



ALACHUA COUNTY Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

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Officers: Chair Jennison Kipp Searcy
Vice-chair Dani Cucchiara
Secretary Sage Cera

Staff Liaisons: Stephen Hofstetter (County)
Dan Zhu/Jennie Ford (City of Gainesville)
Eric Walters (GRU)

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2024 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Grace Knight Conference Room
12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor Gainesville,
Florida 32601

1. Call to Order – Attendance and Determination of Quorum –the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Jennison Kipp Searcy.
Members: In person -- Kathryn Taubert, Sage Cera, Gary Kiebzak, Jackie Davis, John Nix, Jennison Kipp Searcy, and James Fulton: Dani Cuchiara and Carla Brisotto (by zoom)
Staff: Betsy Riley (Alachua County SEEDS Office), Eric Walters (GRU), Lalit Lalwani (AC PW), Jennie Ford (City of Gainesville), Sofie Aviles (EPD intern), Gus Olmos (AC Waste), Stephen Hofstetter (AC EPD), Shane Williams (AC EPD) Mike Castine (AC GM), Brian Singleton (Gville PW), Gail Mowry (Gville PW)
Guests: Tom Cunilio, Jan Brown, Summer Garrison, Thomas Hawkins, Julian Ziaggi, Zoe Hamstreet, and Amanda Kohls
2. Approval of Agenda—Motion to approve by John Nix, seconded by Kathryn Taubert, approved 7-0.
3. Review and approval of Minutes from the January 29, 2024, regular meetings— Motion made by Kathryn Taubert, seconded by Gary Kiebzak. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Final recommendations from last meeting presentations – Jackie D. moves to support Sunshine Organics bid for the ecoloop location, Seconded by Kathryn T. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Committee was impressed that they are willing to work with Broken Path and that there may be contractors that are willing to collocate with Sunshine Organics.
- Comments on Eric Walters IRP presentation
 - Jackie is concerned that IRP doesn't properly address net zero by 2045 and wants to know more about alternative models that suggest other options
 - Eric: Baseline case represents 85% reduction in emissions
 - Additional \$137 million to reach net zero emissions
 - plan will address rates as well as environment
 - Alternative model doesn't fully grasp cost and reliability requirements
 - Jennison is concerned that carbon is not priced into model and how are externalized costs handled?
 - Eric: no way to count social cost of carbon in financial model
 - What number to use?

- Jennison: is it possible to model what cost of carbon is required to make significant changes to resource selection?
 - Kathryn: How are advances in battery tech worked into IRP?
 - Eric: They aren't, IRP is just redone every 3-5 yrs
 - Sage: How is reliability built into the model?
 - N-1: Must be able to meet load requirements without largest generation source
 - 2:1: Solar must be backed by fast start firm capacity in a 2:1 ratio
 - Contribution of solar to peak capacity
5. Presentations on Flooding and legal challenges with LID on private property, presented by Shane Williams and Amanda Kohls.
- a. Shane Williams: Flooding as it pertains to citizens and infrastructure
- County will experience more extreme and intense rainfall events
 - More runoff ==> more flooding
 - What is at risk? Roads and properties
 - Disproportionate: assisted living and affordable housing and housing around lakes/rivers/streams
 - Economic losses due to decreased property values and business loss
 - displacement of residents experiencing flooding and new development
 - Modeled county wide: 14000 storm structures
 - calibrated against Hurricane Irma and Tropical Storm Elsa
 - Current, 2040, and 2070
 - Policy categories
 - Physical infrastructure
 - pump stations
 - discharge infrastructure
 - buyouts of properties
 - Communication
 - Alachua county Ready
 - Alert Alachua
 - Finance
 - Resilient FL grants
 - HMGP grants (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)
 - Planning
 - Alachua County floodplain management program
 - Provide base flood evaluations
 - Land development regulations
 - Floodplain avoidance
 - Compensating storage
 - Mitigation
 - Policy
 - FL building code with flood regulations
 - Min 4 ft above grade
 - Anchor propane tanks
 - Adopted SRWMD current rainfall conditions
 - Future conditions inundation modeling
 - Potential future actions
 - Physical infrastructure
 - Green stormwater development/Low impact development
 - installation of more permanent pumps
 - Planning
 - construct outside of floodplains

- coordinate with FEMA flood studies
 - initiate new flood studies with other jurisdictions
 - Policy
 - Runoff credit for LID in development
 - Surge capacity for water in fields and open space
 - setbacks for large floodplains
 - Communication
 - make inundation model public?
 - Finance
 - Planning strategy for protecting critical infrastructure
 - Special assessment districts for known flooded areas
 - Additional grant applications for state and federal grants
- b. Law implications (Amanda Kohls, UF law school)
- Novel legal questions
 - How can Alachua county best ensure green stormwater infrastructure can be retrofitted onto existing properties?
 - Draft Easement language
 - Doesn't affect property values much, so it is cheap to accomplish
 - Draft potential land regulations
 - Identify limitations on county power
 - Limit county and professional liability
 - Might come to a later meeting to discuss progress
6. Public engagement – Motion by Jackie to move item to April meeting, Sage C. 2nds, approved 7-0
7. Staff updates –
- a. Steve (County)
- JWCPB recommends Nov 16th (backup Nov 9th) at Blount Center for Climate Summit
 - Send speaker ideas to Steve
 - Talk about summit at April meeting
- b. Jennie (City)
- Gathered input from 2000+ people
 - Completed several interviews with WUFT
8. Suggestions for next meeting –
- a. Dan met with someone at UF AI
 - b. Next month: Update on water resources
 - c. April meeting: public outreach
 - d. Hear from Sierra Club (David Hastings) at some point (May or June?)
9. Meeting Recap and action items –
- a. Steve will provide Eric's presentation
 - b. Draft Sunshine Organics support letter (Jennison and Steve)
10. Public comments – no public comment
11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm