



ALACHUA COUNTY Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

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Officers: Chair Jennison Kipp Searcy

Vice Chair Barry Jacobson

Secretary Sage Cera

Staff Liaisons: Stephen Hofstetter (County)

Dan Zhu/Jennie Ford (City of Gainesville)

MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2025 – 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 – 6:05pm – Not a Quorum
Members: In person – Jennison Kipp Searcy, John Nix, John Lawson; Terry Clark, Pamela Hawkins, Sage Cera, Jackie Davis (on zoom because of several weather concerns) (Kathryn Taubert, Barry Jacobson absent)
Staff: Stephen Hofstetter (EPD), Gus Olmos (Waste), Dan Zhu (City), Mike Castine (GM), Gail Mowry (City), Jennie Ford (City), Natalie Triana (City intern)
Guests: Ellen Siegel, Jyoti Parmar, Sandy? Diana ?, Sue Blythe, Sierra Club (all on zoom)

2. Approval of January 21st Agenda and December 16 Agenda minutes postponed for lack of quorum.

3. Staff updates –
Stephen Hofstetter (County): BOCC annual report presentation moved to June 10, 2025

Dan Zhu (City): Climate Resiliency Plan for City of Gainesville was adopted last Thursday. The city has been awarded \$11.65 million for EV charging stations at 45 locations and has received 9 letters of support from various community groups.

GRU - Steve stated we may get a representative (Jamie Verschage) coming back at February meeting

4. Reviewed of the Water Chapter of Climate Action Plan.
 - a) John and Jackie appreciate equity comments
 - b) Terry (provided edits in writing to Steve): overview comments – overall good job
 - a) It was easy to read and comprehensive:
 - b) Goal statement: goal should be an end, not an action statement
 - c) Hit the nail on the head with public water supply
 - d) Watering landscape is so important to reduce
 - e) TMDL was a good thing to reference with regards to water quality
 - c) Sage: Would like to see more emphasis on how suburban land use drives up water usage due to landscaping
 - d) John Lawson: Could we eliminate the use of potable water for landscaping by, for example, 2045

- e) Jennison:
 - a) Can we map how each chapter interweaves with each other?
 - b) Assemble a list of comprehensive recommendations for bold targets
 - For instance, phase out potable water for landscaping
 - f) Pamela:
 - a) Would this chapter cover Pb testing or similar?
 - Stacy: That is perhaps more of a public health component, vs climate and water effects
 - Jennison: all these chapters are interconnected, and highlighting the vulnerability of the water infrastructure may be important
 - Jackie: Maybe when Jamie is here, we can talk about Pb in GRU infrastructure
 - g) Jennison:
 - a) Broad brush: highlighting concise visual action items for people to respond to would be good
 - Segment action items by individual, community, institutional
5. Review of Waste Chapter of Climate Action Plan
- a) Gus Olmos: This is essentially the same zero waste plan that you've seen before
 - b) Jackie: Echoing desire for concrete goals
 - c) Sage:
 - If it's sold in store, it should either be able to be disposed of by standard municipal waste streams, or the store (or an easily available disposal center) should have proper disposal available
 - Jackie: Piggybacking on this, what can we do to eliminate single use plastics?
 - d) Pamela: Food waste is a large problem, what are we doing with partner restaurants to reduce waste?
 - e) Jennison: How can we highlight stories about stores that are making it easier to be more sustainable?
 - f) John Lawson
 - Advance "Pay as you throw" program - Smallest is free, but increases in tiered way
 - How do companies apply extended producer responsibility - Alachua County procurement?
 - Ban landfilled organic waste by 2045 for instance
 - g) Terry: As a resident, recycling is very confusing - How do we simplify? Create a market for recyclables? Is this something UF can do?
 - h) Gus: We are getting more composting in the county
 - i) Jackie:
 - How can we incentivize companies to use cardboard instead of plastic wherever possible?
 - This can become an equity issue when cardboard packaged foods are more expensive than plastic packaged foods
 - j) Jennison - How can we push back through Publix on producers?
 - k) John: The producers can shift, but they will charge extra money, making equity an issue
 - l) Pamela: Knowledge is power. Do producers and consumers know the harmful effects of their products and packaging?
 - m) Terry:
 - At the climate summit, there was a group that discussed the cost of negative externalities
 - How do we apply that cost to the producers, rather than society?

6. Review of Natural Resources Chapter of Climate Action Plan

Andi Christman: The chapter covers land conservation, development, tree coverage, etc.

a) Terry:

- This chapter highlights lots of positive initiatives
- The use of certain terms (adaptation, mitigation, etc.) slightly muddies the language - Use the terms, and then clarify
- Put the tree protection into context? The county is doing a lot, but how do we quantify and save the most important trees? Development still happens, so how do we show tree protection happening, how do we message about trees?

b) Jackie: Chapter was excellent, wants to see timelines on other initiatives, not just land conservation

c) John Nix: How does AG land feature in this discussion; how do we quantify tree use efficiency to the environment?

d) Sage: How do we focus development on urban core? Infill development on parking lots, with robust transit options

e) Pamela: Again, clarify the terms used in the climate plan, and how they are used.

f) Jennison: Highlight the statistics tied to the value of a tree

g) Sage: How are we working to increase our part of the 21% of greenhouse gasses that could be sequestered by the natural climate solutions mentioned?

Andi: The sequestration will not be included in the greenhouse gas survey, but may be an action item for the future

h) John N: Replacing AG land with buildings is worse for carbon

i) Terry: Personal preference: chapters should be in 3rd person pronouns

7. Suggest items for February, 2025 (Tuesday) regular meeting:

- Review Flooding, Energy, Land Use and Transportation CAP Chapters

8. Member recap, action items and member comments – Recap given by Sage, no member comments.

9. Public comments –

a) Natalie T - A few suggestions:

- Highlighting priority actions in a standard way across chapters
- Definitions for accessibility
- Pull in data from vulnerability studies in other chapters, not just natural resources
- Equity: how do we assure accountability in the equity portion
- Priority actions need to highlight how equity will be considered in each case
- Public education should be mentioned as a priority action

b) Sue B - Interfaith Climate Group: developing a story about a climate caravan journeying around Alachua County

- Can we assign an intern to coordinate with county outreach for community meetings, so they can reach out to schools and faith groups

c) Dan Zhu: Wants to recognize Natalie T. for her help with community organization and grant applications

d) Jyoti Parmer - How does DeSantis government affect the writing of this document?

- Steve: Politics was not considered during the crafting of the document, but it may affect the final release

10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm