

1.7 A SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES IN PREPARING THE REPORT [163.3191(2)(j)]

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 163.3191(2)(j) Florida Statutes (F.S.), Volusia County is required to submit a summary of the public participation program and activities undertaken during the preparation of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). The following narrative outlines the significant events that have occurred in conjunction with the development of major issues and the preparation of EAR.

Evaluation of the Volusia County Comprehensive Plan began in the Fall of 2004. In-house meetings were conducted prior to scheduling public participation activities in order to develop an internal list of major issues. The Comprehensive Planning Activity began holding inter-office meetings with various departments within the County to solicit input on what they thought were the major issues. A series of EAR specific staff meetings were then held to assemble the information collected from the inter-office meetings and to create an internal list of major issues.

Public participation was initiated through a Website created for the County's EAR process (<http://www.volusia.org/growth/ear.htm>). The site contains a brief overview of the EAR process, information about public workshops and meetings, links to Volusia County EAR related documents, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA)'s EAR Website, and other related Web links.

An extensive list of stakeholders was prepared that includes public and private sector groups and individuals, planning and other professional consultants, advisory boards, and other diverse interest groups traditionally involved and active in planning and growth management issues in Volusia County. In addition to the press releases and the EAR Website, the previously mentioned list was used for a mail-out to notify the identified stakeholders of the EAR process and the public workshops. There were two public workshops held on April 19 and 26, 2005, one on the east side and one on the west side of the County, to solicit public input and identify the major issues on which the EAR should focus.

Thirty participants attended the first EAR public workshop held on the east side of Volusia County on April 19, 2005, at the City Island Library Auditorium, in Daytona Beach. Fifteen participants attended the second EAR public workshop held on the west side of Volusia County on April 26, 2005, at the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center Training Rooms, in DeLand. The workshops began with a presentation describing the EAR process and schedule, background data regarding the past planning period, population growth, and changes in land area. A discussion of the 1st Draft EAR Issue List followed, emphasizing the establishment of the list through a series of inter-office meetings with various county departments. It was explained that the list was a draft to be modified through the public workshops and review agencies scoping meeting processes. The participants broke into small group discussions, with a facilitator and recorder from the County, to review and possibly modify the initial draft issues list and add any additional issues to the list. Toward the end of the workshops the participants prioritized the top four issues.

A Review Agencies Scoping Meeting was held on May 13, 2005, in accordance with 163.191(3) F.S. Twenty-two participants representing various review agencies attended the scoping meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review the major issues identified internally and during the public workshops, identify any additional issues and finalize the major issues list. The result of the meeting was a revised final issues list. The Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Volusia County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) was then prepared, officially identifying the major issues and asking the FDCA to concur that these are the issues on which the report should focus. Please see Appendix A and B for the County's LOU and the FDCA's response to the LOU.

Table 1.7: Public Participation Activities

Activity	Date
EAR Website up	2/09/05
Scoping meeting letter sent to review agencies	2/14/05
Notice in newspaper for Workshops (30 days notice)	3/19/05
Mail-out for workshops	3/29/05
Notice in newspaper for Workshops (10 days notice)	4/09/05
East side Issues Identification Workshop	4/19/05
West side Issues Identification Workshop	4/26/05
Scoping Meeting reminder invitation sent	4/21/05
Review Agencies Scoping Meeting	5/13/05
Update PLDRC on LOU	6/14/05
Update County Council on LOU	6/16/05
Send LOU to FDCA	6/14/05
PLDRC Workshop on Draft EAR	12/13/05
County Council Workshop on Draft EAR	01/19/06
Public Hearing: PLDRC	(TBD) 2/ /06
Transmit proposed EAR to FDCA & review agencies for optional review	(TBD) 5/ /06
Public Hearing: County Council Adoption	(TBD) 8/ /06