

DRAFT
Rural Concerns Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2025

4:00 pm

Extension Auditorium

22712 W Newberry Road, Newberry, FL 32669

1. Call to Order

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Dr. Rodney Clouser (Chair), Dr. Jacobi Bedenfield, Lyman Conover, Janet Hearn, Sarah Luther, Micky McMillan (Vice Chair), John Nix, Dr. Cindy Sanders, Brent Weisman, Kelsey Waters

Virtual: Tyrone Johnson, Missy Norman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken McMurry, Senior Planner, Growth Management, *in person*

Ben Chumley, Principal Planner, Growth Management, *virtual*

PUBLIC PRESENT:

None

Chair Clouser called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. There were 9 members present in person, which was confirmed to satisfy the requirement for at least a quorum under County Advisory Board Guidelines, and 2 members present virtually. Chair Clouser said that, per the Guidelines, Mr. Johnson as Alternate member can vote today. There were no members of the public present.

Mr. McMurry distributed copies of the revised Advisory Board Guidelines approved by the County Commission on 10/14/2025 to the members physically present and explained the new requirements for remote participation by advisory board members. He said that Missy Norman was requesting remote participation today due to a family member's death, and that Mr. Johnson is participating remotely today through a County-approved disability accommodation. Motion was made by Mr. Nix that extraordinary circumstances exist to permit remote participation by Missy Norman at today's meeting; seconded by Ms. Hearn.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Clouser asked for the agenda to be approved by consensus and there was no objection.

3. Welcome New Member

Mr. McMurry said that at their meeting last week the County Commission appointed two applicants to fill 3-year terms on RCAC; Sarah Luther was appointed to the Actively Involved in Agriculture and/or Silviculture position and Dr. Clouser was reappointed to the UF IFAS position. He said that all regular and alternate positions on the Committee are now filled.

4. Public Comments

There were no public present.

5. New Business

5.1 Nominations and Elections of Officers (per RCAC Bylaws Article IV)

Motion was made by Dr. Sanders that the current slate of officers remain the same with their consent; seconded by Mr. Conover. Dr. Clouser and Ms. McMillan consented to serve as chair and vice-chair another year.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Waters joined the meeting in person at 4:15 pm. Chair Clouser said that, with all regular members now present, if there is a vote then Mr. Johnson as the Alternate member would not vote.

5.2 Review and Approval of RCAC Annual Workplan & Accomplishments Report: FY2025-2026

Mr. McMurry shared on the screen the draft Annual Workplan with the comments that members had emailed to staff. There were discussion and questions by Committee members regarding the draft Workplan goals and objectives; potential revisions; the comments that members had emailed to staff; and how RCAC carries out its mission (e.g., review, evaluate, and advise the County Commission on the County's rural programs). Mr. McMurry provided general updates on the County's small farm support programs and broadband initiative.

Ms. Waters left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover to continue the discussion to the November meeting; seconded by Dr. Sanders.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of minutes for 08-19-2025 meeting

Motion was made by Ms. Hearn to approve the minutes for the 08-19-2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Nix.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Attendance Report

All members previously received the Attendance Report, which showed all members in compliance with the attendance policy at this time.

8. Chair Comments

There were no chair comments.

9. Staff Updates

Mr. McMurry described key points of the remainder of the Advisory Board Guidelines revisions. He gave status updates on the proposed County regulations on agritourism offsite impacts and poultry on single-family parcels that RCAC previously discussed and made comments on to staff.

10. Committee Members Comments

Ms. McMillan said that at the County volunteer breakfast John Nix received appreciation for his service.

11. Public Comments

There were no public present.

12. Next Meeting

Next Meeting – November 18th @ Health Dept.

13. Adjournment

Chair Clouser called the meeting to a close at 6:27 pm.

Approved 11-18-2025