

Summary of Public Workshop meetings held on 3/27 and 3/28

Alachua County Growth Management staff held two public workshops related to the update of the Personal Wireless Services Facilities (PWSF) code. The first of these was held in the Grace Knight conference room on Wednesday, March 27th at 6pm.

County staff in attendance were:

Mehdi Benkhatar, Planner III Growth Management

Chris Dawson, Principal Planner, Growth Management

Angeline Jacobs, Planner, Growth Management

Missy Daniels, Assistant County Manager

From the County's consultant, Kimley-Horn were:

Mark Shelton

Blair Knighting

The only attendee from the public was Mr. Dave Boeff, President/CEO of NexTower, a local tower development company. A summary of Mr. Boeff's comments are shown below

- He has built many towers within Alachua Co. and the Jacksonville area.
- Additional requirements for towers (such as minimum acreage requirements) may eliminate many potential sites.
- Current monopole or concealed towers may not be adequate to accommodate the full bulk of the equipment needed for 5G. Only "5G-lite" may be possible.
- There is a trade-off between the capacity a tower can hold versus the coverage it can provide.
- County should look at how County property could be used for new PWSF and the process used to get a tower developer to build it (RFP has problems).
- Look at "lampshade" tower design that can hold bulkier equipment and help dissipate heat buildup.

A virtual-only public workshop was held the following day, March 28th at 6pm. However, no one from the public attended. At 6:30pm staff ended the meeting.