

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 8, 2003

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairwoman, Ann Hallum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Ann Hallum
Craig Murray
Robin Bryant
Elizabeth Layton
Andrea Lux
John Tyler
Joe Jacobsen

Attending were representatives from the sod, irrigation, nursery, landscaping, and building industries. Also present were members of staff: Tom Carey, Steve Kintner, Kelli McGee, and Martha Shaw.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of August 11, 2003. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Hallum advised the committee and public that ENRAC has been working on the Water Wise Landscape Ordinance since August of 2002 and that 3 workshops had been held by Environmental Management within the last month. Dr. Hallum requested staff give an update on the workshops. Staff reported that there had been a good response to all 3 workshops and comments were summarized e-mailed & faxed to members. Joe Jacobsen gave a presentation at all 3 workshops, which was very helpful. Brian Walker will give the same presentation for ENRAC tonight from Florida Irrigation Society. The general consensus of the workshops was: increase education and enforcement and adopt of Appendix F. The greatest controversy is over the percentages of high, medium, and low irrigation areas allowed on a lot. Workshop suggestions have been added to the matrix. The matrix will be converted to a draft ordinance as soon as possible.

Craig Murray had requested minutes from each workshop be e-mailed to him before the next ENRAC meeting, so he would have the opportunity to review what had transpired. Staff responded by telling the committee that the draft matrix had been amended and posted to the web after each workshop, incorporating the comments.

Brian Walker with Florida Irrigation Society gave a power point presentation “Saving Water to Ensure Our Future.” What we can do to save water: 1. Improve irrigation system design. 2. Adopt Appendix F of the Florida Building Code. 3. Require the use of pressure regulating sprinkler heads. 4. Consider the use of central irrigation technology in future planned unit developments. 5. Enforce the current rain sensor ordinance.

After the presentation, a discussion ensued with everyone stating their views until the Chair requested that committee members speak first and then members of the public.

The members discussed:

- A dual meter system and setting a limit on the number of gallons per household.
- Should we adopt Appendix F in addition to, or instead of requiring maximum percentages irrigated area?
- The enforcement of existing ordinances.
- Use of native vegetation.
- Public education of the issue.
- Irrigation system inspections at the time of property re-sale to make sure irrigation system is working and to advise the buyer of water rules and how system works.

The audience suggested:

- Mandatory use of reclaimed water where available.
- Enforcement of water restrictions and to move enforcement duties to Environmental Management.
- Leave out the percentage requirements.
- Water audit for excessive users with a fine and/or school required.

A motion was made and seconded to change the low use area to an un-irrigated area. Motion carried 5 to 2.

The chair asked if any other definitions needed to be clarified. Do you want to measure water use regions by gallons or inches or do you want both? How is it going to be enforced? Joe Jacobsen feels it would be easier done if we used gallons per minute. Tom Carey felt that inches would be easier to enforce. Craig Murray still feels we should double meter, but a discussion ensued on how to install a meter on a private well and then cut it off after a certain number of gallons were used.

Attorney Glen Storch complemented staff and industry on working together to reach consensus thus far. Mr. Storch recommended leaving out the percentage requirements and if ENRAC is not satisfied after 2 years, they could add percentage restrictions. Dr. Hallum felt that the percentages should remain and they should revisit the issue in 2 years if its not working. Mr. Storch is concerned that none of the working groups or ENRAC had previously mentioned adopting a “no water area.”

A motion was made and seconded to request Environmental Management to pursue water audits on high end users. Motion carried 6 to 1.

A motion was made and seconded that enforcement of the rain sensor ordinance and the water conservation ordinance should be pro active. Motion carried 7 to 0.

A motion was made and seconded that the County Council revisit the issue after 2 years. Motion carried 6 to 1.

ADJOURNMENT -

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.