

**Rural Concerns Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

September 17, 2024

4:00 pm

Extension Auditorium

22712 W Newberry Road, Newberry, FL 32669

**1. Call to Order**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Rodney Clouser (Chair), Leah Compton, Janet Hearn, Micky McMillan, John Nix, Missy Norman, Dr. Cindy Sanders, Amy Van Scoik, Brent Weisman

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jordan Callaham, George Mells

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ken McMurry, Senior Planner, Growth Management

Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

Ben Chumley, Principal Planner, Growth Management

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

none

Chair Clouser called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. There were 7 members present, which was confirmed to satisfy the requirement for at least a quorum under County Advisory Board Guidelines.

Mr. Nix joined the meeting at 4:05 pm; Ms. Norman joined the meeting at 4:06 pm.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Clouser asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Dr. Sanders to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Hearn.

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. New Business**

**3.1 Review and update of Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report FY2024-2025**

Chair Clouser gave a brief introduction to the Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report. Mr. McMurry shared the document on the screen and gave an overview of the components. There was discussion by Committee members regarding goals and objectives in the draft Workplan including recommendations for modifications, additions, and deletions, which Mr. McMurry made to the document on screen. Chair Clouser asked that the item be resumed at the October meeting so that there would be time to discuss a topic from Ms. Van Scoik.

Motion was made by Ms. McMillan to resume and finish the Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report at the October meeting; seconded by Ms. Van Scoik.

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Approval of minutes for 08-20-2024 meeting**

Motion was made by Ms. Norman to approve the minutes for the 08-20-2024 meeting; seconded by Mr. Nix.

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Attendance Report**

Mr. McMurry said the current Attendance Report showed all members in compliance with the attendance policy at this time. He said there are two positions currently advertised, the vacant Alternate position and the Farm Bureau position with current term ending September 30<sup>th</sup>. He said there are currently three applications on file and staff was waiting to see if there would be an additional vacancy before taking them to the Board. Chair Clouser asked how Farm Bureau applicants were typically identified. Dr. Sanders said any member of the Farm Bureau would qualify for the position but she typically informs the Farm Bureau board of an RCAC Farm Bureau position vacancy. She said that she can make an announcement about the current vacancy at the upcoming Farm Bureau annual meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**6. Chair Comments**

Chair Clouser said the Board recently adopted the Agricultural Land Protection Strategy, which includes a new advisory board to include a member from RCAC. He asked staff to talk with Andi Christman and get any details regarding that advisory board and Mr. McMurry said they would.

**7. Committee Members Comments**

Ms. Van Scoik said there was an issue with traffic safety on State Road 26 on the east side of the County. She said State Road 26 has become a commuter route into Alachua County and there are safety concerns related to drivers passing on double yellow lines and curves and there have been crashes. She asked if there is a formal way to request better enforcement of existing traffic laws or a schedule of current enforcement.

There was discussion regarding highway traffic safety in the County, the law enforcement agencies in the County, the County Sheriff's Office rural deputy program, and general rural questions for the Sheriff's Office. Chair Clouser said the Committee could request a Sheriff's deputy to visit RCAC at a future meeting after the November elections.

**8. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting**

October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Extension Office

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:32 pm.

**APPROVED 10-15-2024**