

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) met at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 23, 2009 in the County Administration Building B, Conference Room B1-501, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Robert Adair, Jr., Associated Industry Appointee; Kevin O'Dare, Vegetable Industry Appointee; Rusty Banack, Horticulture Appointee; Shawn Sexton, Cattle Industry Appointee; Gary Pressley, Associated Industry Appointee; and Dan Chellemi, Irrigation Appointee. Absent was E. Ray Smith, Citrus Appointee (unexcused); and Commissioner Liaison Wesley S. Davis (excused).

Also present were IRC Staff: Bob Keating, Community Development Director; Roland DeBlois, Environmental Planning Chief; Bill Schutt, Senior Planner; Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agricultural Extension Service; and Misty L. Horton, Commissioner Assistant, District 1.

Others present were: Ralph Monticello, Indian River Land Trust; Richard Baker, Audubon; Lex Kromhout, Grower/Rancher; Mike Ziegler, Ag Resource Management; Jessica Pace, Charter Student; Dean Ward and Dan Flaherty, Southeast Carbon; Clay Henderson, Holland & Knight.

You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/AAC/2009.htm>. Please note listed at the end of each agenda item refers to time on the recorded minutes.

Any residents interested in serving on a board or committee, an educational tool to gain an understanding of State of Florida laws regarding government in the sunshine, public records, and ethics is available for review on the IRC website - http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/Sunshine_Presentation.pdf.

Call to Order

Chairman Adair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. He then requested the Committee allow the agenda to be presented out of order, as well as consideration of an additional item under Other Business regarding a news release concerning Congressman Adam Putnam's call for aggressive effort to save nation's citrus crop.

Chairman Adair announced Commissioner Liaison Wesley Davis sent his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting due to attending Florida Association of Counties Advanced Commissioner Educational Program in Gainesville.

Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2009

ON MOTION BY Mr. Banack, SECONDED BY Mr. Pressley, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009. (2:06)

Chairman Adair announced at the direction of Commissioner Liaison Wesley Davis, it was necessary for him to step down as Chairman of the Committee with reason directed by Resolution 2003-125 establishing the committee limited the Chair to two 1-year terms; wherein Resolution No. 2003-125 modified the original Resolution allowing an additional 1-year term as Chair; in turn allowing another member the opportunity and experience.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (2:10)

Mr. Banack nominated Kevin O'Dare as Chairman and Mr. O'Dare nominated Shawn Sexton as Chairman.

A MOTION BY Mr. Banack, SECONDED BY Mr. Sexton, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to elect Kevin O'Dare as Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2009.

Clay Henderson, Holland & Knight Topic: Preservation of Rural Lands

Mr. Adair introduced Clay Henderson, Attorney, Holland & Knight, as the speaker for the Preservation of Agriculture & Rural Open Space.

Mr. Henderson provided direction to obtain the necessary tools and resources to utilize and adapt within the Indian River County agricultural community, including innovative planning techniques for conservation easements. A copy of Mr. Henderson's PowerPoint presentation is on file with the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Adair, SECONDED BY Mr. Chellemi, it was recommend for the County Commission's consideration a workshop or a meeting forum to discuss the benefits of Transfer of Development Rights as a means to assist in sustaining agriculture in the County.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Mr. Adair amended his Motion by replacing "Transfer Development Rights (TDR)" with "appropriate smart growth tools to include TDRs, Purchase of Development Rights, Easements, Partnerships, Rural Lands Stewardship, Rural Clusters, Rural Overlay, etc., for overall ecological sustainability of our community resources".

The motion was restated.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Adair, SECONDED BY Mr. Chellemi, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners consideration for a workshop or a meeting forum to discuss the benefits of appropriate smart growth tools to include Transfer Development Rights, Purchase of Development Rights, Easements, Partnerships, Rural Lands Stewardship, Rural Clusters, Rural Overlay, etc., for overall ecological sustainability of our community resources. (3:25)

Other Business (3:35)

Mr. Adair provided a handout of a news release entitled "Putnam Calls for Aggressive Effort to Save Nation's Citrus Crop", a copy of which is on file with the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Banack, SECONDED BY Mr. Adair, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners draft a letter in support of Congressman Adam Putnam's proposal to increase funding of \$64 million to coordinate a national effort against greening, to expand pest control and suppress pest activities, to provide expanded control, mitigation, detection and surveillance tools, as well as diagnostic research to be split between California, Texas and Florida. (3:50)

Mr. Rusty Banack leaves at 3:50 p.m.

Dan Flaherty, Southeastern Carbon Services
Topic: Carbon Credit Program for Range /Ranch Land

Dean Ward, Southeastern Carbon Services introduced his colleague, Mr. Dan Flaherty, Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Flaherty provided information regarding carbon credits and carbon trading. He directed anyone interested in this program to www.southeastcarbon.com for further information.

No Action required.

Election of Vice Chairman (3:57)

ON MOTION BY Mr. Sexton, SECONDED BY Mr. Chellemi, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to elect Robert Adair, Jr. as Vice Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2009.

Other Matters from the Public

Mr. Mike Ziegler mentioned he had a level of urgency to remind the Committee of their huge responsibility to provide information, ideas, and maintain active dialog with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Vice Chairman Adair responded it was his sense from the last two years it was easier to bring information to this committee, get a consensus and get activity going within the Committee than bringing the matters before the BCC and then getting the BCC to act on those matters. He further committed himself to assist the committee to get any information to the BCC level.

Vice Chairman Adair requested Lex Kromhout, as a member of the SWCD, Christine Kelly-Begazo, as the County's extension agent, and Mike Ziegler, with Agriculture Resources Management to encourage the Committee to work collaboratively in bringing matters before the BCC.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.