



Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee

*Jay Rosenbek, Chair
Christopher Stoney, Vice-Chair
Summer Waters, Staff Liaison*

EPAC OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by Christopher Stoney

October 1st, 2024 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Environmental Protection Department Building, NE 1st Street, Gainesville, FL 32601
Conference Room A

EPAC Members attending in person: Jay Rosenbeck, Neesha Anderson, George Papadi, Christopher Stoney, Jan Frentzen, Bettina Moser, Blake Jacoby, Krista Kilburg

Staff attending in person: Summer Waters

Guests attending in person: Four members of the public were present, see sign in sheet for the meeting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM. Chairperson Jay Rosenbeck established the Secretary role as a rotating duty for members to fulfill each month. Vice Chair Christopher Stoney volunteered and has assumed duty for this meeting. This is the first meeting to adhere to the newly approved in-person attendance policy. There was no remote or video option.

2. Approval of the Agenda - 6:14 PM

Jay Rosenbeck motioned to approve the meeting's agenda. Blake Jacoby seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the September Minutes - 6:15 PM

Christopher Stoney motioned to approve September's meeting minutes prepared by Neesha Anderson. Neesha Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Eco-Loop Update - 6:16 PM

Gus Olmos, Alachua County Solid Waste Director, provided an update on Eco Loop and its search for tenants. Green Edge & Sunshine Compost both pitched, with Sunshine Compost being unanimously favored by all citizen action committees and then approved by Alachua County. However, Gainesville Airport objected to the approval of Sunshine Compost due to FAA's concern over potential issues with birds. Alachua County is currently accepting proposals for potential tenants that adhere to their policies outlined in the Planned Development Master Plan: waste-based industry, no smokestacks/burning, no organics or waste-to-energy industries. - Alachua County is collecting suggestions from citizen action committees on how to attract potential businesses/industries to Eco-Loop. That would include expanding or amending the policies to attract more industries.

5. Old Business - 6:46 PM

1) Tara Forest Discussion

Chair Jay Rosenbeck gave an update on EPAC's official statement against the proposed development(s) to the County Commissioners during their meeting earlier that day. The statement was well received by BoCC, with a copy being requested by Commissioners after Jay read it. Jay Rosenbeck expressed the desire to have a guest speaker to discuss Alachua County's current building & development code.

2) Tree Code Presentation Follow-up

Chair Jay Rosenbeck gave a brief overview of the tree code presentation from last meeting, and stated that we won't hear proposed changes until after the Climate Action Plan is announced. It was noted that tree policy is regulated by Growth Management, not Environmental Protection. Discussed bringing back Andrew Coniglio, Forester with Alachua County Growth Management, to answer further questions and deliver more specifics, however it was agreed that other committees were tasked with suggesting revisions to the tree code. Thus, EPAC's time is better spent on water issues.

6. Work Plan - 7:21 PM

Jay Rosenbeck gave an overview of the draft 2025 goals & objectives for the workplan and asked that EPAC members review the current (2024) Work Plan, and come to the next meeting with any feedback, revisions,

or additions. Blake Jacoby suggested revising the “Community Outreach & Equity” section to include educational outreach as it pertains to wildlife and future land development (e.g. gopher tortoise importance). Bettina Moser suggested promoting the Homegrown National Park movement and informed the committee of the Fall Horticultural Expo on Oct 19th (Alachua County Equestrian Center, Newberry) where Doug Tallamy will be the keynote speaker. Jay Rosenbeck suggested removing Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site goal, as not made much progress on its clean-up has been made since it was first added to the Work Plan. Blake Jacoby suggested moving “Waste Management” section to a different category; shuffling its goals to other categories. Jay Rosenbeck tasked EPAC members with creating their own version of the Work Plan, and bring the revised proposal to the next meeting.

7. Public Comment - 7:43 PM

Three citizens gave comments:

Citizen A asked for an overview of EPAC’s responsibilities; Jay Rosenbeck responded

Citizen B asked if EPAC’s work is seen as beneficial by the BOCC; Jay Rosenbeck & George Papadi responded

Citizen C asked how EPAC focuses its priorities; Jay Rosenbeck, George Papadi & Neesha Anderson responded. Citizen C also expressed support for Blake Jacoby’s suggestion of wildlife education outreach, and offered a suggestion that Alachua County offer shared partnership/co-ownership of property to encourage potential Eco-Loop tenants

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM