells to water management districts and Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Commissioner Wheeler, and Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco presented comments.

**Vice Chair Alford moved** to approve staff recommendations.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Wheeler

Chair Prizzia recognized Elizabeth Manly, Ed Bravo and a citizen who all presented comments.

Vice Chair Alford, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Water Resources Program Manager Stacey Greco, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

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## **Closing Comments**

### Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

### Commission Comment

Cornell wanted to clarify if there will be public comment at tonight's meeting or not and if call-ins will be accepted. Call-ins for public comment will not occur

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to refer to staff to bring back recommendations on how staff can assist the Springs Council with the bottling company lawsuit.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Wheeler

**The Motion carried 5-0.**

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:23