

**Rural Concerns Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

October 15, 2024

4:00 pm

Extension Auditorium

22712 W Newberry Road, Newberry, FL 32669

1. Call to Order

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Rodney Clouser (Chair), Janet Hearn, Micky McMillan, Missy Norman, Brent Weisman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leah Compton, John Nix, Dr. Cindy Sanders, Amy Van Scoik

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken McMurry, Senior Planner, Growth Management

Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

PUBLIC PRESENT:

none

Chair Clouser called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. There were 5 members present, which was confirmed to satisfy the requirement for at least a quorum under County Advisory Board Guidelines.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

3.1 Final review and approval of Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report FY2024-2025

Chair Clouser gave a brief introduction to the Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report. Mr. McMurry shared the draft document on the screen. 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.

Motion was made by Ms. Hearn to approve the Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report FY2024-2025; seconded by Ms. McMillan.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

4.1 Discussion of potential agenda item topics for upcoming year

Chair Clouser asked for an update on the new Agricultura Lands Protection Strategy citizen board. Mr. McMurry said that staff had reached out to Andi Christman who advised that there would be more information available in a few weeks.

Mr. Weisman said that the approved Workplan includes encouraging intergovernmental coordination between the County and municipalities, and that there is a current subdivision approval by the City of Alachua that fits this topic. There was Committee discussion regarding the subdivision and related environmental issues, the regulatory structure of local government planning and regulation, public involvement, and the status of County intergovernmental coordination. Chair Clouser said that can be a topic on a future agenda.

Chair Clouser said a potential agenda topic is heirs' property and related issues in Alachua County. He said he would also like for the Committee to schedule meetings at agricultural locations in the east and west parts of the rural area. Ms. McMillan said she is interested in the topics of affordable housing in the rural area and rural health. Ms. Hearn said she has concerns about the rural response system and technical issues with 911 calls. There was also discussion about the issue of the upcoming meeting schedule of dates and the alternating of west and east locations.

4.2 Nominations and elections of officers (per RCAC Bylaws Article IV)

Chair Clouser asked if the Committee wanted to hold elections with only 5 members present and there was discussion regarding waiting for a meeting with more members present. Mr. McMurry said that per the Bylaws, elections of officers shall be held on October 1 of each fiscal year or as soon thereafter as practicable. Chair Clouser said there was flexibility to wait and asked for a motion.

Motion was made by Ms. McMillan to postpone nominations and elections of officers until the November meeting; seconded by Ms. Hearn. Chair Clouser asked the Committee to consider amending the Bylaws at a future meeting to specify how an Acting Chair would serve in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of minutes for 09-20-2024 meeting

Motion was made by Ms. Hearn to approve the minutes for the 09-20-2024 meeting; seconded by Mr. Weisman.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Attendance Report

Mr. McMurry said the current Attendance Report showed all members in compliance with the attendance policy at this time, and that the Attendance Report is always sent out with the meeting materials. He said that in addition to the two previous vacancies, Mr. Mells had submitted a resignation for a total of 3 current vacancies and 3 applications are currently on file. He said the County Commission approved a motion in September addressing membership issues and service recognition for the County advisory board program. That

motion included asking boards and committees to review the current positions in their establishing resolutions for hard to fill vacancies or other issues and make any recommendations by the end of November. There was Committee discussion regarding the current RCAC positions and their intended functions in the resolution, including how Farm Bureau applicants are typically identified and their role on the Committee. Chair Clouser said that the discussion could continue as an agenda item for November.

7. Chair Comments

There were no Chair comments.

8. Committee Members Comments

There were no Committee members comments.

9. Public Comments

There were no public present.

10. Next Meeting

Next Meeting – November 19th @ Alachua County Health Dept.

11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Hearn to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Norman.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clouser called the meeting to a close at 5:39 pm.

Approved 11-19-2024