

GREEN RIBBON PANEL
Meeting Summary
Training Rooms
July 28, 2008

Ginger Adair opened the meeting at 6:01PM, and went over the agenda. The last meeting was an introduction to Minimum Environmental Standards. Minutes will be known as “meeting summary” and will be posted on the website after our meetings. Ginger and Tom will change one thing from the June 24th summary.

Members present included: Ginger Adair, Greg Blose, Steve Kintner, Michelle Leigh, Kelli McGee, Alan Watts, Tadd Kasbeer, Saralee Morresey (for Candace Lankford), Rosemarie Gore, Wanda Van Dam, Jo & Mo Lawyer, Betty O’Laughlin, Karen Hoffman, Tony Abbot, Glenn Storch, Ken Hoblick, Don Spence, Keith McGreir and Tom Carey.

Alan Watts passed out Section 202.4, Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection and stressed that the Minimum Environmental Standards (MES) are the bare minimum and can be stricter. They apply in the unincorporated and incorporated area of the county. We have to look at MES as a whole, not part. Believes that MES have not been used to their potential. Passed out two sheets outlining a plan for smart growth which is available on line at: <http://www.volusia.org/environmental/greenribbon/default.htm> The plan allows for open space, cluster development.

Ginger – The Watershed ordinance kind of went down this path, a more holistic approach to the environment rather than piecemeal.

Glenn Storch – Trying to figure out the goal – is it to create open space? Figure out what the goal is then create incentives to get us there. Must apply across the county to discourage folks rushing to the cities as an avoidance move.

Ginger – A goal could be intact ecosystems.

Saralee – Thought part of the minimum standards was that they don’t differentiate at all – don’t recognize differences across the county. Different things have different values. Establish and maintain corridors and ecosystems.

Don – Open space is nebulous. Agriculture needs attention to maintain farming.

Allen – Volusia Visions – we are a park, many parks – a recreation park, business park, etc. They are all here but we are one big park. We need a healthy, sustainable system.

Wanda – We don’t create open space, it was created long ago – we either exploit it or preserve it. Let’s not use that term.

Glenn – Agriculture folks count on their land as retirement, anything we do to devalue their land is not good.

Tony – Open space and Ag land is way too big a term. The words don’t always convey what the true meaning is.

Ginger – Tree ordinance is to promote a healthy tree canopy. Need to identify “What” do we want to have rather than the “how”. Incentives are a valuable part of getting people to do the right thing– MES are regulatory our regulatory tool. We will need both, but our focus is on MES. The incentives are to get people to go beyond.

Jay – Add the word indigenous – excludes exotics, promotes drought tolerant.

Don – excited that folks are talking native plants.

Betty – make MES stronger – would make development less appealing. Give agriculture an incentive to keep their land.

Ginger – let’s put that into a goal – promoting/preserving agriculture.

Don – hard because agriculture is diverse. MES right now are not bad – should we work from there or start from scratch?

Tony – State broad positions and work from these. No loss of wetlands, or loss of ag – there are probably 7 or 8 others. State broadly and work back from there.

Mo – a lot of information to figure out right now. Break it down piece by piece.

Karyn – thought we were going to start on wetlands.

Ginger – Yes, but one of the things heard at last meeting was to get a vision.

Jay – there are 3 points in a vision – preserve indigenous ecosystems, maintain responsible ag, and encourage responsible urban growth.

Ginger – Water/Air Quality, water supply. Standards may be different from different areas. The council in April was looking at enhanced MES in certain areas.

Don – Easier to meet MES in unincorporated vs. cities due to nature of the land.

Kelli – Our environmental core is going away every day. The core is privately owned land. Council wants to see from this panel recommendations for enhanced MES in NRMA and ECO maps.

Steve – council envisioned a tiered approach.

Kelli – Pandion did computer work on county ecosystems in the core. If the cities don’t come along with the comprehensive plan amendments, all we have is Section 202.4.

Don – look at the landscape and work down. Start broad, start with MES.

Jay – we have to come up with something measurable and enforceable.

Alan – If our goal is how do we use MES to accomplish smart growth, we need to keep in mind that the MES discourages dumb growth.

Saralee – we've had mostly suburban rather than urban growth. We need to encourage growth in certain areas.

The panel worked on language for the vision, which is available on this web site:
<http://www.volusia.org/environmental/greenribbon/default.htm>

Karyn – Low Impact Development should be part of all development.

Tadd – The word appropriate is too nebulous.

Ginger – we need to be careful that we don't only preserve what is in ECO; there's a lot of land outside of the ECO map that is environmentally valuable – the scrub in DeBary and Orange City for example.

Tony – not sure about the term “areas”

Jay – Agrees – can't limit it to land, it's how you use it.

Saralee – Yes, the manner and the method.

Tony – We need to state that there are short-comings in our rules and regulations.

Glenn – I don't know where we find what MES aren't working. Need to review MES from time to time. The specifics are where things will be accomplished, not with vision statements, as it's too fuzzy.

Jay – It's fuzzy intentionally. You have a vision so everything you do points back to the vision.

Glenn – must be enforceable.

Kelli – Council has directed this panel to pay attention to MES because they know there are problems. 2005 Smart Growth Report – number 1 keystone was to preserve the environmental core.

Ginger – how do we feel about our vision? We can discuss it more for about 5 minutes or we can leave it for now and have time to think it over.

Saralee – send vision out to the committee so we can think about it.

Ginger – good I will send it out.

Wanda – good to make mention that our vision will change over time.

Ginger – We will talk about wetlands next time – do you need a presentation? Should we look at MES and/or county implementing ordinance?

Glenn – just the minimum standards and how it applies to county/cities.

Saralee – some cities only enforce St. Johns River Water Management District rules – compare MES with SJRWMD rules?

Don – Army Corps of Engineers part of the process? Explain permitting process.

Steve – that is the implementing ordinance.

Ginger – MES for wetlands, how the Corps and SJRWMD and city/county interact.

Saralee – after all these years – what has MES done, what has MES not done?

Jay – beside wetland area, what about exogenous effects?

Ginger – we protect a buffer but that's it.

Jay – I think it's important to look at exogenous effects.

Ginger – The next time we will spend 10-15 minutes on the vision then move into wetlands.

Kelli – 2005 report is online – distilled from 15 keynotes to 8 keystones (low-hanging fruit).

Ginger – Sunshine Rules apply to this Panel.

Alan – Can't talk to each other but can talk to staff.

Ginger – 4th Monday of the month is good but November and December they are holiday weeks.

Don – Mondays are ok – I have no Tuesday, Thursday classes so those are ok too.

Tony – doesn't like Mondays 5 straight hours with students then he rushes to this meeting.

Betty – Tuesday's are out for her.

Non-council Thursdays may be best, Ginger will send out an email to survey who wants what.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28PM

Notes taken by Tom Carey