

Alachua County Advisory Boards
Annual Workplan/Accomplishments Report
FY2012-13

Date: September 18, 2012

Board/Committee Name: Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

Chairman: Ward Scott

Staff Support: Holly Banner, Regina Williams, and other departments as requested for presentations.

Board Liaison: Ken Zeichner

Brief History of Committee: The Committee was established by Resolution 03-34 on April 8, 2003 to provide guidance and advice to the Board regarding rural concerns and issues within Alachua County. The Committee has been extended by the BoCC four times, the most recent of which occurred on August 25, 2009, where Resolution 09-85 granted the Committee an eight year extension to September 30, 2017.

Mission Statement: The Advisory Committee shall establish the importance of our rural, unincorporated agricultural and historic settlements; assist in the development and evaluation of policies and programs affecting the rural areas of the County; represent the rural areas in the County's various community planning processes and hearings; and assist in the recognition and determination of the needs of the County's rural residents and advising the Board accordingly.

Major Accomplishments in FY2011-12:

- Held eight meetings through September 18, 2012
- Established a Work Plan in September 2011 consisting of the following topics:
- Continue education efforts for the County Commission and citizens of Alachua County on agricultural issues and other issues affecting the rural area including support of local markets, local farmers and tours
- Make recommendations to BOCC on any Agricultural Issues and other issues affecting the rural area that arise
- Participate in development of Unified Land Development Code amendments to implement new Comprehensive Plan policies on local food production & urban agriculture
- Continued discussion of the GRU Biomass Plant, possibilities for a local Carbon Exchange Program and other energy conservation methods that may impact the agriculture community and/or the rural area
- Evaluate potential use of Rural Lands Stewardship Program
- Provide oversight for the following:
 - County water supply issues
 - Stormwater issues
 - Fire services issues
 - Implementation of County's Transfer of Development Rights Program
 - Fairgrounds development project
 - Invasive species control programs conducted by the County

Major Accomplishments in FY 2010-2011 (continued):

- Received presentations and provided input on:
 - Fairground Relocation Proposal by the City of Newberry, Keith Ashby, City Manager
 - Alachua County Forever Cattle Grazing Business Plan by Ramesh Buch, Land Conservation Manager for ACF Program
 - Alachua County/IFAS Extension Agriculture Tour by Cindy Sanders, Alachua County Extension Director
 - Special Assessment Districts for alternative surface treatments on unimproved roads by Dave Cerlanek, County Engineer and Michael Fay, Assistant Public Works Director
 - Proposed amendments to the Unified Land Development Code relating to Agricultural Uses by Growth Management Staff
 - Alachua County Transportation System Surtax Proposal by Dave Cerlanek, County Engineer
- Submitted comments to the County Commission on the following items:
 - City of Newberry's Fairground Relocation Proposal
 - Repairs needed to current Fairground in advance of the Alachua County Youth Fair and Livestock Show
 - Comments on the Unified Land Development Code relating to installation of farm fences

Goals & Objectives for FY2012-13:

- Held eight meetings through September 18, 2012
- Established a Work Plan in September 2011 consisting of the following topics:
- Continue education efforts for the County Commission and citizens of Alachua County on agricultural issues and other issues affecting the rural area including support of local markets, local farmers and tours
- Make recommendations to BOCC on any Agricultural Issues and other issues affecting the rural area that arise
- Monitor implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code on rural lands and relating to agriculture and local food production
- Continued discussion of the GRU Biomass Plant, possibilities for a local Carbon Exchange Program and other energy conservation methods that may impact the agriculture community and/or the rural area
- Continue to promote and coordinate education of Best Management Practices for agriculture producers, governmental organizations and citizens of Alachua County.
- Monitor management of Alachua County Forever properties, including development and implementation of business plans for timber harvesting, cattle grazing and hunting leases.
- Provide oversight for the following:
 - County water supply issues
 - Stormwater issues
 - Fire services issues
 - Fairgrounds development project
 - Invasive species control programs conducted by the County
 - Feral hog management