

MINUTES OF ENRAC

MARCH 8, 2004

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Joe Jacobsen, Elizabeth Layton, Craig Murray, Anne Hallum, Robin Bryant, Andrea Lux

GUESTS AND STAFF:

Pete Thornton and Chuck Luther of DOH, Mark Garrett of Kirkland Sod, Tom Carey of Volusia County Environmental Management

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Anne Hallum called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm at the TCK Administration Building, Deland.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Craig Murray and seconded by Elizabeth Layton to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2004 meeting. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Craig asked about the ENRAC resolution revocation. Tom read part of resolution 2003-189 and passed it to Craig. The resolution dissolves ENRAC from a council-appointed committee to one that is at the discretion of the "appropriate administrative officials" in County government.

Elizabeth asked about by-laws for the committee. Tom explained that the by-laws that existed for the ENRAC are no longer valid since the Council dissolved the committee.

On the Waterwise Draft, Tom explained that the proposed dates for taking it to the PLDRC and Council are April 13 and May 6 respectively. Pete is looking for a July 1 start up date for issuing permits and doing inspections.

Joe asked how the ordinance would address existing systems. A discussion ensued on how, in several places in the ordinance, existing systems are addressed.

The committee also discussed "substantial irrigation modification", a sunset provision for existing systems, and how to enforce on existing systems.

The committee felt that enforcing on existing systems is too onerous and has too many loopholes.

Pete stated that 20% or a statistically significant number of inspections would be performed by DOH staff. The remaining would be covered by the contractor's self-certification.

Pete also mentioned that the money generated from permit fees would be used to fund an on-site visit education program with irrigation system owners.

Chuck answered Craig's question on how the Department of Health got involved in the well/pump/irrigation inspection program.

The committee feels strongly that the current watering hours must be enforced and entered into a lengthy discussion into the matter. Chuck raised an idea about adding a charge to irrigation owner's tax bills. Every 5-years or so they would get an inspection to ensure their system is functioning properly. After more discussion, Tom shared an idea of permitting irrigation users using the County's current permitting system.

The committee would like:

- Legal to re-visit the possibility of having irrigations inspections when a property undergoes a real estate transaction;
- To express their opposition to a percentage of modification (50%) as a trigger to requiring a permit and for the existing property to then fall under Waterwise;
- To add an education component.

Pete doesn't see how the ordinance can function without a variance section. The committee agreed.

Pete was also concerned that alternatives like cisterns were left out. Tom pointed out that they're not prohibited in the ordinance.

Pete would like citation authority for Waterwise and is also willing to enforce the water restrictions.

Joe and Pete thought the well/pump/irrigation ordinance and waterwise should be combined.

Andrea said that the permit idea that Tom brought forward was a good idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom mentioned that the Halifax/Indian River Cleanup and the St. Johns River Cleanup would be April 3 and May12 respectively.

Anne would like to have a speaker from county government speak to the committee on urban growth boundaries.

The committee agreed to next meet on April 19.

The committee would like Steve to explain ENRAC's role in light of the Council's action to dissolve the committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Carey
Staff Liaison