

Minutes
Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday May 12, 2022
E. Jay Carlson Building
Large Conference Room
18400 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Dodd, Chairman
Nigel Morris, Vice-Chairman
Lindsay Harrington
David Kemeny
Scott Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Ryals
Joel Beverly
Joe Powell

GUEST SPEAKERS

Brandon Moody

STAFF

Commissioner Tiseo's Admin. Assistant Morgan Cook – Commission Liaison
Shaun Cullinan, Planning & Zoning Official
Marie Valeus, Administrative Assistant II

GUESTS

Steve Smith, Gulf Citrus Growers Association
Andy Neuhofer, Florida Bureau Federation
Dave Kern, TRB

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The **May 12,2022** the meeting of the ***Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee*** was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by ***Chairman Dodd***. ***Meeting was called to order late due to non-quorum attendance***

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dodd called for a motion on the minutes of the January 13, 2022 ANRAC Meeting. Nigel Morris *made a motion to approve, seconded by David Kemeny; the motion passed unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Dodd announces Joanne Vernon was unable to make this meeting.

Membership - Chair Dodd asks **Steve Smith** to serve on the committee. He asks for a motion, gets a second by Lindsay Harrington, and passes unanimously.

Chair Dodd entertains a motion to vote **Andy Neuhofer** in, Lindsay Harrington gives a second and passes unanimously.

Chair Dodd announces that we do not currently have a quorum but would like **Mr. Moody** to continue with his presentation, everyone agreed.

Mr. Moody- Water Quality Update

Mr. Moody begins presentation on water quality, impairments, monitoring and future water quality assessments. Mr. Moody goes over what he was given to do. He is to design and implement a water quality monitoring strategy and development of a water quality management strategy; A document on how to improve and protect water quality around the county. He mentions potentially we as a county are going to address impaired waters and assure that other waters do not become impaired. Mr. Moody goes over what other counties in the area have started to implement. Mr. Moody uses the map to show impaired water bodies in our area. Mr. Moody describes the process and determination of how a body of water becomes impaired.

Mr. Harrington ask **Mr. Moody** to point out the county lines and S.R. 31 on the map.

Mr. Moody goes back to his presentation and answers a question from **Mr. Morris** regarding impairment and bacteria. Mr. Morris says he would be happy to sit down and go over mapping with him for water flow. Mr. Moody says focusing on what is coming into Charlotte County from Sarasota County, North Port, and what is going into the Bays and into Charlotte Harbor, by looking at the drainage ways along Burnt Store, Alligator Creek, and various canals that run from North Port into Coco Plum, then from Coco Plum into the Harbor.

Mr. Moody brings up public feed back and that there was very little attention paid to Ag(Agriculture) contributing to water quality. Of the three workshops that were held, there was only one question about AG impacting the region. Doing this study will answer this question. Most concerns come from what is Mosaic doing, People are interested in nutrients and radium. People want more water samples. Mr. Moody says Environmental Science Associates and Genesee Environmental will be working together to get samples.

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Andy Neuhofer asks question about bacteria and water quality and if development has an impact. **Mr. Moody** answers his question with a yes, and that we need to look inward because it's always this guy, that guy and pointing fingers. The message that he is trying to gear towards is all kinds of activity affect water quality and we need to re-look at fertilizers, how people maintain their lawns, educating people who move to Florida and don't understand nutrients for soil. Mr. Moody states that this is why TMDL and the reasonable assurance plan will help.

DEP on May 24th has a workshop online for TMDLs Explaining the process of how they are going to determine impaired waterways.

Mr. Moody goes back to the map going over the impaired waterways. Nature of impairment, what causes the impairment, what are the sources of the impairment. Now we must wait for DEP's schedule to address contribution to develop a plan.

Reasonable Assurance Plan is a newish (20-25 year) process that DEP has in place to help impairment. The plan is held by stake holders in the area. Reasonable Assurance Plan is volunteer, however, once the plan is developed, submitted, and approved by DEP it is binding.

Mr. Morris brings up The B map process.

Mr. Moody says hopefully in June we will see if DEP says we need to go the Reasonable Insurance Plan route or try to get DEP to do TMDLs sooner. The pros and cons are given to the Commissioners, and they make the decision. Then Mr. Moody moves forward with consultation with other agencies.

Andy Neuhofer says he was around Shell and Joshua, and Prairie Creek with a lot of AG people involved back in the day.

Mr. Harrington ask **Mr. Moody** who he reports to? Mr. Moody responds with Clair Jubb, The Assistant Administrator. She then reports directly to the Commissioners, but the Commissioners provide the direction for what we ultimately do. Mr. Harrington questioned if Mr. Moody communicates any of his findings to anyone else, Mr. Moody clarifies what exactly Mr. Harrington is asking. Mr. Moody responds, with it would be irresponsible of him to go to the Commissioners before speaking to other agencies. He does talk to outside agencies; they communicate and make a plan then go to the Commissioners. Mr. Moody says he talks to ANRAC, and other outside agencies to gather feedback to see what everyone's concerns are so that collectively a plan can then be brought to the Commissioners. Mr. Moody is gathering information on water quality for one of two paths, Path A- TMDLs or Path B- Reasonable Assurance Plans.

Mr. Morris asks about the DEP workshop, if it is DEP looking at the whole state and if Charlotte Harbor is one part.

Mr. Moody says he would like to meet with others in the area to gather information.

Andy Neuhofer asks about doing a Reasonable Assurance Insurance Plan. Mr. Moody goes into detail about CHNP and the different plans. He also talks about The RA and who hires consultants, who puts all of that together. Mr. Moody clarifies that and his role when a plan is agreed upon. Mr. Morris asks how everything is getting paid for? Mr. Moody says the monitoring is getting paid for by the Storm Water MSBUs

Mr. Moody shares that the start of this first phase of monitoring and sample collecting is the start of a long-term plan. Mr. Moody goes back to the map in his presentation

Steve Smith says that people we have gathering samples isn't getting enough and asks **Mr. Moody** to clarify. Mr. Moody also says to save money he can ask others that are already collecting to grab an extra one for him. He explains how some samples are collected and why auto samplers wont work well in some areas. Mr. Moody talks about collecting bi-weekly instead of monthly. Chair Dodd interrupts and calls the meeting to order because we now have a quorum. Chair Dodd asks if there are any recommendations at this time, Mr. Morris says it is premature.

The 5th member showed up at 9:23 A.M. so the meeting officially started

Andy Neuhofer says yes that some more meetings need to be done.

David Kemeny says AG just wants to be left alone and it seems like a lot of nonsense to him. His concerns are that fingers are going to be pointed and that this is a big project. That in neighborhoods they use fertilizer and that contributes to water quality. People accuse AG and it's a misconception because fertilizer cost money and AG people try not to spend money.

Mr. Moody addresses run off and discharge in residential and AG. He wants to tell the right story regarding AG's contribution to water quality.

Mr. Harrington says that homeowners are not going to use less fertilizer, and that it will be hard to regulate.

Steve Smith talks about septic tank contribution. Mr. Moody says yes that is a concern and that will be part of the study, and the start of sewer expansion.

Mr. Moody says he will get and email list for everyone.

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Old Business

None

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF COMMENTS

Shaun Cullinan addresses green card AG and getting with the Property Appraisals for AG Classification clarification.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Harrington Right to Farm Act and AG Land Classification

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Property AG Classification- green card exemption
Right to Farm Act
FGCU Minor Degree in managing the business part of farming

NEXT MEETING

❖ July 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the E. Jay Carlson Building large conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dodd asked for a motion to adjourn; seconded by Nigel Morris; the Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.



Andy Dodd
Chairman

Minutes of the Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Approved this 8 day of Sept 2022.