

## AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) met at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 27, 2014 in the County Administration Building B, Conference Room B1-501, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

You may view the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - <http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/AAC/2014.htm>.

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](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/Sunshine_Presentation.pdf).

Present were Chairman **Louis Schacht**, Vegetables Appointee; and **E. Ray Smith**, Citrus Appointee; Vice Chairman **Robert Adair, Jr.**, Associated Industry Appointee; **Ruben Koch**, Irrigation Appointee; **David Howard**, Horticulture Appointee; **Gary Pressley**, Associated Industry Appointee; and Commissioner Liaison **Wesley Davis**.

Absent was **Sean Sexton**, Cattle Industry Appointee (excused)

Also present were IRC Staff: **Christine Kelly-Begazo**, Extension Director, Agricultural Extension Service; **Parker Platts**, Multicounty Citrus Agent, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida; and **Misty L. Pursel**, Commissioner Assistant, Districts 1 and 5.

Others present were: **Casey Jensen**, Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Land-Trust; **Ralph Monticello**, Indian River Land Trust; **Jill Grimaldi**, CDM Smith; **Catherine Ziegler** and **Mike Ziegler**, Ag Resource Management; **Lex Kromhout**, Interested Party.

### Call to Order

Chairman Schacht called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and noted a quorum was present.

Chairman Schacht welcomed Parker Platts, the newly hired Multicounty Citrus Agent, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida.

**Election of Officers** – *Action Required*

**ON MOTION BY Vice Chairman Adair, SECONDED BY Mr. Pressley, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to re-elect Louis Schacht as Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2014.**

**ON MOTION BY Vice Chairman Adair, SECONDED BY Chairman Schacht, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to elect Ruben Koch as Vice Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for 2014.**

**Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2013** - *Action Required*

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Smith, SECONDED BY Mr. Howard, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of August 15, 2013 as presented.**

**Other Business**

- a) Update from Parker Platts, Multicounty Citrus Agent, IFAS, University of Florida

Mr. Platts shared the work he had been involved with over the past five months, and what was coming up in the near future. He told members to provide him with their emails in order for him to electronically send out his newsletter.

A discussion ensued regarding tree greening and reports of good results from using antibiotics in the irrigation water to lower bicarbonates and helped with the health of the tree.

- b) Update from Christine Kelly-Begazo, IRC Extension Director, on Extension Services, Programs & Resources

Mrs. Kelly-Begazo thanked the Committee for supporting the partial funding of the multicounty citrus agent position.

Mrs. Kelly-Begazo reported activities the Extension Services were involved with, including global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program training for the packinghouses and grove workers, as well as Green Industries Best Management

Practices (GIBMP) classes for the State of Florida Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certification in conjunction with the fertilizer ordinance.

A discussion ensued regarding concerns with the statewide GIBMP's research publications, regulations and implementation for homeowners. A consensus was noted that regulations did not back up documentation/implementation creating a quandary of science-based research running contrary to regulations.

Mr. Adair suggested Extension Agents proactively discuss with Dr. Thomas Obreza, Senior Associate Dean of Extension, and Dr. Kelly Morgan, Southwest Florida Research & Education Center and bring these issues forward, as well as provide Dr. Obreza with the new research being conducted.

Mrs. Kelly-Begazo offered to provide committee members with contact information for their individually targeted industries, the name of those who were working on the specific GIBMPs, so committee members could write to them.

Vice Chairman Koch asked with the directive coming from the State, would this involve the Clean Water Act with regard to the water quality and thought that research would need to begin in determining what the State's requirements would be and to see how the GIBMP's complied.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Adair, SECONDED BY Mr. Howard, the committee requested Mrs. Kelly-Begazo and Mr. Platts to invite Dr. Thomas Obreza, Senior Associate Dean of Extension, Dr. Kelly Morgan, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, to attend the next Agriculture Advisory Committee to provide an update on the status of the 2014 Green Industries Best Management Practices program.**

Under discussion, Mr. Ziegler mentioned two other persons important to invite to attend the next AAC meeting were Bill Bartnick, Florida Department of Agriculture and Mike Thomas, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Adair amended his motion to include Messrs. Bartnick and Thomas in the invitation to attend the next AAC meeting and provide a status of the 2014 GIBMP.

**THE CHAIRMAN CALLED THE QUESTION**, and the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to invite Dr. Thomas Obreza, Senior Associate Dean of Extension, Dr. Kelly Morgan, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Bill Bartnick, Florida Department of Agriculture and Mike Thomas, Florida Department of Environmental Protection to attend the next Agriculture Advisory Committee to provide an update on the status of the 2014 Green Industries Best Management Practices program.

Mrs. Kelly-Begazo reminded the Committee of the Extension Office' involvement with 4-H at the Indian River County Fair.

c) Update from Bob Adair on County's Alternative Water Supply

Mr. Adair presented a PowerPoint entitled "Addressing the Needs for An Alternative Water Supply", a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Adair told the Committee on January 28, 2014, Commissioner Bob Solari brought forward a request to the Board of County Commissioners to direct staff, Vincent Burke, Director of Utilities, to provide a feasibility study to develop a fresh surface water system complete with necessary reservoir system for an alternative water supply for the County. He advised approximately one week later, the Soil and Water Conservation District Board (the District) discussed and agreed by motion, to have a meeting bringing the County Commission, Utility Department, and key stakeholders together to discuss the feasibility of developing a fresh water system complete with the proper quantity and appropriate storage system that could be used not only for potable water, but for agricultural water and possibly for recreational use.

Mr. Adair mentioned a concern regarding when a drawdown occurred by a landowner with a consumptive use permit, primarily in the northeastern portion of Indian River County, which may be adversely impacted when those wells went into production and were operational. He told the Committee on February 10, 2014, the District came forward with their draft District Water Supply Plan (the Plan). He discussed some of the errors mentioned in the Plan and reviewed some of the facts surrounding agricultural issues needing the Committee's attention when making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

The disposition from the February 4, 2014 agenda item under Commissioner Bob Solari's matters was read into the record:

The Indian River County Board of County Commissioners directed staff to do the following:

- Review the conclusions of the 2007 Alternate Water Supply Study which suggests having a surface water supply for the future;
- Enter into dialogue with the St. John's River Water Management District to obtain the expertise that they can offer;
- Design a long term system;
- Analyze the usage of water in the County;
- Bring the Board a proposal for a feasibility study to develop a fresh surface water system complete with necessary reservoir system; and
- Include in the proposal a request for funding from the St. John's River Water Management.

Mr. Adair requested key professionals from the Soil & Water Conservation District, the Agriculture Advisory Committee, and the United States Diagnostic Standards, be included when preparing the proposal for the feasibility study to develop a fresh surface water system.

Chairman Schacht left the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Vice Chairman Koch chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Casey Jensen, Senior Project Manager from Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Land Trust, LLC (CBNLT), located in Richmond, Virginia introduced himself and advised CBNLT had been working on projects with innovated ideas in Virginia, such as natural resource management, agricultural management and planning.

Mr. Jensen said as a concerned citizen (his family has lived in the Vero Beach area for the past 20 years) appreciated hearing what the AAC had to say and said CBNLT would offer to assist Indian River County with some of the issues CBNLT worked through in the past and to assist the Indian River Lagoon, St. John's Water Management District, the State of Florida, the County, the Agricultural and Urban Resource departments to come together to meet the same goals.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.