( This is a test ) ( This is a test )
>>CHAIR BROWER: Two minute warning, we'll start in two minutes. Two-minute warning, we'll start in two minutes.
Okay, if everybody wants to grab a seat, we're going to get started in just a few seconds. Okay, if everybody wants to grab a seat, we're going to get started in just a few seconds. We're going to start with an invocation, you can choose to stand for that, if you wish. -- meeting to order.
And we're going to start with an invocation, you can choose to stand for that, if you wish, I would ask that everybody stand for the pledge of allegiance, right after the invocation. And just so that you know, if you are part of a faith group, who has someone who would like to bring us an invocation, just get a name and a contact number to one of the ladies over here, to my left. And we'll add you to the list. So let's stand, this morning, the invocation is from Dr. Lowry, district 5 county council.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: All right.
Lord, we come to you today, thanking you so much for so many things that you provide for us, so many things that you're not aware of that you do to watch over us, we know your word says, I know probably all of my colleagues up here share with me the desire to have your wisdom today. As we make decisions for our county. Thank you for this wonderful county, and the citizens, we just pray for our first responders out and about today, that you keep them safe.
Also serve in our military, watch over them, all around the world, and we just praise your name today, in Jesus' name, amen.
amen.
>> I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stand s, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Would you call the roll, please?
>>CLERK: ( Roll call ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Everybody present, we will begin the meeting with comments from the public, as I call your name, just come forward, please tell us your name and what city you reside in. And you have three minutes. You'll be able to see the clock right in front of you, and we'll start with Paul Richardson.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. Good morning. Again, I wish I come in with county business ( Inaudible ) there's a lot of stuff going on in the world.
And I would like to -- for everyone to say a prayer for our deputy from Nassau county, shot in the face just like officer ( Inaudible ) again, luckily, we live in a state and the county that respects good police officers and deputies who are there for the community and not for ourselves. -- and apparently, yesterday afternoon, mayor responded with a memo to the FBI saying he will go after those critics of critical race theory. This is pretty much outrageous. Actual -- against ( Inaudible ) is not domestic terrorism. A death threat is crossing the line and I don't condone it, I condemn calling death threats to anyone. So but actual dissent is not disinformation or domestic terrorism, I hope everyone agrees that this is wrong for the attorney general to use the FBI against critics of the critical race theory and I hope you agree with me. Again, I don't want the words that are used ( Inaudible ) also, there's the talk about the $3.5 trillion spending bill. While there are many that criticize the bill, especially the price tag, and it is 3.5 trillion, not 0 dollars like some people say. One of the things in the bill, mandates -- to pass information of any transaction of $600 or more to the IRS to any of our accounts.
You get paid, $600 more, you get reported to the FBI, through this bill. That's a fourth amendment violation of the search and seizure clause of the constitution and the privacy violation. Of the utmost importance and should be opposed. This fact of the $3.5 trillion is not widely reported and should be, because it's dangerous, it's unconstitutional, and should be opposed. And I hope you guys agree with me on that, too.
You guys have a good day now.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Joseph TREMens?
>>SPEAKER: I have a complaint against the county code enforcement. You're not allowed to have a birthday party at your house because if you have to park more than two cars in your driveway, you're not allowed to park them on the grass. And if you park them on the grass, you're going to get a ticket for it, which I did. Okay? Also, I got the ticket, I waited four months for the officer that wrote the ticket to get in touch with me. And the only reason he got in touch with me is because I put in over 500 complaints for the same thing to code enforcement and finally, they got the idea, maybe they should talk to me. Well, all three of them came out to my house and well, before that, they called me on the phone. And made an appointment. To come out to my house. The head enforcement guy, looks on an aerial map of my house and says, you've got a pool in your backyard. And a deck. I says, it's an above ground pool, I didn't know you had to have a permit to have an above ground pool. He says, well, we'll have to write you two more tickets. Which they did. And that man is the man that -- he said it was anonymous, but he's the one that seen it. And he wrote me two more, so now I have 7 tickets, so I go into county code enforcement to rectify the situation. I don't speak to an enforcement, I speak to the girl in the front of the office. The girl in the front of the office says you can't register the pool because you don't know what kind of make and model it is. I said, I bought it off of Craigslist. It's a metal pool.
It's 52 inches high. What else do you need to know? We have to have the manufacturer or you have to take it down. This is ridiculous. You can't have a barbecue in your backyard, I had a cement mixer in my backyard.
I had to put the cement mixer in a building. Because it's not allowed to be -- anything in your backyard. Period. So in that case, that means that if you have a barbecue in your backyard, that's a tool, to cook something, you can't have it out after you get done cooking. How many people do you think in this county have a barbecue grill in their backyard? It's ridiculous. And then, the man comes to my house, I have an adjacent piece of property. I join that property to my property, and the code en-- head enforcement guy, says to me, the only thing you can do with that property is walk on it. You can't do nothing else with it.
Period. I says, what are you, crazy? He says, no. That's the code. Okay. So we get by that.
I asked him about putting up a 6 foot fence. Around my property.
Because there's stuff being stolen from my property on a daily basis. I live three illegal Mexicans and seven on the other side and four on the other side. I want to put up a 6 foot fence.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, we'll follow up.
>>SPEAKER: Yeah, okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for coming.
>>SPEAKER: Yeah.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair, where does he live?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Deland.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Reverend Kathi tin Ricky?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is reverend Kathi 2 Ricky and I love in Ormond Beach and pastor of the universal congregation in Ormond and co-chair of faith, which is made up of 30 diverse communities across Volusia County. Thank you esteemed council persons and your staff for your work in administering COVID relief dollars. We know that so many are suffering with the loss of employment and that emergency rental assistance is vital in helping folks keep a roof over their head.
You've had recent discussions on the amount of time that it amount of time for someone who has lost a job to get back on their feet while that's an important discussion to have, we want to highlight what it means for somebody to be back on their feet, when so many in Volusia are gainfully employed and they simply do not make enough money to keep up with the rising costs of rent.
These folks include essential workers like nurse assistants, EMTs, and construction workers.
For example, a mother in my congregation has a grown daughter living at home who works full time in the healthcare sector, but still can't afford to move out on her own. And another mother in Ormond Beach has a son in his 30s, working in construction, who spends over half of his paycheck on housing each month.
Yearly, every person in Volusia earning $14 an hour or less, is cost burdened by rent. This untenable situation will worsen without the county's help. Last month, members of faith and I intended a county sponsored webinar on affordable housing, the presenter, Jayme Ross of the Florida house coalition spoke of the critical need for municipalities to create affordable housing when issuing zoning and density grants for market rate housing developments. Ms. Ross explained that this practice is essential to maintaining an adequate inventory of workforce housing. She gave an example of how this is done, this was done recently, by the City of winter haven, when they allocated American rescue plan dollars to create a local housing trust fund. Faith is calling for Volusia to do the same with its $2.5 million in rescue funds earmarked for other housing projects.
A housing trust fund would provide grants to nonprofit and private sector developers who agree to create housing that's affordable for working families and seniors. By creating a locally controlled housing trust fund, the council could help shore up the severe lack of workforce housing that exists in Volusia today. Thank you for your time and attention.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Keith jester?
>> My name is Keith jester and I live in Deland, Florida. I am here to ask for a more transformative -- meeting of the ECHO board are streamed live as a webinar and not archived in the way that county council meetings are. If you are not able to attend the ECHO board meetings O or watch them live, you are out of luck. Virtually, all of the county's various public meetings are held during the day. When working citizens are unable to witness their Government in action. And when they are unable to participate.
I would request that all advisory board meetings be recorded and archived online in the same way that the meetings of the county council are and that the county's website be reworked and that all meetings are archived on one page. I would also request that through the county's public information office a more streamlined system be put into place that would allow for citizens questions submitted by phone, e-mail and letter be responded to in a more efficient and effective way.
And that would also allow the citizens to participate in the public forums through e-mails and letters that are sent through the county's public information office. This county council has refused the idea of some night meetings and to my knowledge, there have been no town hall meeting on the west side of the county in a very long time. Most e-mails to members of this council and to the administrative staff of the county go unanswered. There has to be a better way of doing things, the citizens deserve better. Please improve the transparency of this Government and please find a better way to allow the citizens of this county to participate in the process. On another note, many have touted how ECHO was overwhelmingly approved by the voters, here is an excerpt from the radio commercial paid for by the pack the ECHO Volusia forever alliance. You can protect our quality of life, vote yes for Volusia forever and ECHO to protect our water, and our natural outdoor spaces vote yes to protect places to enjoy the arts, culture, and recreation, no new taxes and full accountability Volusia forever and ECHO help our economy and make Volusia County a great place to live, work and play. After hearing that, who wouldn't want to vote for ECHO especially if there is going to be full accountability and no new taxes?
Both are lies. The previous ECHO program was coming to an end thus there would be a news tax and there certainly has not been full accountability. It is county Government's responsibility to ensure the organizations receiving ECHO funds provide the services agreed upon in their contract agreements. And if they fail, the county ensures the funds provided are returned. Pushing funding out to more poorly organized non-profits would certainly lead to more failures.
And changing the rules of the program after the citizens have voted is wrong. There is nothing noble about forcing your neighbors to pay for your wants and desires especially when you are willing to do it with little if any accountability. When approving ECHO projects, I certainly hope all of you will put your honor and integrity before your personal wants and desires.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And Keith is from Deland. John Nicholson?
>>SPEAKER: John Nicholson, Daytona Beach side. One, Dr. Lowry, welcome back. And please, don't do that again.
Okay? Good.
Secondly, with regards, talk about EMS and the fire department and etcetera the last time I was here I had written an article in the magazine, there's something in the uniforms that causes cancer, a chemical that they use to fight fires with, I'm wondering if we could take a look at the uniforms that we have, apparently, about 15% of the fire departments in the U.S.
we have been looking at --
( Inaudible ) all right. And third, with regards to the budget, I'm glad you guys at least did a little bit of an increase the on the budget, as you know I'm not happy with that, I went through an experience, with a whopping 27% increase, you guys are going to have to do better. You talked for an hour and a half, maybe two hours on reducing $1.3 million, and the following meeting, you increased back into the budget another $1-2 million.
In that 0. I understand that from what I gather, it appeared that George was trying to get our employees to vaccinate because it would cost us less money and I think the number was $243,000 put aside for it. And if they don't vaccinate, then the cost to the county goes up.
So instead of putting out $243,000, we're putting out a 1 to $2 million, a net zero. So in two years, when the $8 million comes along, and I'm pretty good at numbers, I'm 7 for 7. All of the things that I've hit with the round about, the widening of L PGA, homes in Margaritaville, everybody said, no, that's not going to happen.
It did. Well, this thing is coming down the pike, you will have to pay that $8 million. So I'm going to give you a couple of suggestions. Somebody is going to have to bite the bullet. I'm suggesting that we take 6 months a year, from let's say, August to January, and they'll drive on the beach, close the library on night and weekends, and we end up taking what do you call it? All of the things that the people need, that they rely on, take the buses. No bus at night and no buses on the weekend, so where are you going to cut? No matter what you do on any of those, everybody is going to go crazy, but they save money. We can't nickel and dime this, it has to be massive. So if we took 5 million from the budget this year, and we take 5 or 10 or 15 from the budget next year, I'm sorry, the reserves, at some point, the reserves are going to end and we're not going to be able to take any money out of the reserve, so you're going to have to be big budget cuts or have to raise taxes. So please at least raise them a little bit. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Libby Levette?
>>SPEAKER: >>SPEAKER:
Edgewater, Florida, I'm wanting to just introduce myself. I know a lot of you know me, but you don't know that I've recently been appointed to the Chair of the environmental climate justice committee for the west Volusia NAACP. So I will be working to write some of the -- right some of the wrongs regarding the inner-city infrastructure, communities that have been disproportionately impacted a result of keeping our environmental services and our stormwater treatment up. I met with several members of the inner-city communities, the poorer communities and unfortunately, they are the most impacted with flood ing, they are not getting the police services that they need, they are having people speed down their miles at 90-100 miles per hour with children in those communities playing. And that's extremely frustrating to me because we have the resources. It's not a matter of resources. It's a matter of priority. So that's my concern. Relative to that position. I have another position, I would like to tell you about with the Indian river lagoon natural estuary project.
So we get to hear a lot of grounds. I have been nothing but excited and encouraged to learn the projects that we're working on, unfortunately, they don't all get publicized and so I'm going to help to do that. I want you to know that you're invited to come with me, I intend to tour every single grant that we have approved.
The projects on every single grant to learn and also to make sure that the money is being spent properly. It's my goal to stop source point pollution, there are a lot of ways to treat the water, to improve the water quality. But to bring that back to sea grass, is really where the devil is in the details.
We've got to bring the sea grass back and there are many ways to do that. But no matter how much sea grass we bring back, no matter how much shellfish restoration we do, if we do not stop the pollution at the source, it's going to continue to die. The Indian river lagoon is a dead zone, it is not a bedebate, it is a sign tiffic --
scientific grass. You take away the habitat and the diet for much of our marine life, whether it be the manatees, who had an unusual mortality this year, and expected to continue. Or whether it be the crabs and the critters that live in that sea grass. So it's extremely important that when projects come before us, we see that you are eliminating the nutrient pollution, that is the number one priority for me, I can't speak for the rest of the committee, but I know that that seems to be an overall opinion for the Indian river lagoon natural estuary project. Thank you for your time.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And that is the end of public participation. Unless you have anymore, so we'll close public participation for now. And move on to the item 1, the consent agenda, did anybody have something that they wanted to pull for discussion or vote?
Billie Wheeler.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, I would like to pull for a vote, item K.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Anybody else?
Okay, if I could get a motion to approve the consent agenda excluding item K? And we'll bring that up afterwards.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve the consent agenda excluding item K.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: All in favor say aye. Any opposed? And the consent agenda is passed. And Billie, item K.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
Last month, or last meeting that we had, we discussed -- we actually approved a fee increase at the marine science center.
For their annual pass of $1.
$1. My question is, I really think that that is not enough.
We have not had an increase since what was it? 2007? Was when our original fees were set at $5 and $4 and $2 for youth.
Since that time, you know, it has expanded with the population of visitors. And since that time, we have added a sea turtle hospital viewing window, and an extremely popular stingray touch pool, a sea horse exhibit, a gopher tortoise exhibit and outdoor afternoon theatre it is constantly attended well and there's so much good thins that are coming there. I think that $1 is -- it just doesn't touch the surface on some of the needs. I would -- I would really encourage that we increase it to at least $2 or $3. But again, if $5 -- so it would make it $8 for an adult.
For an event like that. It is -- it's still very, very cheap.
Senior would be $6. So I think, you know, this is one of the good things that Volusia does, it's a wonderful thing, but, you know, everything has gone up.
And if we have an increase --
haven't increased the fees since 2002, 2007 when we raised -- the last time we raised the admission. So I would like to make the motion, instead of the $1, I'm going to say -- I'm going say $3.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: For adult?
>>SPEAKER: $3 for adult, seniors, add $3 on to whatever they are. Seniors would be $7.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Across the board, then.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So the --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Instead of the $1 that we approved last time, to raise it across the board $3 for each one of the admissions.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Before I call for the vote, Ginger, do you or Clay have anything you would like to add to that?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning.
Ginger Adair, environmental management director. The only thing that I would ask is that if we're raising the general admission, that we also raise the proposed annual passes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes. So the annual pass is what?
>>SPEAKER: We had proposed $15 for an individual and $35 for a family. Based on the $1 increase, so if we raised it $3, I would propose it would be $21 for an individual and $59 maybe round that to $60 for a family.
We made some assumptions --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, that would be my proposal and that's still a heck of a deal. For a family to get in full time, all year long, to take their children through this, because it changes in there. It changes. That's a living --
living, growing event. So that would be added to my motion, then. That the increase would also go to the annual pass, to make it $21. And the family pass, let's go $60s just to keep it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that addition, too.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, so we have a -- an amended motion for an across the board increase of $3 and the individual pass at $21 and family pass at $60.
Seconded by Lowry, and comments, Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Ginger, is there anything separate for locals? Or what is the -- what is the children's ticket price?
>>SPEAKER: There is no separate price for locals under the motion, that we just had, the youth price for children under 3 would be $5. Right now it's --
right now, it's -- no, I'm sorry, right now, it's $2, we had proposed 3, the newest motion would make it 6 for children.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: 5. Because it's 2 now and I'm asking for $3 more.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Over the current.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Correct.
>>SPEAKER: Oh, correct, sorry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And they have a wonderful summer camp, that you can never get children in, because it's grabbed up so quickly.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, and we are proposing an increase in the summer camp.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I know we do have groups that go there.
Is that -- I'm just wondering, is that going to keep any of our like boys and girls club or anyone from actually attending and doing this now?
>>SPEAKER: We do have an education admission which we were proposing that that would be $6 for adults and $3 for youth, general proposal, maybe I shouldn't assume, would we want that to go up as well.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That would be my ask is --
>>SPEAKER: On field trips --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Keep the educational admission the same or what do people at the marine science center feel about that?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm okay with keeping the educational portion of it the same.
>>SPEAKER: I think that would be great, those are the kids that come from the schools.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That was my only concern, so as long as it's that way, then I'm in support of it.
>>SPEAKER: We do have some improvements coming, of course, the council approved some funding for us to do some improvements. There are times like when we're in the middle of construction, that we sort of suspend the admission fee, right at for experience isn't great and we will have that coming up, so just full disclosure, we have improvements that will be disruptive, so, you know, we could incrementally increase the rate, if we wanted to do that.
Or if we wanteded to do the whole thing at once and we will see if it impacts the folks coming to visit. One of the things that we hear a lot on trip advisor and the other platform, it's a good value for the money.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: The word is cheap. They say it's cheap.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: But it's a small facility, you don't spend all day typically at the marine science center so there probably is a sweet spot, right, where it's a good value, still, but it's still worth it. And we'll have to judge that and we watch those reviews closely. And we do some exit surveying, too, to ask folks if they think that the value is there for the experience that they get, so.
It's a little hard to predict, right, if we increase the entrance fee, what that will do to our admissions, you know, the last full year, we had before COVID, we had 107,000 visitors.
Of course in the COVID year, in the year CHALen DAR year of 2020, we only had somewhere around 20,000 visitors but we were closed most of that year, so.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm totally okay in raising it in terms O tourism, but a friend of mine, I was talking to this weekend said they just bought tickets to the universal Halloween horror nights or something that & the bottom line expense was like $800 for two people and I thought, oh, my gosh. (Laughs) so tourism, yes. But not for the children, yeah. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: How many -- I think your last report, maybe it was your written report, you told us what the breakdown was of the people visiting. How --
isn't it like 60% are from out of town? What are those numbers?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, so in our latest survey, which there were only 143 responses, so it's not a huge dataset. We had about 12% of people were Volusia County residents, 12% were surrounding counties, so Brevard County, orange, Seminole and Flagler. 60% out of state. And that doesn't include the education folks, that's the actual like front door admission people.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Knowing those numbers, is there any interest on the council to amend your motion to keep the rates the same for Volusia County residents and how -- does that make it very difficult for you to manage?
>>SPEAKER: It's entirely possible, take a little bit longer at the ticket counter, we have to ask for people's ID to demonstrate where they're from.
But we can certainly set our point of sales system to accept different levels of admission.
We can -- we just have to ask where they're from.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: If you can't suggest that, I would -- I would ask for that amendment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. We have two people that want to speak to that. I think. Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I just wanted to say something, my oldest and daughter I are into butterflies and those things are 10 or $15 and you're in there for maybe 45 minutes or an hour or whatever. And this is cheaper than that. So I think we Auth to -- ought to just leave it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I like where we're putting the fee schedule right now, and what I would propose is you're looking at the out of town guests, why don't we let them survey it until sometime early next year, we can always readdress that part of it?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Don't you already have those numbers you just gave us those number, right, Ginger?
>>SPEAKER: About where people come from. Yes, 60% out of state and 12% Volusia County.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. So I would ask that we -- that we make the decision based on those numbers of who comes from out of town and who doesn't. But.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: My motion still stands -- is on the floor and it was seconded, so.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Then we'll call for the vote. All in favor of the increase across the board for everyone, no matter where they come from, except for education, which remains the same, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And any opposed? Aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm going to be an aye for that specific, I would prefer Volusia.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, I vote against it, a agree with the increase, I think that it's timely. But I think that with our current residents, they're paying and they're also paying property taxes that it's nice to give them just a little bit every now and then. But motion passespasses. 5-2. For the increase.
All right. Thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Heather was an aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, I commented on why it was a nay.
Ginger, may I ask one more question, I wanted to get that number, just for my.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ginger Adair.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: What was the number of Volusia residents.
>>SPEAKER: The percent was 12, the number out of 143 re-- I don't have that. 12% of 143 responses.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So how many is that? Where's my number guy?
>>SPEAKER: Hold on I have a calculator.
>>SPEAKER: 16 people.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: 16 people.
>>SPEAKER: A small survey response.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And the current amount is what for them, the current amount is --
>>SPEAKER: The current general admission?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah.
>>SPEAKER: $5 for adults and $4 seniors, $2 youth. What you just voted on was $8 for adults, $6 -- $7 for seniors and $5 for youth.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So that vote would have saved them the money, but only given the county $48.
>>SPEAKER: No, that's of the responses, do it this way, so we had 100,000 people in the calendar year of 19 before COVID. If 12% of them were county residents, right.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Uh-huh.
>>SPEAKER: I can't find the calculator. So that's 12,000 people were county residents, you've just increased the fee for them $3 from what it is today. So $36,000.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. Okay.
That's what I wanted, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ginger.
Okay. That takes us to item 2.
That everyone has been anticipating, waiting for.
Sabrina. Attorney Sabrina slack.
>>SPEAKER: Assistant county attorney, good morning, everyone, this is an item to discuss redistricting. We have a PowerPoint presentation, so what I really wanted to do was we've just been doing this at the end of the meeting so I put together a PowerPoint presentation to pull everything together that we've been talking about. Kind of to figure out where we are.
So here we go. So where are we in redistricting? We received our census data, certified on September 16th. We have 553,542 team. With that data, we determined what's known as a target population which is the near equal or the exact equal population which is 110,709 people. So what we did ones we populated our existing districts with our target -- our new target population, we figured out where redistricting was going to be needed so we recreated proposed maps, our next step is to meet with the school board and the county council to try and determine which map we're going to -- plan we're going to use.
So I wanted to circle back to our numbers, because we have been talking about districts having too many people or too few people and I just wanted to go back, so that we understood where that concept came from.
This chart shows us the 2010 census. Versus the 2020 census numbers. And we've ranked the districts by where the population grew. Now, Volusia County grew overall 58,950 people from 2010 to 2020. Where those persons are distributed throughout the county, you will see district 1 between the 2010 census and the 2010 numbers, again, those are your populations that we ended up with after the redistricting process in 2011. So that's where the base numbers came from, with how many people are in each district. So it's after 2010, we had 494,593 people.
Now, we have 553 people --
553,543 people. And in district 1, that resulted in an increase in persons of 15,221.
And in district 4, you went up 12,797 people. -district 3 went up 10,889 people.
District 5 went up that many.
District 3 is 10,340 people and district 2 had 9,703 people. So each district grew in size.
So but we've been talking about districts that are smaller or larger.
So where we get that from is when you go to the equal target population is 110,709 people per district, from the 2020 data we get this new target equal population where we have to adjust the districts to an equal number. So when you do that, you take the 2020 census population with the target and then figure out where the population has been districted from 2010 to 2020. So in this instance, now, you're going to get district 1 has 4,724 too many in the district. District 2 has 2,963 too few people.
District 3 has 2,290 few people.
District 4 has 141 more people than the equal population. And district 5 has 386 more people so When we started doing this, we created a target population range of plus or minus 1% from the equal target population. So that's where you get a range of acceptable on our criteria, between 109,601 and 111,816, that's our range that we can go into. Now you have an idea of too few or too less people and we had on overall growth in the county. I wanted to go back and we've been talking about this probably since January of this year. But because of the delay in the census data coming out, I just wanted to go back through what our criteria are and where those criteria were derived from. So we have in our charter, 301.1, we have to have five districts contiguous territories and nearly equal population. And then in our ordinance, 42-33, we have some more criteria that we have again nearly as possible, equal proportion of population, we need to consider existing election districts, considering special taxing districts, considering population density, and considering economic Government -- the economy of Government operations. In your June meeting when we discussed the census, we -- the council also added some additional criteria for staff to follow.
And that was to keep residences of county council members in their current districts, there were no two members in any district after a plan. A population difference between the plus or minus 1% we talked about. Preserve the integrity of municipal boundaries. Large populations of minorities and preserve territorial communities of interest. So with all of those criteria in mind, and with the census data, our GIS team, which is Brandon Barnett and Nancy church in the back, started creating plans, so once they got the census data, they were able to generate six plan, which is on time for our time line. This is plan A. And essentially plan A takes the existing lines for the districts and adjusts all of the lines in different areas to create -- to shift the population to equal amounts and the chart on the right shows you what the proposed population would be once they shift, so this plan actually continues to divide three municipalities, which is the Daytona Beach, Port Orange and DeBary, those are the same ones that were already split.
And as you can see, they're adjust sod the populations are -- adjusted so the populations are pretty close to equal, with a 500 person variation. This is just a basic shape map, so you can kind of see the overall shape adjustment, where you can see 4 is move further west, 3 is moved further west, and 2 moved further south.
So that is plan A.
With plan B, we started with the school districts current lines. And adjusted again to a near equal population with the population variation being very close in each area. This particular plan also splits some municipalities, Daytona Beach, Port Orange, DeBary and this plan splits Deland, it takes the north part of Deland and shifts it into district 4.
So and then this is the -- you get the idea of the puzzle piece where it shifts, you can where 4 reaches down a little further to get that part of Deland and 5 reaches much further north. The existing school board 5 goes further east than it does with our exact lines.
So then, for plan C, we left the existing lines behind. And this particular one, we have an urban rural mix in each district. Which most noticeably results in district 5 reaching from the farthest west to the farthest east part of that district on the bottom.
Municipalities split are DeBary, Port Orange, Daytona Beach and Edgewater in this plan.
You can see also that four dramatically reaches down into the middle of the county and you can see the population variance is very low with this plan.
Less than 200.
And here's what the puzzle comparison would look like, where the -- all of the lines are dramatically shifted.
So plan B which is our next plan, this is also a plan that dramatically shifts the lines and in this particular one, we have more north-south districts, where district 3 goes from the extreme northwest down to the southeast. District 2 extends the entire coastline, district 4 shrinks 1 and 5 also shrink into more of an urban type of plan with 3 being mostly rural. This is the puzzle piece comparison for that one.
So moving on to plan E.
(Laughs) plan E is another variation, it's actually similar to plan C. But in this one, instead of 5 going across the entire bottom of the county, district 4 actually goes across the entire north of the county.
And this is again, an urban sort of rural mix where this one you're only going to get two municipals split, which would be Daytona Beach and Port Orange.
Which are currently split. And this particular plan DeBary is reunited into district 1. And there is your puzzle piece comparison.
Your last plan, that we have for your consideration today is the plan if F. Now, plan F is what we call the minimal change, when we populated the districts with the census data, districts 4 and 5 were actually within the parameters allowed for variation. So 4 and 5 does not change at all, as far as their district boundaries. In this particular plan, Lake Helen shifts over into district 3.
And part of southern Port Orange or southeastern Port Orange shifts into district 2. So that the population is shifted from 1 to 3 to 2. And I would show you the puzzle piece, but that is the incorrect puzzle for F, that is actually E. And that is the -- I went through them a little quickly, but those are the six plans, so today, we are basically introducing the plans, seeking your comments on the plans. Our next step would be we're going to publish this out to the public through social media, website, and displays in public buildings. We're going to do the joint meetings with the school district coming up on the 10th, October 11th, October 18th, and the 28th if necessary.
At those plans, we're hoping to have a plan selected by the tend of the month. -- by the end of the month and we will have the ordinance passed by the deadline, December 31. I ran through it quickly but it's a lot of information that I wanted to get OU out there. Any questions?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Michael dire, he has a question for you.
>>SPEAKER: I do. A difficult one. Sabrina. Get ready.
No. First of all, I want to thank Brandon, who stepped into this role, this would have been his fourth redistricting effort with us. He retired this summer. The federal Government's delay in the census data made it impossible for Al to be with us. Brandon, I thank you for that. I we've talked about before, general in the target, we have a six month time frame for council to make a decision on these district maps and because of the federal Government's delay with that census data, it's come pressed to a three month time frame, and so by state law, if council will need to adopt new maps or do so by ordinance. By December 31st.
Of this year. Our goal is to --
as you can see from the six SEscenarios, very different, as you get more comfortable with concepts, you can have us --
with -- one or two that you would like us to focus more on, and bring back more information, we can do that. We realize that some are more identifiable than others and once you maybe zero in on a concept, we can make tweaks and adjustments to those lines. And Brandon can do that.
We've set aside three joint meetings with the school board, we have Lisa Lewis here, dignitary, supervisor of elections and we have had a long history with the school board of collaborating, the GIS staff, provides a lot of technical support to them to see if they have an interest in adopting the same maps as the council. It is not required that we have the same set of maps. Obviously. I think Lisa Lewis's perspective, that would be idea and the constituents, I would say ten years ago, when we went through this process, very collaborative process, with the school board, and ultimately, school board went with slightly different maps. We've aside joint meeting dates, if necessary, that will be starting the training room, I think, next Monday.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>SPEAKER: And really, we've got this data about two weeks sooner than the last told you, so it was good news, afforded time to bring this information to you today and solicit any feedback you have. And we're happy to answer any questions.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So the end game on this, the whole point of this, is to just ensure that the districts are basically even.
And doing the census, it's showing that certain districts have a little less than 1,000, somewhere around 1,000 more or less than the others. So that's the end game. We just want to make sure that the -- each district is equal.
And I think considering our constituents, considering that they know who they can go to for their representatives, and I'm looking at plan F. Plan F basically leaves most of the districts the same. Actually, all of them -- most of them.
But except for a large neighborhood in Port Orange and then the City of Lake Helen.
But it doesn't -- I'm looking at the other ones and it really changes a lot of things. And I think for our constituents, to keep things somewhat orderly and have them have the best representation or know what their representation is, at least, I move that we stick with the plan F.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I don't think we're voting on the different maps today, are we? We're giving you direction.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Give you direction, right?
>>SPEAKER: Right.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That would be my motion, then, we give them --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Your preference DB.
>>SPEAKER: We have to give them direction to a plan, that would my motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that, but I want to amend the motion to also include A, A and F are the least intrusive and I would like to -- the focus on A and F. I'll make that as a amendment to the motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And I would second that amendment.
>>SPEAKER: Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead.
>>SPEAKER: Do we have a second on the original motion? We do.
Okay. So you're moving to amend.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So the original motion was for F, which is fabulous. And the amendment is that we -- and we need to decide what we're going to do here.
The amendment was to add A, which is adequate. And none of this is a reflection on your drawing, you have done marvelous work. And you did what you had to do. And now it's our job to try and figure out what to go with. And then, hope that this school board, I'm very hopeful that the school board will join us and have the same districts, I think, it would be much easier for them, for the public, to understand where they're voting, who they're voting for, so.
All right, so we have -- we have an amendment to the motion.
Dr. Lowry seconded it. And are you satisfied with the amendment? Okay.
Before we call for a vote, we need to hear from two other council members that this greatly affects. Ben Johnson?
>>SPEAKER: I've looked through these and I have to agree with you, there is three of them that looked good, or pretty good, and three to me looked terrible.
Heather would have to become a surveyor to know where she was and so would the citizens and that's something that we want to keep as simple as possible. I can very much accept those two.
Because -- I think it maybe if we can take and keep it for the two, and let those school boards see it. But I had -- let's see, C, D and E, marked out, so that will be A, B, just in case, maybe, as a backup, that we kind of kept in the background, in case the school board wasn't happy. But I like the idea of these two going forward.
Because as it is, the citizens will be hard enough for council person to know on these other ones, where they were, much less the citizens knowing where they are, or some of them that you're having to cover so far across the county, and once again, that district 4, when you have to go from north to, you know, to pond island, it is not fair. So I like this motion you put together.
>>CHAIR BROWER: The school board has already -- they have all of the maps.
>>SPEAKER: We've shared all of the maps with the school board, we anticipated on the 11th, we don't have any input from the school board at this time.
>>CHAIR BROWER: But they could come back with something totally different than what we're --
adequate or fabulous.
(Laughing) okay. Barb?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, Chair.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Don't go away.
Barb Girtman.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Well. I am -- I'm 100% in agreement with F.
(Laughs) fabulous.
However, A is not adequate for me. As it then moves the fairgrounds and that 44 corridor, which isn't a good move for me. Excuse me, for the district. In my opinion. So can you -- can you show me again?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. On A?
>>SPEAKER: B.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Which one?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: B. Show the overlay.
>>SPEAKER: That's the proposed lines for B.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Would you remind me what it shifts?
>>SPEAKER: B shifts 4 into district 1 and north Deland, shifts into 4. You're also going to see district 5 come up and take some of the unincorporated area around Lake Helen. And north of Lake Helen.
And I think some of DeBary shifted into 5 also.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And 2 has that weird thing going out --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I think it's F that eliminates the fairgrounds for you. Not A.
>>SPEAKER: A limits the fairgrounds for her. If you look, it's a little bit hard to see, but you see where the City of Deland, actually says Deland and then 44. There's a little line that moves further east.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Oh, I see the jig there.
>>SPEAKER: It's right there.
It's the little subtleties, it's hard to represent on the larger maps.
>>SPEAKER: So that would be my concern with that one and --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: ( Inaudible ) doesn't she lose it also on F?
>>SPEAKER: No, actually, F only takes Lake Helen and the unincorporated area, around Lake Helen. And moves that into --
you see on F where that same area near where it says 44 is pushed out instead of in? The 3. But Lake Helen and then it curves in around an and under Lake Helen to get the unincorporated area.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barb, does that move you out of your district?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, it doesn't move me out of the district.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You NIF live in Lake Helen?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I just see you there, you work a lot at Lake Helen. Okay.
>>SPEAKER: All of the plans meet the criteria to keep both the school board and the county council in their current SDRITH districts, it meets that criteria, all of the plans.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson, were you done, Barb? Ben Johnson.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: >>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Do any of these meet the school board members.
>>SPEAKER: The closest one O to the school board map is B, the school board currently, you see how 5 reaches down into that lower region? And 4 pushes out further west in the school board maps, that little finger coming off 2 is not in the current school board map. 2 would be --
would end before that finger that reaches out west. I don't think 5 reaches as far north either in the current map.
>>SPEAKER: No.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You said according to the current map, their map needs to change to get with the numbers, correct?
>>SPEAKER: In their map, 1 includes all of DeBary, that's -- they're including all of DeBary makes 1 their highistest population area. So 1 is about 9,000. 9%. About 9% over what it needs to be.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. Thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So can we add B to our -- A, B and F.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I think we need to vote on the motion on the floor and if you want to make another motion. Is that adequate to you, Mr. Attorney?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir, I think that the motion now, the vote would be on the amendment, and then, vote on the original motion. As amended.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Which is A and F. Correct?
>>SPEAKER: That's the amendment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: On. All in favor of that say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Nay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Nay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So that motion passes 6-1. And would you like to make another motion?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I would like to make the motion -- I'm sorry.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We have to --
( Inaudible ).
>>SPEAKER: My understanding is that Ms. Girtman is prepared to make another motion to amend.
The original motion, so you have the original motion has been amended to include A and F.
Unless amended further.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, the first one is finished. Barb.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I would like to add B, so we would have F, A and B.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>SPEAKER: In that order. FB and A.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Is there a second?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that, if I can make a comment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You can.
>>SPEAKER: Can we rank those in that order of preference?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: F, B and A.
(Laughing)
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll go along with that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. So the motion is to add B, and rank them F, B, A. Fabulous, because Barb wants it, and A as adequate.
And Fred Lowry seconded that motion. I don't see any discussion, all in favor? Say aye. Aye. Any opposed?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Was -- I heard Billie, was there another opposed? Okay. So that motion carries 5-2.
>>SPEAKER: Now, I think, back to the original motion. Because the second amendment passed.
>>CHAIR BROWER: The original --
I thought we voted for the original motion with the amendment. Just the amendment?
Okay.
>>SPEAKER: You've got the two amendments.
>>CHAIR BROWER: All right.
>>SPEAKER: Vote on the underlying motion, which is F, B and A, in order of preference to staff, which is the original motion as amended.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So the original motion adds -- we just voted for that.
>>SPEAKER: You voted on an amendment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: On. Let's vote -- I'll call for the vote on the original amendment, which is F and A. Be careful how you say that?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Original motion.
>>SPEAKER: The original motion as amended.
>>CHAIR BROWER: What did I say?
Original motion --
>>SPEAKER: F, B and A, and unless amended again.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, and that was --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Tell me what it was again.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That was the motion by Wheeler for.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, it was mine.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Post.
>>CHAIR BROWER: A motion by Post to go with plan A. And F.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, my motion was to go with F. Just F.
>>SPEAKER: Dr. Lowry's motion to amend added A, Ms. Girtman's -- second motion to amend added B with a ranking of F, B and A as preference of council.
>>CHAIR BROWER: What are we voting for? Just F.
>>SPEAKER: No, F, B and A, basically what you just voted but but the final motion, because you were amending Ms.
Post's original motion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Which is what I thought we voted for. Okay.
All in favor of F, B and A? In that order. And we'll see what the school board does. And no further discussion, all in favor of F, B and A in that order say aye. Aye. Any opposed?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Opposeed.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: We're just voting on the motion, on F?
>>SPEAKER: That was the final motion as amended. Which was --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't like B, mine is a negative.
(Laughs).
>>SPEAKER: The 5-2 vote. Sosa, Sabrina, we'll be ready at the workshop -- at the joint meeting, on Monday, we'll still have all six maps, we'll be able to relay the initial feedback of this council that of your interest. And go from there.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you for your work.
Before we move on, I want to go backwards, I believe, we had a request for a speaker, and I thought it was for item 5, it looks like it was for item F, the municipal agreement with Edgewater. Would Ms. Levette care to speak on that? This was item F? S from the consent agenda. Which passed, but you want ed to make a comment.
>>SPEAKER: I wanted to speak on S, but we're not speaking on S, are we?
>>CHAIR BROWER: If it's all right with the council, I was going to allow you to make your comments on S? Is it S.
>>SPEAKER: S the one for the Indian river lagoon?
>>CHAIR BROWER: No.
>>SPEAKER: One is for the Indian river lagoon?
>>CHAIR BROWER: That's 20.
>>SPEAKER: 20. That's the one I want to speak on, are we going to be speaking on that?
>>CHAIR BROWER: At 1:30.
>>SPEAKER: I'll come back for that one.
>>CHAIR BROWER: It will be after 1:30.
That takes us to item 2A.
Resolution for a name change.
And that is going to be presented by Clay? All right.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you. Good morning, Clay Ervin, director of growth and resource management.
County staff received a request from pat Northey and Clay Henderson to support an effort to change the name of the north peninsula state park, which is located on our barrier island up at the northern boundary with Flagler county, to change it from north peninsula state park to Reid B. Hughes state park.
And included in the staff agenda item is the letter we received from Mr. Henderson, sent to the head of the state parks.
Requesting the name change.
Again, we do not have the ability to change the name, the request is for is a resolution of support to change the name of the park from the north pen state to Reid B. Hughes, that's really our report. If there's any questions, regarding that?
>>CHAIR BROWER: We do have questions and we have someone from the public that would like to speak as well. Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes. I don't know how many y'all had the pleasure of knowing who Reid Hughes really was. Reid Hughes was a local businessman that did some much for the CHUNT community and the environmental community, he always stepped up to the plate, he put his money where his mouth was, but more than that, work where it was needed to help this county, and I think that this is say small token and I think it's a very good token and I'm going to make a motion that we approve a resolution to ask the state to rename this park.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Reid Hughes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Well, then that clears a lot of the speakers, too. Okay. That cleared all of the speakers. And so I'll call on the public who wanted to speak. Pat Northey?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Thank you, council members, thank you, Mr. Johnson for getting that motion out there.
I'm just here to answer any questions, if you had any comment or concerns that you want ed know about this. The let hear the Clay Henderson wrote to the state covers Reid's history, and I don't know how many of you all knew him, but I want to thank the staff, I spoke to George, I spoke to Clay, I spoke to Kevin, they worked very hard to get this on this week's agenda, because we are on kind of I a time crunch with the state, it will go to the arc and the historic board at the state and they'll make recommendations as well. And from there, we're just -- the resolution from the county was really critical, it really sends a simple and important message that we want to honor this guy, so thank you all very much. If there's any questions, I'm happy to answer them. Otherwise? I'll get out of your hair.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I don't see any questions. Do we have a motion on the floor to approve the resolution for the name change, motion was by Johnson. And seconded by everybody else on the -- who wants to take the second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Heather. My district.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And all in favor say aye? Any opposed?
Resolution passes 7-0.
And that takes us to John booker with item 3, renewal of contract with the southern group of Florida, state lobbyist service.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. And our federal lobbyist as well.
Clarence Williams from -- my name is John booker, Government affairs for Volusia County, for your consideration today is the renewal of both of our state and federal lobbying contracts, the southern group is represented by Oscar Anderson, and then as I said before, becker and Poliakoff is represented by Clarence Williams, Clarence came down to DC from this to avoid another mess that's going on in DC, who knows?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll call it escape.
>>SPEAKER: (Laughs) so anyway, I'll start with the southern group folks. Oscar has been able to chat with a few of these via Zoom meetings and go to meetings, previously, we helped get the rest of the folks in on that. And was able to give you all those of you who were able to do it, some insights on what hell might see is going to happen this coming fall with committee weeks. And then, with the session, which begins first part of January. You just heard about presentation on county redistricting and the mantra that seems to be going on in Tallahassee is along with their redistricting effort both on the state house side, the senate side, and then of course the congressional districts. Which actually, Mr. Leake is the chairman on the health side of that committee. So Oscar is going to talk you a little bit about what else they may see is going to happen in Tallahassee this year. I won't steal any of his thunder. Committee weeks began two weeks ago and they will continue until December.
January 11th is the first of the 60-day session. There will be a pool on whether or not they end on 60 days. Because typically, redistricting will be a fast and furious at the end of that time, we'll so what happens. 232 general bills have been filed for the legislature to consider.
Last year, T was around 2,000 general bills that were filed with about 1,000 appropriation requests for -- so they're running anywhere between 3,000 total bills and 3,400 depending on the year. So anyway, with that, I will ask Oscar to come up and chat a little bit, give you an update on stuff happening in the state, so.
>>SPEAKER: Thanks, John, hello, everyone. How are you?
I'm glad I've gotten to speak to a few of you on Zoom ahead of time and working with the --
councilman Johnson. First and foremost, thank you. We are honored to rep T you all in Tallahassee. And we have for several years and so, we have an open door policy and any questions you have or whatever, we're there to answer them, to try to be helpful.
And we've had as I've talked about in the past, great successes, appropriation projects a well, some legislation passed and a few other items. So upcoming session, as John and you have just passed, the redistricting process and getting that started, they're starting in Tallahassee. And but imagine if you would, you know, your I don't know three or four weeks of having to get this process finished in December and all of a sudden, you are drawing other districts. So that's going to happen in Tallahassee. There's always like 25 or 30 members that are drawn out of the districts that they represent.
And so, that causes a great deal of chaos. In that process at the end there. So as John indicated, it will be -- it's always a question whether we end on time when redistrictings is happening.
We don't anticipate a lot of significant legislation.
Because of that. There's just going to be DN -- once those maps get dropped, it will cast a shadow over everything. The other thing that I wanted to touch on, specifically, was budget stuff, as you remember last yearer went into the budget with a $2 million short fall, Clarence found $2 million for the state of Florida from DC, so that helped fill a lot of holes and then, they didn't spend all of that, so they have some of that money left over, plus they closed the loophole on the online sales tax and both of those generated 800 million to a billion dollars a year in the general revenue. They got cash that will help significantly.
We'll be in the middle and working every day with the association of counties and the league of cities on home rules issues. And I don't anticipate as many this year. Just because of what's going on with redistricting, but, you know, I say that, you never really know, as he said, there's 250 bills that have been filed and there'll be 2,000 so we're seeing the beginning of what happens. We'll be lucky if there's 250 bills passed at the end. And, you know, things like vacation rentals, which I know, if there's an opportunity to work on the downward departure language, we'll work on that.
And try to get that included.
So again, here to answer any questions and hopefully I'll connect with the rest of you all in the next few weeks before we go into session.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Hi, Oscar.
So you've gone over keeping up with what's ahead and what's going on at the state level, can you go over a little bit of what you've done for Volusia County over the last year?
>>SPEAKER: Sure, of course. So starting at the beginings, you know, the Winston road project, $2 million road project we got passed over the course of several years. And the last couple of years, we've gotten some appropriations on bucket, they haven't gotten through the have veto, the project was tied up in the larger resilience SI fund that was created in the water funnel ( Inaudible ) not all, but most of those projects go through that process. That money is being held up, an article yesterday about -- 400 million going to get released and get moving in the process?
So we did that. We work hand in hand with the ( Inaudible ) there's been nothing unique to Volusia County from trying to protect from the home rule perspective. So but, you know, two years ago, three years ago, we passed the local bill on the legends racing issue, so we've had those -- those are the issues that we're working on.
And we're trying to work with John this year, to try to find a little bigger kind of a project to go pursue, you know, we're going into a unique time from the delegation perspective, they'll be powerful in Tallahassee, so we need to capitalize on that over the next year, two years.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I wanted to prove approval for item 3, renewal of the contract with southern group, expenditure DEDZ designated.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Lowry, seconded by Johnson to renew the contract for the state and the federal.
Just doing the state or both contracts? Fred.
>>SPEAKER: It's one agenda item, I don't know, Mike.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Do it separately?
>>SPEAKER: If it needs to be separate.
>>SPEAKER: It can be together.
Maker of the motion was the intent.
>>CHAIR BROWER: What your motion?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Both of them.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And your second stands? So motion by Lowry to approve both, seconded by Johnson to approve the state.
And the federal lobbyist budget.
And I don't see any other questions, we would like to hear from --
>>SPEAKER: Yeah. Clarence --
he doesn't have to speak today.
But anyway, Clarence has represented us up in D.C., his assistants, in regards to when COVID hit, and a lot of the information that was not coming about down from Washington was challenging for everyone. State and federal side. But the becker team has 7 or 8 folks up in D.C., so they all kind of work together. So somebody may have information in regards to CARES Act funding, because they know somebody on the committee level, or in the majority team, so that's invaluable for me, specifically, and trying to get some of that information out when CARES Act came out. And originally. Clarence was also probably two-and-a-half years ago, set up a meeting that we had, Clarence and I had had, with the development agency, and out of those conversations, was a progression of conversations, which ended up into the award of that grant. That EDA gave us a couple or two months ago, I think, for the airport property.
So anyway, Clarence is going to try to explain in three or measure minutes or less, what Congress is doing or not doing in regards to reconciliation bills, debt limits, and infrastructure, social bills and so with that, Clarence, you have three minutes to tell the whole story.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Clarence, before you start, Ben, did you have a question or a comment?
No? Okay. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, members of the ( Inaudible ) ( Internet outage ) Mr. Manager, and staff, very pleased to be here, like you said, it was an escape from Washington, D.C., it's been a little crazy. I have been associated in some shape or form with Washington D.C. since 2003, I've never seen it as contentious as it is now, both intraparty as well as, you know, bicamerally and with the two parties scrapping on just about everything there is to scrap on.
As John mentioned, we have been absolutely pleased to work with you guys, it has been a personal joy for me, I have a lot of roots here in Daytona, telling someone yesterday of the people that were in my wedding, five of them are from Daytona.
So I have spent a lot of my time here since college, visiting folks, this has been an absolute pleasure. We are fairly horizontally integrated group up in D.C., when I am --
my partner opened up the D.C.
branch for becker in 2011, it was our intention, then, that we would have puzzle pieces to purpose build our team and we have continued to do that. And since actually since the first time with you guy, three more people. One of those was the number three at U.S. D.O.T.
under Ms. Elaine ciao, so we got him and we have been ecstatic.
And we are going to make --
ecstatic as well. We look forward to this coming year, and great things we're going to be able to do.
If -- I'll preface it that way, there's no smart money on this at this point. If things pan out the way folks want them to, I'll start from probably the most important thing to the county, heading down, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, that is the bill that was passed by the senate. It is a little over a half a trillion dollars.
Your traditional infrastructure roads, bridges, also has about $65 million for broadband, those types of things. That bill is a -- is every bit bipartisan. It is a red and blue state issue, and most folks want to get it out. Unfortunately, it was couped with the reconciliation which is not bipartisan, you have heard on television is $3.5 trillion package that represents president Biden's plan for as he refers to it, building back better. When the package was initially done by the house, it was planned at $3.5 trillion.
However, when ways and means decided to go in and figure out how their going to pay for it, they're going to pay for it around $3.1 trillion, that's the true starting point. They're going to have make cuts to get to that number. Enter all of the conversations that you've seen playing out on television, that number is probably going to end up being somewhere between 1.7 and 2.1. They can actually get there a lot easier than a lot of folks thought. And I think despite some of the, you know, the continued rumblings from the progressive side, there is enough cohesion around where they can make these cuts to do it. So the reconciliation package is basically, soft infrastructure, workforce development. It's climate issues, it's dealing with healthcare. Capital infrastructure is a big piece of the healthcare component. There are ways to get around that $3.5 trillion price tag that I think will go up. Probably the biggest ticket is healthcare side. Has to do with a benefit that they're proposing to provide Medicare beneficiaries with vision, dental, and hearing benefits. That's about $350 billion price tag that was going to be about 5-6 years out. My guess is that's going to come out. Most of the authorizations for programs within that bill, set for ten years, they're going to probably roll that back, that will save you right there. And there's things here and there that is also means testing, has been brought up to some of the social programs to make sure that we're providing the benefit to the folks who most need them.
My guess is they won't touching, the healthcare, they won't touch any of the broadband infrastructure money. Probably won't touch any of the capital infrastructure money for health care, that's going to change.
But they'll get that number down to somewhere in that 1.7 area.
And at that point, the --
senator Manchin, senator cinema, a lot easier for everybody.
The plan at this point, is to be able to get both of these bills out by October 31. They really, really, really need to get the bipartisan infrastructure bill in there, because the authorization for the highway transportation bill is in the bipartisan infrastructure bill. And that needs to get done. A lot of money for a lot of people. So one way or the other, they're going to find out how to get that bill done.
They passed as you may have seen, the resolution, I guess it was -- beginning of last week, end of the week before, continued paying the Government through December 3rd. So they have to get the appropriations bills, the next tranche of money, those bills done by December 3rd, I think that they're on schedule to get that done with not too much hassle.
My understanding as of this morning, senate is going to try to get their appropriations bill drafts out by October 15th, out to the public, get them heard and ( Inaudible ) sometime before December 3rd, so have to do this whole dance about the government shutting down.
The funneling. The debt ceiling. You guys have heard a lot of conversation about that, some of the stupidest things I've ever heard-- ( Inaudible ) but at the end of the day, the debt ceiling is a dance that we do really, you know, every time it comes up, no matter who's in charge. Have to do it, folks who are not ( Inaudible ) no different, no reason for it to be any different. We have spent an incredible amount of money over the last 18 month, so that conversation will continue to happen. There's a little lessoning of tension over on the senate side. Mr. Blunt has been pretty clear that he probably has about four or five republican hold outs at this point for, you know, doing away with the fill bust IRer on it.
They can be convinced to let the democrats vote it up. We're not going to help or block it from proceeding so I expect by tend of the week, they'll take care of that. And I think everybody is clear on the fact that we probably got until October 18th before defaulting on our obligations. The problem is, we can't get close to that 18th mark. We start seeing the effects of that every inch of every day we get closer to October 18th. You see it in the stock market, start looking at the APRs on the loans and this and that, they are starting to creep up. So I don't think that at the end of the day, they will decide, go ahead and get that bit of business out of the way.
Some things have happened very, very quietly, and will con PT to be worked on -- continue to be worked on that are important to Volusia. The national flood insurance program, for instance, we have not yet reauthorized that program.
There is language in the reconciliation package to do away with the $27 billion worth of debt. That's probably going to come with some strings, you heard of 2.0. It officially started for new policies October 1st. For existing policy holders, going to start April 1st of 22. And so certainly, if they go about, you know, wiping that debt, it's going to probably go, but there's a bipartisan effort to slow the risk rating 2.0 down. Do we know how FEMA is going to look at the different metrics involved in it now. Quite honestly, for folks who have, you know, median income housing and folks who are away from the known flood zones, and those things, it does make the system a little bit more fair, it starts looking at things like your districts on the water, the elevation, things like that, if you're on the coast, it's going to hit you pocket. It's going to hit your pocket significantly.
You know, but we're also having to measure the value of the properties, against the cost to replace them and so that's where that cost comes in.
But they've got to get that figured out and figured out soon. They have been extending and extending and extending, I think there's a lot of desire to get at least the program itself reauthorized and then they'll figure out the risk rating 2.0 as it goes along. I'm going to go ahead and shut it down, certainly, if you guys have any questions, I'll take those now.
But at any point, that you want to, don't hesitate to reach out, shoot me an e-mail and we can talk through anything that you might have. Mr. Chairman, any questions?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You have questions, on theest cocoast, that between the river and the ocean?
>>SPEAKER: That's one of those questions that pops up. That we don't quite know the answer to.
It's really going to be --
they're looking heavily at costs to replace.
So the value of the home is going to be the bigger deal.
The homes of course that are on the water, are going to cost more. Whether that's on the ocean or on the river or on the lake, we don't really know. We haven't got to that level of detail.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just want to speak on the importance of having these lobbying firms. I had the opportunity to lobby for the Florida sheriff's association and I know what a job it is, but the biggest part about it is you have to have somebody basic lip on campus all the time. And people that know that the players up there, and I think we've got good groups here, we're going on the cheap and I think in the future, we need to look eight. This is a drop in the bucket as to what we can get back from it. And have the people there not just to try to pass good legislation, but one of the biggest things they're doing up there is trying to stop bad legislation. And that takes as much of the time as the good legislation.
>>SPEAKER: Probably more.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm very much favor of approve this, but in the future, we need to look and see after the report cards, what do we want to do, do we need to add more to it? In order to help our county on what it will bring back to us.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to echo the same thing Mr. Johnson said, I won't repeat. It's appropriate NA you said that the build back bankruptcy bill would be solved by Halloween, October 31st, that was very appropriate.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barb Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I've certainly appreciated the communication and the feedback and resources that you've been able to provide for us. Are we leaving anything on the table that we could invest in gaining more through your services, or through your company's services, are there other resources that we're not gaining?
>>SPEAKER: I hope not I hope that we're investigating out there, and I think there's an opportunity, we had a conversation about the broadband pieces.
And I think that -- certainly think through the healthcare pieces, that are involved in the workforce, great things to do, really excited to be working with -- the airport property. I am going to be saddened and disheartened if we can't do some transformational things at the airport and all of the propers attending to it. It's a great piece of property. It's got some great foundational effort.
We've talked about it already.
And gotten their senses heightened to what can be done there. You know, the option is private investment because, you know, some of that area incorporates the opportunity zones, this is a personal favorite thing of mine. There's a lot of opportunities in the next six months to a year or so.
That we're going to jump in with both feet. As I mentioned, having ( Inaudible ) Anthony, where all of the skeletons and funds are, D.O.T., and so we've been smacking him over the head, spit it out. We're going to bring that to bear for you guys here.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much. Cyrus, did you want to make a comment before we vote?
No. Okay. Thank you CH a motion on the floor to accept the state and federal lobbyist service expenditure of $132,500.
All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion carries 7-0. Thank you, gentlemen. And that takes us to the -- some of the bread and butter of it and item 4, at least for the state of Florida, are legislative priority list.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. John booker, Government affairs.
Before you is a proposed priority list for the council to chat about, edit, comment, whatever your pleasure may be.
We are of course always concern about unfunded mandates, preservation of home rule activities. Basically human services, economic development and the economy. Those are what we kind of look at as our four cornerstones of what we're interested in. Specific to that list are a couple of things that we are pursuing and may not be a legislative fix at this point in time, but something that we pursue through other means with the administration or agencies.
The first of which is the inmate Medicaid reform issue. Which we've chatted about, presented for inclusion in their policy list. And so, what we have been having discussions with various potential stakeholders in order to try and reform the way they -- the business is done so ultimately, it will create some savings for us on the -- on our jail side. That's something that I've talked to Oscar about in the past and again, with some of the contacts they have at the healthcare administration.
Sheriff's association.
Etcetera. So we continue to work on that.
The vacation rentals as Oscar said, should the legislature pursue vacation rentals bill, which nobody is really sure what they may do, but last year, if you recall, there was a provision in one of the bills which would allow for a lessoning of some of the restrictions without releasing any other rights that a county may have. So we would certainly be pursuing that, should the leadership of either the house or the senate have that out there as an issue. And then, of course, condominium reform, nothing has been really instituted, I know that the Florida bar has looked at some potential reform measures, they have not created anything yet, that certainly took our attention during that tragedy, we would be mindful that given our coastline and that should that reform start moving, that we will be taking temperature of the legislature and see how further discussions would potentially help that situation.
So the document is a moving document, as the legislature goes. So at times, we may add something that we had not anticipated. Try not to delete much everything can happen until the hanker chief falls on the 60th day, this document is again for your comments, if there's something that I have not included or if you would like a little bit more dialogue, or narrativer I should say, please let me know. For your information, the county delegation meeting is tomorrow in Deland, I'm assuming that this is passed, I'll be senning this out to the delegation here shortly. For their consideration. And so that they know what our goals and aspirations are, so with that, I will take any questions.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I was going to move approval for the 2022 state of Florida legislative priority list.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Is there a second? Seconded by Robins.
And I'm just going to bring up something, I -- I tried to say it at the meeting we had with the city officials and county officials that we talked about some language that needed to go to the state to control unpermitted events in Volusia County. And what I wanted to say was that I will -- I will make sure that it gets on the agenda, if but I can't make a motion if Billie Wheeler would make a motion, I'm going to let her make that in a minute.
>>SPEAKER: If I may, we did add that portion, it was my mistake in not --
>>CHAIR BROWER: No, I'm looking at it now, I was going to -- I was going to say, because the public really wants to know that we're doing anything with it, can we are, we've add Ted it to the language that we're asking, turns out that the cities or the county, just can't double their fines on their own. We have to ask permission of the state. So I often say in here that everything we do touched by the state, by the federal Government, this is certainly the case. But that is the desire of everybody, every city in Volusia County, is to double fines and to be able to impound vehicles where there's actually tooth. Would you like to add something, Billie.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That covers it, chair, that was one of my questions after the last event and I went to the shores and talked to them, I said, can we double fines during event times?
And they said no. So it was brought up at the task force and I think that's mainly the enforcement that we felt that would be work for everybody is during those special event times that we could double fines.
Increase the fines and everything during those events, so.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And you have added it --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's already added, all of this.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Unpermitted special events initiative. This is for self-perpetuating events that pop up that aren't permitted, usually on social media and tend to destroy our county, cities. Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So you and I talked a little bit, but and council actually spoke in front of the Florida association of counties delegation at this last policy conference to ask, their assistance in pushing our priorities specifically from Volusia County, answered questions and did receive unanimous vote to push Volusia County specific priorities through all of the county commissioners in Florida and through that, also, at the national level as well. So that was good to have everybody on board and get us moving forward.
I have a question on the unfunded mandates, I know that we had asked -- I just wanted to make a point, I had asked about some of those numbers before.
But perhaps at the end of or sometime during meeting, if staff could get us the numbers in regards to the on 04-13, the unfunded mandates in reference to us housing the state prisoners for longer periods of time. If we could just -- I'll try and remember to bring that up in open discussion, but if we could staff touch on that later.
>>SPEAKER: I do know that at least for the current year, it's been $3.1 million.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That we have spent on state prisoners that should already be in state prison but we are still housing because they're not coming and getting them, correct.
>>SPEAKER: Correct, 3.1 million. And it's been an issue for several years, but that's the latest and this is probably the worst we've ever seen it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And so I think it's very important, too, for us to have these discussions and understand that is certainly something that we've been pushing from Volusia through the national association of counties as well. And were really working to get in the federal support to change some of that, so. Very important to have all of us on board. But I appreciate all that you're doing, John, and definitely want to meet with you some more, I'm going to have -- get with you and maybe we can start doing a monthly through these committees coming up, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Billie Wheeler.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Just clarification, Mr. Chairman and John, on that one with the special events, it's got unpermitted special events, are we only doing the unpermit SND I mean, isn't reason T we really going for any -- aren't we going for any events if they're breaking the -- because there's a lot of permitted events that do come over and break the laws.
And I would think that that would cover all events. Special events.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That was the requesting from the Daytona Beach city manager, but he's probably spoken with the county manager earth is -- manager, so I'll turn that over to George.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, late yesterday, we received a copy of what their City of Daytona Beach is looking at. And it basically talks specifically about all of events and with the ability, statewide, they're asking for all municipalities to have the ability to adjust the fines for some sort of a declared event.
I think the details would have to get worked out. The idea here is that this is written pretty generally to so that we can work with those cities, as they kind of hammer out something, it would be more definable, but they --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just wanted to make sure that it covered any special event.
>>SPEAKER: Yours right now says unpermitted.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah.
>>SPEAKER: But again, I think that we can -- that's what I was going to ask at the end here, when you put this together, for final vote, to maybe include in the motion the ability for the manager to adjust things and bring them back to you, especially because when you get going in session, two weeks will be too long in some cases to act on certain things, so if we could have a little flexibility that we would follow the general direction of these priorities, example, home rule charter, we want to maintain that, it's been their theme, generally. So anything that comes up that maybe wasn't on this list, we will follow that and bring it to you to as early as possible date to change that, if it was necessary. And in this case, here, I think Suzanne is trying to signal something here, so.
>>SPEAKER: I just wanted to --
the title of this, unpermitted special events, maybe we should take the word unpermitted out, because.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That will solve it.
>>SPEAKER: Inclusive of sanctioned.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's why I was confused.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: No motion required to take it out? So the motion would be to approve the priority list as written with that minor change unpermitted is just special events initiatives.
>>SPEAKER: That would be --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Sufficient.
The motion was by Lowry. Who's nodding affirmatively. Seconded by Robins. Who's nodding affirmatively.
So George, did you have something else that you wanted to say?
>>SPEAKER: That's it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I did want to mention as well, since we do have the condominium reform on here, I know that some members are very interested in that as well, but at our last Florida association of counties meeting in the policy committee meeting, Miami-Dade, of course, where the event just happened, was really working on pushing forward some -- pushing through some legislation with the state. In regards to maintenance of some of the buildings. And that was -- that was approved, so. Just know that that is a push, and that is going to be a big discussion this year, so I know our members are very interested in that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, thank you.
Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It is important that we do it statewide, because if Miami-Dade does something and we don't, these events get moved. We push them out, they go somewhere else, that's all that happened so you have to be prepared for it and we've in the past, we have had them, we ourselves have done away with them. That's how Miami ended up with it. And all of these events can very easily be right back in your lap again, hence we forget, so we need to do a statewide initiative on it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And not seeing any further discussion, I'll call for the vote to approve the legislative priority list with the minor change on page 413 to omit unpurr mitted to just say --
unpermitted to say special events initiatives. All in favor, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Nice work.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Did we give Mr. Recktenwald the approval to act at a moment's notice, we need to make sure that he's clear on that. Because as he said, two weekss time, a lot of damage gets done in two weeks.
I'll make a motion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Make a motion, Johnson, makes a motion to give the county manager flexibility to deal with the surrounding communities and during special event, seconded by Wheeler.
George, your name is still up here, did you want to say something?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wouldn't say just special events. I think we need to do it on legislative issues, if it's too important, he can call a special meeting. We don't want to tie his hands because this is fluid, this happens, and it may be a phone call, saying, hey, they're trying to do this can they need an answer right that minute minute. So I think we need to give him the flexibility to act on any of this legislation that is critical and immediate that he can act immediately.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And I believe he said he would bring it back to the council if --
>>SPEAKER: Yeah, exactly, bring it back to the council at the next meeting.
>>CHAIR BROWER: All right. So the motion still stands by Johnson, seconded by Wheeler?
By me. By Wheeler. (Laughs) to give county manager flexibility.
All in favor say aye. Any opposed? The motion carries 7-0. Thank you.
And that takes us to item 5.
Land purchase for Helen boulevard, providence by TAD.
>>SPEAKER: Item 5 is a land purchase for the highland boulevard widening project that is currently underway, the parcel in question is the southwest corner of the intersection of providence and highland. And we need aid corner clip, and approached the property enO'er about purchasing said corner clip, they countered with purchasing the entire property. Their parcel doesn't meet the current zoning standards so it's a noncon forming lot. So by buying even a corner clip, continue to make the nonconformance worse. We worked to rectify the situation, ultimately satisfying the situation by purchasing the entire parcel. The original appraised value is $87,000, we negotiated with their attorney, as their right, she brought in an attorney, and we were responsible for their fees. And as a part of this. And the negotiated our price of $157,000 inclusive of the attorneys fees.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Johnson, seconded by Wheeler. Fred Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm good.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You were going to make a motion to approve. I don't see any discussion. All in favor say aye. Any opposed?
Motion carries 7-0 to make the land purchase.
That takes us to item 6.
Selection of firms to provide professional development review for impact fees, this has been a long discussion, it's good to see it on the agenda. Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Clay Ervin, direct of the growth and resource management, by our own ordinances, we are required to review impact fees for parks and recreation. And in the past, this has been done sometimes together, sometimes separately.
At this point in time, staff believes it's important that we address all three of these at one time. We looked at what options we had available to us in order to procure a professional to conduct these studies. It's important in order to defend these things into the future if they are ever challenged by the development community to make sure that we're utilizing a creditable methodology, and that we have people who are very versed in not only Florida statutes in regards to our state laws for impact fees, but also the Court cases and the science behind how these things are developed.
Working with our purchasing department, we went out and put an RSQ for a continuing service contract. The reason why we wanted to continue the service contract is over the several years, the state legislature has put in place new laws that dictate how local Governments not only establish the impact fees, monitor and report the impact fees. So we see that this is going to be a continuing issue, we will have to do updates and making sure we have up to date data, and that we are able to properly address any kind of challenges that may come this way. There was a selection committee, we reviewed the propoal proposals. Both firms have vast experience and have worked here in Volusia County at one point in time. The contract before you is to now just tendal Oliver, they are a state firm, that has done an extensive amount of work here on multiple projects. -- was the second firm, we selected them to be a part of the continuing contract.
But there's a second item.
Which is the actual task assignment to go forward and conduct the necessary analysis and study that would support an amendment to our impact fee ordinances to re-establish a new fee based on up to date costs, that has been did t decision of the committee was to award it to tend LD Oliver, we received notice from TISH vice that they were not interested in pursuing the continued services contract.
T at this point, in order to ensure that we have an expedited process, we are ahead of schedule, but we want to be ahead of schedule. Continuing service contract to Tyndall Oliver and the first task assignment for the update to the thoroughfare road, parks and recreation and fire services impact fee, to Tyndall Oliver for the amount of $134,360.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Wheeler, seconded by Lowry. And just for clarification, for the public, just correct me if I'm wrong, thoroughfare roads includes stormwater management as it affects the road being built or maintained.
>>SPEAKER: When we go out and look at expanding or putting in a new road, one of the elements that has to be addressed is a stormwater that will address the new pavement. So that indicates that we can utilize thoroughfare road impact fees for stormwater improvements associated for any road improvements.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I'm already being asked why we're not doing schools. We can't but schools are being done, I understand, by the school board, as is necessary.
>>SPEAKER: Correct, Volusia's role in the school impact fee is an administrative one, because the school board does not handle building permits, we serve as the school board and a pass through to them. They are the ones that are responsible for review and establishment and they are currently getting ready to do an update to the impact fee, utilizing Tyndall Oliver.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Heather Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I have a number of questions from the public.
So previously, we had some discussion about an impact fee study and the impact fee study was done 2015.
>>SPEAKER: Finalized in 2018, it was initiated in 2015, the contract was awarded.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Came back to it in 2018, right. But when we came back to it in 2018, I think there was an information that the information that we had in 2018 is not valid, we need to redo that. So knowing that, the questions were how often we do a study, in 2015, three years later, it's no longer valid. So since we are talking about having someone on board to keep up with this data.
>>SPEAKER: Okay, by ordinance, we have to go with the thoroughfare road every four years so we can update it in 2018. So we have to have that completed by the end of 2022.
Just to clarify, the contract was awarded to Duncan and associates. One of the requests that came out of council, seemed that the impact fee was very cumbersome because we had 44 different land use categories and there is an effort from both staff and the council to try and reduce that down to nine total land use categories. And what we saw is that Duncan went out, did about a year's worth of work, came back, and the results were exactly the opposite of where with were trying to go from an economic development perspective in that fast food restaurants, gas station and those types of uses, the fees were going down, because of the aggregation of these uses, whereas, manufacturing and those types of uses went up exponentially. So we realized that we had to basically start over. So that was why there was a delay from when the original contract was awarded to the final product.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. And then, how long will this study be good for in our eyes? Every four years, it's mandate -- it's with -- we have to do it. But if we're looking for information, is there -- they're going to be continuously working on this now? If we approve this?
>>SPEAKER: No, what will happen is this will be set in place and it will be valid for the next four years. If the council wants to do this more often, we can do the mandatory requirement in the ordinances basically, a method to show that we are doing it a minimum to update it and keep it up and to current terms.
Also, please remember, we've also added an indexing, so that each year, it will be indexed by either an F D.O.T. appropriate or the consumer price index, so that way, we are keeping up with inflation as it's related to the cost of transportation improvements.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. And my last thing, I know that the Chair had asked for the impact studies to -- for us to have these discussions. And it has been a long process. I know he's brought it up during several meetings, from this point forward, if we are approving this contract, what are we looking at to actually have the study in hand? An estimated time frame.
>>SPEAKER: The task assignment that's here, we are looking for a 3-6 month time frame, depending on the finding, if there's additional data that they need, we want to make sure that we vet it through the public in a proper manner. So 3-6 months for those three to be completed. In front of you for adoption and implementation within -- by state law, we cannot implement it until 90 days after a new fee is adopted one of the things that we would like to see, currently the ordinances for the three different impact fees have different time frames as to when they have to be reviewed. We would basically make it such that all three have to be reviewed every four years at the same time, so that we're ensuring that we are keeping up and maintaining the appropriate fee.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Excellent. A very good point, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So Clay, just on that point, you have several other questions. With the time frame you just gave, this current study is -- goes through the -- you said end of 2022.
Okay, if we get through this process of say it takes six months to do the study that we're doing now, and then, another three months before we can implement it, if the council chose to change impact fees, could we do that before the end of 2022? Or is there --
>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Probably going to be very close anyway.
>>SPEAKER: And I do have to clarify, this was something that I found out when I first got here, about six years ago, I was reading through the history, and how the ordinances are written, just because a study is done, does not necessarily mean that the council has to increase the fees.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Correct. And we're limited now, as well, by state law, to 12.5% per year.
>>SPEAKER: And there is a --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Over four years or five YEE years.
>>SPEAKER: There's also like a kind of a get out of jail free third option for local Governments, but it is -- it's kind of hard to prove, and that does E limbeliminate the 12.5%.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Right.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just -- if you're moving on.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Well, the county attorney wanted to say something.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: If I could just add one more comment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Sure.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I would stress that point that you just said. I really want to make sure everybody hears that, that so with an impact fee study, it means that council does not necessarily have to take action.
But on the other hand, without the impact fee study, typically, council hands are tied to ( Inaudible ) I wanted the stress that. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: That's a guide point and thank you for bringing it up. Please understand that impact fees are a variety of different factors, costs of doing one more lane of road, we have to factor in the moneys that may be obtained through federal, state funds, as well as tax, all of these different things have to be factored in to. And so, there's also an elaborate modeling aspect where they use the east central Florida planning model, utilized by D.O.T. in district 5 to come up with trip generation, trip assignment, for district, these are all very, you know, I've always hear transportation engineering is taking the black box and opening it up and seeing the magic answer is. So in this situation, we're doing it so that we can defend in kind of challenge that we may have.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're going to speak for the county attorney's office?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Senior assistant, county attorney, in 2021, I think, when it was signed, back in July, the legislature amended and limited the way that local Governments may increase their impact fees, essentially, it's approximately 12.5%, and then you can increase it if you increase it by more than 25%, you need to split it up into two equal payments over the course of two years. If you increase it I think it's 25 -- well, if it's below 25%, essentially, you need to split it up two between two years F. It's 25-50 percent, you need to split it up into four sections over the course of four years and if something happens to your community, such that you need to go above that, there is a special provision in the statute that allows you to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances a few of our municipalities are going through that process. Because their increase is above the 50% threshold, so. There's a mechanism if there's an extraordinary circumstance that affects the impact fees for the community, they want to increase it. But once again, the legislature has limited amount of way of increase impact fees.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Billie Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I wanted to ask you, does it mean municipalities have the same four year, they have to look eight their impact fees?
>>SPEAKER: It depends upon the way the impact fees are structure, the standard rule is the impact fee must be based on the most recent and available localized data, by ordinance, we are -- our roads are every four year, fire and parks are every six years. That's why, you know, Clay kind of said he wants to make those uniform, so it's, you know, we do a study to update all of them at the same time. It depends upon how recent your data is, the more recent, the more defendable your impact fees are.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Did your questions get answered Barb Girtman.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, what recent state regulations had been approved. Michael Dyer?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you. By county ordinance, you have delegated that to the school board to determine the methodology and the rate and that's the process they're going through now with Tyndall Oliver to set that school impact fee.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. All right. So we have a motion on the floor to approve the selection of -- is it Tyndall Oliver? Motion by Johnson, seconded by Lowry. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
Thank you. And that brings us to item 7. Resolution requesting a rezoning of 1.65 acre property located at 1563 east New York avenue. Clay Ervin.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir, this is a rezoning from B4 to B5 of this 1.65 acre tract. This property is on the east side of U.S. 17.
It is a property that currently has commercial uses allowed in there. The owner of the property is being able to develop it, potentially for what we call flex space, which is a space where you have an n the front a small office area, and then in the back you have warehousing that accommodates the business that's located there. Unfortunately, that type of use is not allowed in the B4 zoning. We were looking at what options we had and rezoning to B5 provided that opportunity because that type of use is allowed by that zoning category.
Staff reviewed it and made a recommendation of approval to the planning and land development regulation commit commission, we did receive comments from folks who live on Talmadge, they have a residential neighborhood and concerned about commercial traffic impacting their quality of life. At the planning and land development commission meeting, the applicant agreed to limit access on to 17. So therefore, we will not necessarily see any traffic going back on Talmadge directly from this property. So with that, the LDRC ultimately recommended approval to you and coming to you from a staff approval and PLDCR, planning land development commission recommendation for approval.
>>CHAIR BROWER: This is a quasi judicial hearing, does any member have any to declare.
There's been no request to speak on this matter. It's a public hearing. So I'll close the public hearing, any staff or any council members, I don't see any, desire.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move approval for resolution 2021.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Lowry make motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Girtman. All in favor say aye?
Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
Thank you. And that takes us to item 8. Ordinance 2021-29, adoption hearing for amendment to chapter 90 to allow online submissions to the Volusia County growth management commission.
>>SPEAKER: This is a came from your Volusia growth management commission as an independentty -- among the comprehensive plan and comprehensive plan amendment, initiated by the 16 cities within Volusia County.
The commission requested that they get away from older practices of requiring hard copies to be submitted and requested that the ordinance be changed to allow for electronic submittals, this was brought to you as a discussion item prior, based on the request from the commission. And y'all directed us to bring it forward to you, this will enact that effort.
There's any questions, be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Move approve; all for pushing us into 2021.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
Wheeler.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Post, seconded by Wheeler. I don't see any other questions, I'll call for the vote, all in favor say aye. Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
And item 9. Ordinance -- Clay, you'll be here a while, 2021-17 first hearing amending chapter 72 section 72-241, of the code of ordinances regarding excavations.
>>SPEAKER: Once again, Claire Ervin, what this is, is in April of 2020, the sitting council at that time, requested that staff go in and investigate how our current standards in regards to setbacks between wet lands, water bodies and edge of top of bank for excavation, in other words, primarily mining for fill material. And to see how that compares with the state and other local Governments. And to report back. Staff took the initiative, met with both private and public sector folks, when over a SDRART variety of different discussions and realized this is a difficult issue to analyze because it does involve hide hydro geology. The safest way to go forward was to maintain 150 foot setback and then, if there's any ability to allow for a deviation from that, it would have to be supported by a site-specific analysis, which would address the geology, the water table, what's happening when they do their dewatering, and what are they doing to replenish any water bodies or wet lands? And that would have to be a detailed analysis and also have to include a series of monitoring wells to ensure that surrounding areas did not experience an inordinate draw of the groundwater. We were doing this for other purposes with some of our other exemption --
excavations that were approved because of concerns by adjacent property owners concerned that their potable water wells on site would be impacted by the excavation. So we went through that. We brought it back to you'll, this April, asked you for direction, go Aha ed and follow through with the initial direction. As part of that, we wanted to make sure that we had an outreach to all potential entities who have an interest in this. So we made sure to send it to the environmental coalition, Volusia and Flagler counties a well as the Volusia council responsible development and the Volusia builders industry association. We received considerable questions and comments from both sides, the primary concerns that we saw from the environmental community was you should not really change or allow for lessoning of that set back, and I want to make sure it's a clarity, it's a setback, what you need to do is possibly increase and there's a study provided to us from the University of Florida that was done for St. Johns county, where they documented again, critical elements that I just identified where the water table was, the geology, what the soils types was, the surface type, all of those things that factor in to can you draw down that water and not have a negative impact? So we did present the recommendations of maintaining the 150 feet. Allowing for a reduction subject to this detailed dewatering plan. There was clarity brought forward because again, this should not be an additional cost to the county, if you're trying to do this. So it's clarified that if someone is seeking this, the county would go out and seek their own consultant to review this plan, but the applicant requesting that reduction would be responsible for paying for that consultant. So it would be a pass-through from the applicant, through the county, to our consultant, that we would be hiring to do the analysis.
This was acceptable via the private sector, the folks that we heard from -- those in the mining industry. There was still some concerns voiced by the environmental coalition.
And others. Who felt that there should not be any latitude in regards to doing these analysis and that the -- that we need to look harder and faster at what was identified in that St. Johns study and perhaps we should be increasing our -- not our buffer setback, from 150 to 300 or potentially more.
Basically, y'all are at this point where you have couple of different options. The first option is to deny what's in front of you. And what will happen is we will basically default back to the current criteria that we implement, which is 150 feet. With no ability to deviate from that as amended set back.
Second. Would be to follow what was presented to the planning and land development regulation commission. The planning and land development regulation commission could not come up with a recommendation because at their meeting, there were six members present. Three were in favor of this. Three were not. After discussion, they realized that there was not going to be any compromise or deviation that would be AK semi-- acceptable, so they brought it forward to you without a formal recommendation from them. What was presented to them was a maintaining the 150 feet. But allowing for a property owner to go through and do the detailed analysis, allowing for the county to hire someone to review that, who has the qualifications and capabilities and knowledge and experience to do so. But that would be covered by a pass through from the applicant to the consultant. There's a discussion that you'll hear from some of the people who may present today, about doing away with the ability to get a waiver and increasing the setback from 150 feet to something more. 300 feet, 500 feet. Then there's also those who will propose that if you're going to do that, to allow for the deviation. In other words, increase the minimum set back from 150 feet to something larger, such as 300 or 500 feet, but still, allow for that site-specific analysis again, subject to the pass through, etcetera.
So those are the basic options that you have right now. From a staff perspective, the 150 feet is tied to some ordinances that were passed in 1980s, and we're -- we understand that there was a need to provide some level of protection to wetlands and water bodies because again, this modeling capabilities and system of the other things that are here now, may not have been advanced back then. This is also the same setback we have to property line and to right-of-way line for all of these exempt nonexempt exca excavationexcavations, we're here to make sure that we're following through on the policy -- as I said, the 150-300 feet to 500 feet, we can work with that.
Whatever y'all feel is an appropriate method of addressing that minimum standard. And if you decide that it's going to be something that should be allowed to deviate based on the site specific analysis, as long as we have the provision that we as your staff can hire someone with those specialty. This is a very detailed science and so therefore, we would need to reach out to someone who has that experience, that knowledge, and we would want to make sure that that would not be at any expense to the county staff. So we definitely want -- if that is a route y'all are choosing to go, we would require that that be part of that, any kind of changes to the current standards. If there's any questions for staff, we're here.
We'll do our best to answer it, what may come up.
>>CHAIR BROWER: About O, this a public hearing, which I'll open in a minute, we do have several people that want to speak. And including an attorney. But Billie, did you have a question for him before?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This -- I'm sorry? Okay.
This relates to nonexempt excavations only. And then the monitoring, so how often would you -- would we find appropriate for monitoring?
>>SPEAKER: Again, that is site-specific. You know, we're going to be relying on what the consultant identifies but --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Their consultant or who we would have.
>>SPEAKER: That's our consultant.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
>>SPEAKER: So the fact is that you are going to have a control well, in other words, preexcavation, during excavation, and Post excavation, so you can sit there and see what's going on. You would also probably have it at critical locations, next to those wetlands and water bodies that you're trying to protect. We would also identify if there's any private water wells that are protected. With the whole goal being that if you see -- if you saw -- if you observed an inordinate amount of draw down, that was impacting both the wetlands and the potable water wells, that you would stop the pumping and allow for the groundwater to restore back and then at that point, not be able to restore pumping until we have an explanation of what was going on and what can be done to correct it for if you can't correct it, stop it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, so then, again, so what would be the enforcement? If --
>>SPEAKER: Provision for.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: How would that happen.
>>SPEAKER: There's a province in the ordinance as drafted that would require a performance bond to identify no reclamation and repair to any kind of wet land bodies, those things, and if there is discovered to be a negative impact above and beyond what was contemplated by the dewatering plan.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, and the monitoring, would that also look at the water quality?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, ma'am. I mean, again, what you're seeing and a quick and dirty description of how this happens. And I'm sure others will correct me.
Basically, what happens is you have a socket in this giant hose that is sucking the water out of the ground, and placing it elsewhere. And the past, it would be pumped anywhere, what the -- what those in the industry are saying they're doing now, instead of just losing that water, that water is strategically returned back into any kind of adjacent wet land or water body. And the claim is that by pulling that water through and taking it through their equipment, the water that's coming out is not going to have a negative impact.
Because it will be of a good enough quality that it will not have any impacts on the wetlands. They're saying basically, taking the ground groundwater from point A, through a hose and depositing at point B, the wet land or water body.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Let's open it to the public hearing. Is that okay with you, Barb? Do you have a question before.
>>>.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll wait.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, you're good, too?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Marc Watts followed by Julie Baker, followed by Susie pierce.
>>SPEAKER: I can just barely safely say good morning, still, good morning for the record, mark Watts, 231 north woodland boulevard, Deland, and I appreciate the opportunity to the be here this morning. I've got a number of the things to cover so I'll try to do it very quickly. But let me first start off by thanking both you and your staff, this is the third time we've been here talking to you or the prior council about this particular topic.
We've spent a lot of time talking to your staff and also, with the St. Johns RIF water management district staff so we could all understand, you know, the right approaches for this.
First, and foremost, what's in front of you today is something that really does increase the level of protection for the wetlands systems in the county.
And let me start with why we're here asking you to consider this. And I keep forgetting you don't have the o head anymore, I'll hold these up and pass them around. This is 1- 3 from the comprehensive plan. And this is the figure that identifies the major wet land systems.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah. Give it to me.
>>SPEAKER: Identifies the major wet land systems throughout the county. And I also have figure 1-5, which shows the areas that are identified in the comprehensive plan, for mineral extractions. Sand and other mining activities in the county.
And you'll see when you look at those maps, they cover largely the same area. In other words, the area that we've identified in our comp plan for mineral extraction, the same area where we have a lot of wet land systems. And so we what have worked with staff to put in front of you today is something that does not change the 150-foot set back, that stays in place. But provides the opportunity for site-specific applications that can demonstrate why it may be permissible or okay in certain locations to reduce that number.
And again, that's only based on site-specific data and analysis, that provides you with the hydraulic and hydrogeologic data to support the reduction in that given location, so again, just so you can see, this is figure 1-3. This is the one that shows the wet land systems throughout the county.
You can rotate that 90 degrees, counterclockwise, maybe? The other way. There we go.
All right. So you can see, you know, kind of the green areas T major wet land systems through the county. And then if you put up the other map? You can see the brown areas that are included in that one. Cover largely the same areas and are the areas we've identified in the comprehensive plan for mineral extraction. Activities like sand mining, so there's that map that kind of shows that for the county wide area. So again, you can principlely see this covers the core areas of the county.
So what we have worked with staff and gotten input from other experts in the field, to cover is, how do you balance these things? Protection of the wet landed systems, and the ability to extract in the areas and provide the protections there that you don't have in the ordinance otherwise. You don't have monitoring and, you know, water quality or aquifer level monitoring in the ordinance in general.
So we've tried to incorporate all of those things.
You know, a couple of points that have come up in the course of this, I think when we were here back in April, the suggestion was, let's try this for a five-year period, so if this is reasonable. We got some great many great input from the environmental community and planning board about, you know, reducing that, let's do a two-year trial period, let's make it bimonthly monitoring, Ms. Wheeler to your question that you raised early, the third party review mandatory at the cost of the applicant. So I think all of those were things that enhanced and improved what we initially worked with staff and St. Johns to look at. This has been peer reviewed, looked at it at the request of the county staff. Some water experts to make sure that the protections that were being incorporated were reasonable.
And also, again, wept out to --
and everybody else. A couple of other things that I wanted to mention, with regards to the St. Johns study, we think that's good information. Prepared by a gentleman who's an ecologist, so it has some hydro geology and modeling and everything incorporated in it, done be the University of Florida. Clay made reference to the closed loop system that is the more modern standard, what St. John's uses for a 50 foot SE set back.
You're putting it back into those wet land systems automatically. And if you look at the St. Johns study, I think the supplement in your materials is page 9-33. I'm sorry, 9-27.
I'm trying to wrap up here.
Specifically, at the bottom of 9-27. The model runs simulated in the draw -- in the drawdown that WULT would result after 90 days to zero recharge in the system. In the St. Johns study, what it's modeling and everything it show, if I could have a couple of seconds to wrap up here. Doesn't look at that closed loop system. In other words, this study, it's from the year 2000, doesn't reference those more modern standards where that rehydration is required by the St. Johns permits and would be required in this proposed change, and in fact, if you look on page 9-33, there's additional language about that draw down and about the effect of the recharge and it says when the effect of surface storage is taken into account. A drawdown of.5 feet in the aquifer after 90 days with zero recharge is unlikely to result in impacts to the it wet land. It talked about the effects of recharge back into that wet LAN as it protects the wet land. I've tried to cover a lo of things in a short amount of time, I have more than I can say to answer questions that you might have.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Did you have a question for -- okay.
( Inaudible ) okay, did you call John Baker next? Or Susie pierce.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: John Baker.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: We may come back to you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're John Baker.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, 9 Cunningham lane, DeBary, president of the environmental -- we've been around for 40 year, established by Dr. Boarden in the 70s, been a member for 35 years. First of all, I would like to thank staff, I heard some people disparaging staff at the beginning of this meeting, I found that Dell dealing with Ms.
Jackson has been a very pleasant thing, they've been very professional and helpful and Court -- courteous, it's nice to have good staff to the public.
The ordinance when it came to the June PLDRC meeting did not address groundwater quality. We have raised an objection or a concern about that, we also provided a copy of the OVito, bar pit ordinance written in 1993. And we have referenced the Seminole county ordinance that was adopted this year.
Which established some pretty stringent setbacks. The PLDRC was very receptive to our concerns and they sent it back, much improved document from what we first saw. Before we got to the August PLDRC meeting, we were contacted by Dr. Brown.
And one of his associated, a hydrologist Dr. Brown stated that he felt that in most cases, 150-300 foot setback or buffer was necessary to protect both the wet land and the plants and animals that depend on the wet land. The hydrologist stated that even a minor draw down in the ground water level in a wet land could have substantial negative effects. We have brought that study and submitted it, both physical copy, and electronically, at the PLDRC meeting. As you know, they voted 3-3. We also voiced concerns about the monitoring and recording. And some of the members seem to share a lot of our concerns about the monitoring. And reporting.
The revised ordinance does not adequately address all of our concerns, although, it is much better than originally proposed.
The effect on the wet lands, it's plants and the wet land dependent wildlife does not seem to be adequately addressed yet.
We have concerns about what may be unproven science -- can I have a couple of seconds? Okay.
And again, the monitoring. And I just state that a borrow pit operation may be short-term or long-term. But the boar repit itself will be there for a long time. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Susie piece?
>>SPEAKER: Hello, everyone.
Susie piece, 1571 Allison drive, Deland, Florida, and I'm also the present Vice President of the environmental council of Volusia-Flagler and I'm glad that I'm here today. A long wait. And I thank all of you for your amazing work in Volusia County for your service and your wonderful questions that you're asking to everyone as I've been listening.
As John said, we have a lot of concerns about this. I imagine Volusia County in the future to look like boll polka dot, there's more and more of these borrow pits turning up and this ordinance is not about sand mining but also applied to mining -- and what kind of mine and what kind of borrow pitting we want going on in our county.
Mr. Watts spoke, he probably represents some companies that want to do this type of mining.
And of course we want to be fair in allowing businesses to come in. But I think that we need to be very careful with this kind of business. That we need to make sure that we have strict enforcement, like monitoring, but more than that, have -- give ourselves some distance from the borrow pit to the adjacent lands.
That's all I wanted to say. I just wanted to say that if you've been out on I-4 between Deland and Daytona, you have seen that borrow pit. That's a borrow pit. It's like 90 feet deep, it's nothing gradual about the edge of it. So wildlife is not friendly for wildlife habitat, all of that dirt has been put somewhere in our county and I have, you know, questions about whether or not we should be changing the elevation of our land and, you know, how all of this effects -- will affects us in the future. Thank you very much for all you do, staff, that was an incredible report. And so, I thank you very much.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Elizabeth Levette, this is the first meeting I've heard Clay get so much recognition for being friendly.
>>SPEAKER: 1820 hibiscus drive.
This is the first meeting I've DOM to where I thought you guys all seem cohesive, and respectful of one another, so I want to give you that. Because it means a lot to us out here.
When there's not so much bickering up there.
Having said that, I'm speaking on behalf of myself. I went to a springs meeting a few years ago. Where we discussed borrow pits, and we discussed recharging the aquifer and we discussed reducing setbacks and basically, when you remove those setbacks, you're reducing the filtration, if you're reduing the filtration, even though it's percolating, into the wet lands, you've removed some of them.
The percolation that's happening that's getting down into our aquifer, is higher in nutrients, it's higher in pollution. And there's no exact science. The science is that there's some science that says, this could be beneficial. But we don't know.
That's why there's so much oversight, it's extremely important that every single agency is having oversight and historically, what we've seen is DEP say, well St. Johns is handling it, handling I want.
And then unfortunately, that extraordinary oversight we need, is minimal at best. And when we're talking about our aquifer, we don't get that back. So we need not only that additional oversight, we need it frequently and we here at the county of Volusia County, if you're going to allow these borrow pit, which I don't believe that you should, that they can do business elsewhere. I'm sorry, not in my backyard approach, I've seen the danger that comes from these borrow pits, I have shell pits in Edgewater. A little bit different. But similar. And what happens to these shell pits and in fact, one of them is on a national registry for toxic pollution, is that things get dumped in to them, that should not be dumped into them. And now I'm sure that everyone is going to use their best management practices. I think that term is just decorative window covering, quite frankly, we need to make sure that we have done all of the research, asked for all of the sides and that you guy understand the hydrology, I came here a few years ago and I didn't feel like this council had a grasp on the hydrologyhydrology, we don't do lie DAR, as far as I'm concerned, we're going into this blind. Ly DAR would be the radar, that we used to do periodically from the air and it would give us realtime data. Because our hydrology changes with development. But we were told -- I'm sorry. I don't trust the developers, I trust us. I want us to take that back over, and I want it to do -- I want us to do it regularly especially when we're talking about making these kinds of changes that could be not able to be recovered. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And that's the end of the requests I had to speak. So we'll -- we'll close the public hearing and I'll open it up to discussion by the council, Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Clay?
This ordinance leaves the buffer at 150 feet. And but allows for site specific analysis, exceptions. What if we do accept this ordinance or approve it today, how would it affect current borrow pits, will they be able to come back then, later -- it is open to anyone who has that opportunity.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And St. Johns only requires 50 feet, so we're three times that or is that comparing apples and oranges?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, that's --
that's a -- well, I mean, you've got to remember something, is that their buffering requirements are one thing, but then they also have to go through a consumptive use permit, there's an expectation that there will be loss of groundwater as you're doing this. So that the requirement for the consumptive use permit has a different requirement entirely.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So confirming, if someone wanted to do a borrow pit in the future, they needed -- they would still need to come back and as a special exception to get that approve, correct.
>>SPEAKER: Yeses a public hearing.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It's not just allowable?
>>SPEAKER: No, ma'am, the zoning specifically requires nonexempt excavations to go through the special exception process, which requires a public hearing in front of the planning and development regulation commission, and ultimately approval through a public hearing at the county council.
Notification goes out to all adjacent property owners and the property is posted.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. I'm welcoming at the mandatory third party review to include groundwater quality.
>>SPEAKER: Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And bimonthly monitoring. But increasing the payment or increasing the cost coverage to make it to where they have to pay and the county pays for it. So and increasing the setback, I don't think, you know, the -- there's a lot of things, I think that we look at across the board. That are legal. And I think we've had many discussions throughout my tenure, certainly, where things are legal. In the system. And there are things that we've talked about where, you know, we even say, well, you know, the state level, they're saying, you only have to do A and B, but we would prefer they do A. So 50 feet, totally not a good setback, I think, and even the 150, I have issues with. So I would move -- I'm going to make the motion, that we require mandatory third party review to include groundwater quality and bimonthly monitoring, leaving it to the cost not be covered by the county, and increasing the set back TOo -- 250 feet. And that would be my motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I would second it the it was monthly monitoring.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I would take that amendment, absolutely.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll change my motion, whatever we need to do.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Just change your motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's fine.
>>CHAIR BROWER: 250 feet with bimonthly? Or monthly.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: 250 feet, mandatory third party review to include groundwater quality and monthly monitoring and the applicant pays the costs.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. So we have a motion by Post, and a second by Girtman. And actually, I like that, I appreciate it. I was actually going to ask for the same thing, but with a 300 foot setback.
And the reason being, if you measure off 150 feet, it's just not that far. And our wet lands are our kidneys, and you know what happens when your kidneys die. You get sick, get cancer, and then you end up dying. And we have to opt on the side of the greatest amount of precaution to protect our wet lands because that water eventually gets into to the --
into the Indian river lagoon, our springs, and we're going to be talking about a way to clean up the lagoon and it makes no sense to do that if we're not stopping point of source pollution. And if we -- once we destroy our wet lands, we'll never get ahead of it. Because the wet lands are our kidneys, so I will -- I'll vote for the 250 feet as a reasonable compromise. I think it's better than -- it's 100 feet more than where we are now. And I don't see anybody else that wishes to speak. So we have a motion on the floor. For 250 feet with a mandatory monitoring with the third party and -- pardon me?
And monthly monitoring. And seconded by Girtman. All in favor? Say aye? And all of those opposed, say nay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Nay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I heard one nay. So the motion carries 6-1.
And we have a question.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, you have amended the ordinance to read as I your motion, this is a two-hearing process, allowable uses, if you would, the motion would be to hear the second hearing at a time other than after 5:00 p.m. If the council so should choose.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We can keep the same date of December 14th.
Yes? No? Maybe?
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And why don't we just do a second motion for that, is that adequate?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Can we have a motion to hear this, it's required to have a second hearing, on December 14th, 2021, after --
>>SPEAKER: We very it as no sooner than 10:30 a.m.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I thought you said evening?
>>SPEAKER: The standard is the second -- one of the hearings must be after 5:00, so your motion is to hold it before 5:00, but after 10:30 a.m.
Usually.
>>CHAIR BROWER: On. So I need a motion to have the second hearing December 14th, 2021, no sooner than 10:30 a.m. and before 5:00 p.m. Motion to approve by Wheeler, seconded by Post. All in favor say aye.
Any opposed? Thank you. PFWith that, Clay, I think that we would -- with what's coming up at 1:30, it might be wise to take a lunch break now. And then we'll -- we're going to have to back up anyway, but we do have a time certain, 1:30 because we have speakers zooming in from, I believe, Spain, and Key West. And so that with that said, we will break for lunch until 1:20. Is that enough time? And -- okay. Thank you.
So if the public would like to come back, there will be presentation made on cleaning up the -- one of the things that we can do for cleaning up the Indian river lagoon at 1:30.
Thank you.
( Recess until 1:20 ) (Recess until 1:20).
(Standing by).
>> CHAIR BROWER: Hello. Okay, it's 1:20. We're going to try to fit another item in, Clay. And then we'll break. Well, we won't break, but we'll go to item 20 at 1:30. So, item 10, oh, she's already there. Ordnance 2021-19 adoption hearing amending chapter 72-72.271 of the code of ordnance.
>> Yes, sir. This is a directive from the county council to look at our minimum standards of rezoning of planned development. This allows a property owner to seek out alternative development standards in regards to setbacks, building coverage, et cetera. We currently have a one-acre minimum requirement. This sa bit difficult for anyone located within our primary area, Volusia County, Spring Hill, because the size of the parcels don't meet that. We thought it was best to eliminate the minimum area requirement so they have the maximum flexibility for their redevelopment efforts. This was what was recommended by our council, it was presented to your planning and zoning commission and they recommended approval unanimously.
>> CHAIR BROWER: This is all about my favorite kind of development, infill. This sa good move for the county, I believe. Barbara Girtman?
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I move to approve.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman, second by Wheeler.
I see nobody waiting for discussion, so I will call for the vote. All in favor of the adoption hearing say aye?
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? And it passes 7-0. Item 10.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Thank you all.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We've got six minutes. Is anybody brave enough to try property rights element? Clay, you're still here. This is item 11, ordnance 20-20 transmittal for establishing property right element of the Volusia County comprehensive plan as required by Florida law.
>> The state said we had to do this. We're doing it. We're following the standards that the state established for the quickest, most effective way to do so. Staff is going to be monitoring this over the next year or so to see how others may be doing it. We feel this is the quick and easiest way. It establishing four questions that have to be addressed by any public decision as we go forward can comprehensive planning and land development. It meets the state's requirement while transmitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Volusia Management Commission for economic review. We do not expect any comments because again we're keeping letter as it was approved in the statute so, therefore we feel confident that what we have is going to meet that minimum requirement and we'll be able to report back to you after a year or so as to whether or not we feel additional changes need to be made.
>> Move approval.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Lowry, second by Wheeler. any dis? Pretty good. All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? And it passed 7-0. And we have four minutes left.
I've got lots of questions on 12, 13, and 14.
Really for discussion.
Yeah. >> HEATHER POST: Maybe 19? 19 just implements state law same as we just did.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And that is going to be Michael Dyer. Is he in the room?
Michael, we're talking about item 19 ordnance 2021-39, amendment to county emergency management regulations in chapter 46 to implement changes to state law.
>> MICHAEL DYER: Thank you. Sorry Kevin Captain was talking my ear off. I'll put the blame on him. >> CHAIR BROWER: He's communications director. That's his job. >> MICHAEL DYER: (Chuckling) That's right. This is really just a clean-up ordnance for some changes that came out of the last state legislative session governing county emergency orders and ordnances. It applied a 7-day duration limit and a total of 42-day limit to those emergency orders that meet the new state definition that would impact basically personal liberties. I would say the change in state law, I don't think it would impact anything that we did do during the pandemic. Really, to me, it seems like somewhat of a legislative reaction to some of the mask mandates we saw adopted by ordnance. I don't see anything controversial that really changes how we have operated on this change. It's merely to reflect those changes.
>> BEN JOHNSON: I move approval.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Lowry. Second by Wheeler. Any discussion? Questions? All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
I still don't see Dr. Lapointe up here. How long do you need for your community update? Oh, Dr. Brian Lapointe is with us.
>> I'm here. Brian Lapointe.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for joining us. I'm not talking to you Dr. Lapointe, I'm talking to Kevin. Do you know if Dr. Grow is on the line?
>> Not yet. But they are communicating.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. They are communicating. Yeah, Dr. Lapointe, so I'll give a brief introduction to how we got here today. I actually was introduced to your colleague, Dr. Grow and the whole biorock concept about a year and a half ago by the President of Sons of the Beach, which is an environmental and beach access promoting group. And at first, when we looked at his research, Paul had brought it to that group as a means of stabilizing coastline because we were aware of the work that he is doing around the world protecting islands, coast, restoring washed out beaches. But excuse me, the more that we investigated, we saw that he also had amazing success with marine restoration in inner-coastal systems, lagoons included where the biorock system was actually able to create, there he is, the growing of seagrasses, bringing back fish and oysters. I'm excited to hear how that happened. Dr. Grow is on the screen now. He is President of the Global Reef Alliance I believe for 30 years. Since 1990, thirty years of successful work protecting and restoring coastlines, as well as intercoastal marine systems. He'll probably talk about this, but I'll just mention in passing, actually not in passing, that the actual creator of Biorock was an architect, Dr. Wolf Hilbert, who was using it for construction material. And then it was developed by Dr. Goreau and Wolf for marine restoration. Thank you for being here. Dr. Goreau, thank you for being here. Are you in Spain?
>> No, actually I'm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. That trip didn't come through at the last moment. I'm in the States.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Oh, they have a different accent there. My wife came with that accent. D r. Lapointe, thank you for being here. He is a leading authority around the world, especially in Florida on marine quality and he is going to give us the good, the bad, and the ugly of the Indiana River Lagoon. And I think that's a good place to start. So, ....
>> HEATHER POST: Mr. Chair, could we do a quick piece of housekeeping? I see everyone to straining to look up there. I know we didn't have them up on the screens before, so the audience doesn't have to try to look that way.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Is it behind me now?

>> HEATHER POST: Yes, it is. Okay, everybody was straining.
>> CHAIR BROWER: So, Dr. Lapointe, thank you again for being here and everybody can see us now. I've just been asked by the public that when you speak, there's a lot of Volusia County residents and beyond listening in online, so, please speak loud and clearly into your computer. Thank you.
>> Thank you, Jeff, and the rest of the council members for the invitation to speak today on the research I've been doing. I'm going to share my screen. And just have about a 15-minute PowerPoint. Let's see. All right, can you see that?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, we can.
>> Okay, and you can hear me fine?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Perfect.
>> Great. So, Tommy and I go way back to Woodshole in the early 1970s and we both moved to Florida in the early 1980s. That's really my first research on the Indian River Lagoon really dates back to those years when I was a Woodshole employee and of course we've all seen how the lagoon has changed over the decades. And this is the kind of work I was really trained at to study. And how it has led to the crisis we have today in the Indian River Lagoon. As we all know, the lagoon is extensive. It goes from Jupiter Inlet in the south to Ponce Inlet to considered by many to be the most biologically diverse estuary in the United States. And it was added to the national estuary program because of the national significance. We've had macro algae blooms. We've seen blooms of macro algae for many decades, but just in the past years, the last decade have we seen these phytoplankton blooms. They've increased with population growth. They're a result of reactive ammonium, nitrate, and soluble reactive phosphorous. That's their food. And they've led to the loss of sea grass, that leads to manatee mortality. It occurred in 2013 in a big way, but this year is the worst on record. Statewide, we have around 970 manatee mortalities this year, many of those from the Indian River Lagoon. I'm going to talk a little bit about the research I've done looking at the nutrients in the tissues of macroalgae and sea grasses and what they can tell us about the health of the lagoon. And the panel on the right is just a cartoon showing how the lagoon has changed, you know, from decades ago when we had clear water and extensive seagrass meadows and fisheries. But over time runoff from ground water and primarily septic tanks. This is particularly problematic in the northern residence where we have long residence time in the lagoon. The ground water and the surface water they're very much connected because of those long residence times. As nutrients build up, we see more phytoplankton. And the macro algae. We have more humans on the watershed, more waste water coming into the lagoon storm water. A lot of that nitrogen in particular coming in, driving these phytoplankton blooms like the brown tide. It's not just the increasing nutrients, but also the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorous that we're very concerned about, particularly in Volusia County. Now, my research back in the '70s really started looking at using macroalgae like this one I'm holding, a red seaweed to remove these mixtures. We were doing this at Harper Branch and Woods Hole. I was an employee of Woods Hole at the time and working for Dr. John Rither on the left. That's at Woods Hole, he's holding some of it, which is common in the Indian River Lagoon. You can see how dark brown, almost black it is, indicating it has very high nitrogen levels in it that increases pigment content. I did research, that middle photo is many me years ago doing research with different types of nitrogen, including sewage from our local waste water treatment plant. What we found is this plant really responds to amoan yum in â€“ ammonium in the water. It's coming out of septic tanks. We've shown with research that the ground water around septic systems is very ammonium rich, more so than nitrate rich, and this happens to be the preferred form for this one, but also for algae. This is from a paper I published many years ago with John Ryther, back in 1979, showing that. Of course with more people, waste water, climate change being a hammer that helps to transport these nutrients into the watershed. You can see D r. Brevalle holding a mass of it. It's dark brown, showing it has high nitrogen content. You can see the population growth and how the black circles, that's chlorophyll A in the water column, has gone up over time. And that green line is chlorophyll A, that volume is about 7 micrograms per liter of chlorophyll A, and we're now seeing very high levels up to 50-100 micrograms or more during these phytoplankton blooms. While I began studying more closely these issues in the lagoon starting in 2011 when I got funding to do this work. And the concept was to measure, dissolve nutrients with very low detection limits so we could really get good numbers for the nutrient levels as well as the macro algae, measure their carbon, nitrogen, nitrogen versus phosphorous limitation, and try to identify the sources fueling the eutrophication in the lagoon. At the time, a lot of people thought it was fertilizers, and that spawned the fertilizer ordnances. And our goal was to get the data that looked carefully at the sources. And the goal was to approve the data and inform resource managers and policymakers. And I'm glad to say that last year Florida senate Bill 712 introduced by Debbie Maysville and signed by the governor is going to provide matching funds for other waterways up and down the lagoon. This is the first time anyone ever did an Indian River Lagoon study like this. Extending from Ponce Inlet in the North to the south including all the lagoons. Depending on where you are in the lagoon, you can have different types of these blooms. Whether it's macro algae, or the seagrasses, or the brown tide, or the kind down in the estuary where it has very low salinity. You can clearly have a wide variety of these blooms. What the testing showed us is the northern three segments, the mosquito river, banana river, and northern Indian lagoon had the highest nitrogen levels. Not surprisingly, that's where we see the most intense and severe harmful blooms occurring, these phytoplankton blooms. We were above that 50 micromolar target value for the Indian River Lagoon, actually right into the central Indian River Lagoon, but mostly those three northern segments. And as I mentioned previously, it's not just the concentration of these nutrients, but the ratio. And this was very problematic when I saw these data that the nitrogen and phosphorous ratio was also very high in these three northern segments. In the oceans, the N to P ratio is about 16 to 1. When you get above 30 to 1, you're getting into a region where marine plants become very limited by phosphorous, which is a key nutrients for photosynthesis and respiration. So, things are starting to get unbalanced in the lagoon in these three northern segments. You can see in the central and southern IRL that gets more flushing compared to the northern segments that those values are much lower and closer to the Marine Redfield Ratio of 16-1. We collected macroalgae at the 20 stations in the 5 segments. And I'm going to just show the nitrogen isotope values and what we found.
That top left graft shows the different samplings for the macroa macro algaes isotope values. If you look at the source values for different nitrogeneral sources, septic tank, effluent, treated waste water, those values are above + 3 parts per mill and go up to as high as + 28. All the other nitrogen sources that could be available to algae in the lagoon are below that. They're below + 3. Upwelling from deep offshore Atlantic water, fertilizers and even biosolids, which is of course from human waste. All those values are much lower than the septic effluent and treated waste water that we know is going into the ground water and at times directly into the surface waters of the lagoon. That value matches up with the values reported for Boston and Harvard macroalgae, back when the waste water stream was going into the harbor before the Big Dig that moved it offshore. We have, I think, very compelling evidence that waste water is really the primary source driving a lot of these blooms we're seeing in the lagoon. We published that in 2015 and that really did change, you know, the discussion in terms of what we need to do to get this lagoon into recovery regarding nutrients. And, of course, one of the worst of the harmful algoblooms that we see in these northern segments are the brown tides. I did not take this photo by the way, the Sebastian Inlet, the flushing of the lagoon there. But you can see the brown tide organism of how it shades the water. And of course in 2013 is when we began to see the unusual mass mortalities of manatees. They were, of course, losing their food source, the seagrasses, diet switching, eating a lot of macroalgae, and that's something we're looking at very closely right now. But we realized the seagrasses were disappearing so quickly that we better start looking at the seagrass tissue and not just the macroalgae and the phytoplankton. So, at the same 20 stations lagoon wide, we began collecting the seagrasses, making light measurements, and looking at the chemistry of the seagrass fissure tissue to see what we could learn from that. The Indian River Lagoon has seven species of seagrasses. I don't know of another estuary that has seven seagrasses. These are the three that we have studied. Halodule, the Cuban seaweed is ubiquitous and grows throughout. The Syringodium, we didn't find it in our stations in the Banana River or the Mosquito Lagoon. And the Turtle grass we only found in the southern. And that is the most sensitive to light and other stresses. When we look at the nutrient content, we see some very interesting patterns. This is the nitrogen content of the seagrasses in the different segments of the lagoon. And 81% of these measurements exceed the clinical eutrophication values, published by Carlos Duarte. And you can see the Mosquito River values are right in the middle. Some are the highest values are in the Banana River. That's ground zero for some of the worst phytoplankton blooms we're seeing in the lagoon. If we look at phosphorous, we see a little different picture. 65% exceed that critical eutrophication value. This gets back to those high N to P ratios that we have a very high degree of phosphorous limitation. Above and beyond just the light limitation that I'm going to talk about in a minute, it's very likely that the low phosphorous content in these northern lagoon segments could be further impairing photosynthesis and growth of the seagrasses. But this is the big kicker is the light as a result of the phytoplankton blooms and the macroalgae, this is the light attenuation coefficient which is so critical for seagrass recovery in the Indian River Lagoon. A value of about 0.8 is critical. Values above that, assembly are just not getting enough light. In the dry season, we're pretty much at that level right now. In the west season we're way over it. Meaning these assembly are extremely light limited. That .8 value is something we really need to, I think, monitor more closely to see how light is limiting the growth and sustainability of seagrasses in the lagoon. Another measurement we made up and down the lagoon in the seagrass tissue is the Delphi C value. I'm comparing it to the Bahamas, to values we found from the Bahamas, the Florida Keys, where you can get turtle grass growing from one meter down to below ten meters depth in both the Bahamas and the Florida Keys. Look up here at the Indian River Lagoon, the turtle grass really can't grow more than two meters because of the light limitation. The more negative those values are, the more depleted they are, and it's a greater indication of light limitation. So, as this relates to the lagoon reef project, I do suggest that a monitoring program be put in place with the reefs to monitor the dissolved nutrients light attenuation, the chlorophyll A, the amount of algae in the water column at least at quarterly intervals at both the reef site and reference site. Also, there's likely to be macroalgae that could be monitored in and around these sites as well as the seagrass tissue for carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorous as well as the isotopes. And finally, to use these data to address the dual importance of light limitation and phosphorous stress, this phosphorous limitation to better understand seagrass growth at the reef as to how the seagrass responds to the electrical current and also at a reference site for comparison. And that's it. I look forward to, you know, seeing Tommy's presentation. I'll be glad to answer questions probably after that, I guess. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much. Dr. Goreau, how do we get to the picture on the right here with all the beautiful sea life?
>> Yes. Let me get over to the screen and jump right into the PowerPoint presentation. It's a pleasure to be here. I hope you can hear me. Okay, yes. Share screen. What Brian has just told you, let me get this in the slide show mode. Okay. What Brian just told you is this is a situation that's built up over a long period of time of nutrients that built up. I think those of you who have been here all your life, which I haven't, all of you know more about the area than I do can remember when the waters were clear and blue and there was seagrass all over the bottom in lagoons and now that's mostly not the case. That's why the manatee are in crisis. As Brian said, it's built up because of the nutrients over a long period of time, and cleaning it up is going to take some time. No one can wave a magic wand and make the algae floating in the water and on the bottom disappear. They're hard to collect, especially the ones that are microscopic and floating. There are other solutions and one solution I want to point out is increasing the growth of the seagrass directly and oysters, too. I was asked to say something about that. IEP going to show you a little bit about what we've done with regard to seagrass and oysters using Biorock technology, which is very low voltage charge, like you get from a battery, a couple volts. You can't feel it. It's undetectable to us. But what it does in the water is pretty amazing. You can grow limestone rock over steel structures. This was invented by an architect to produce building materials in the sea. We're still working on that. It has to be grown slowly to be very hard. We grow it a couple centimeters or less than an inch a year. People want buildings more quickly. But we've focused on it to regrow ecosystems faster. Not fertilizing or adding any nutrients. We're able to get everything to grow faster. I'm not going to show this, but basically we use this to grow back coral reefs which die from high temperatures. Where there are eroding beaches, we build the beach back at record rates. I'm not going to talk about that. I mentioned that before in other contexts. What I will show you is what we do with seagrasses. This is an example here. This is a structure that we built in Indonesia to build back an eroded beach. There was a seagrass structure in front. These structures are mats where we're growing a layer of limestone rock. That coating that you see has only been growing for a couple of weeks. The seagrass, as you see, is growing pretty healthy. There's some algae in there, too. What we see around these structures here, this structure that you see here is one of 50 structures that we built in front of a beach that had washed away and the beach grew back in months as a result of that, because as the waves went through the structure, they slowed down, and when they reached the shore, they deposited sands instead of washing it away. I'm here to tell you about the seagrasses. You see all around them the seagrass proliferated very tall. We see this pretty much everywhere we do this. I'll show you a short video from the Bahamas. In Panama and other places typically the seagrass grows about twice as tall surrounding these structures for some distance around them, but I've never really had a chance to measure them. Somewhere between 10-20 feet or perhaps more that the seagrass was greener and taller. We got increased growth of the algae, the sand-producing algae. We get them to proliferate around these things, too. What we notice is every place we make these we sea benefits. Here is in Italy in the Mediterranean. Here are little patches, we put down a steel mesh on the bottom. As you can see it's turning white on the bottom because we're growing a layer of limestone. It's powered by a solar panel on the shore. We tied these seagrass plants with mesh and they grew so quickly they attached themselves to bare rock, which amazed everyone, because no one had ever seen that before. Normally they need 3-5 inches of sand or mud of some kind for the roots to grow into. These didn't have. That this roots grow so quickly they attached to bare rock. Here is a closeup. And then we had oysters and muscles move into it and fish and shrimp and crabs. We built up these little mini ecosystems and we only did it for three months. Then they counted everything and that was the end of it. But it was pretty amazing, no one had ever seen this before. This is salt marsh. This is a Superfund toxic waste site in New York City. What you see there is you see a thin mesh on the bottom on the ground that's six-inch fencing. We put that down, we connected that to solar panel. We planted some of the salt marsh grass in between them and they grew much taller and greener. Here we're measuring the height of it. The solar panel in the background. And the seagrass we grew grew about twice as fast in terms of height, but they were also greener and flowered earlier and they had many more stems in each stump. The biomass was much higher, we didn't dig them up. But their roots proliferated. We were able to grow these. Normally they can't grow down there because the waves wash them away, but we had such prolific roots grow, the few plants we put in proliferated like mad. They spring back every year. The controls, the ones who aren't getting that triple charge, they die. What we're doing in Indian River, Mosquito Lagoon is something like this. We put down a six-inch mesh like this, it doesn't rust. The limestone grows under it and the seagrass grows through it. We've done this in pan Panama and Bahamas and other places. We get quicker growth. It can work with mangroves, too. This is a site in Indonesia using our method, as well. Let me talk a little bit about oysters, because that's also an issue here, as I understand it. This is an experiment that was done in Louisiana by Wolf back in the 1970s. A little metal basket about 9 inches across. He put it down in the water and a few months later it was full of oysters. There was no rust on it when he pulled it out of the water. But then it sat in someone's backyard for 20 years and that's when it rusted when this picture was taken. This is an example of oysters again from that Superfund toxic waste site in New York City where pretty much everything had died. What I'm showing here are the controls that oysters, we just measured the length, and we just grew them, and as you can see it they grew very slowly through the growing season there. But with a little bit of electricity and a little bit more, we got them to grow eight times faster in length, eight times wider and thicker. About 450 times more volume growth. What was really amazing was in winter in New York City, they stopped growing. It stopped growing for winter. Our kept growing all winter long. They never stopped growing. They had bright shiny shells. The ones who didn't have the charge of electricity all died. That shows the growth with Biorock. They grew in length all winter long. What we would like to do is a very small pilot project in the northern end of Mosquito Lagoon. And it's been suggested we try something at the Oak Hill Fishing Camp. I'll show a picture of that in a minute and simply a small pilot project where we have a little trickle of charge running through the fishing camp into a flat mesh like I showed you in the salt marsh experiment and put one on sea grass and see if it increases. And put one on sand and see if we can get them to establish themselves more quickly. And we would also suggest to make a small tunnel and put oysters onto see if we can get them to grow. That would look something like this. This is a biorock tunnel in Florida. This is a project I did about 10 years in Broward County. That structure in the background is about three feet tall. It's a long story there. We grew corals there very beautifully on that structure. But after three years of monitored, Florida State Official Monitoring Period ended, unfortunately, the town went and slashed the cable that was powering it. That has had no power now for years, and almost all of our corals have died. Some of them have still alive. That was settled on by mangrove oysters, suddenly we're thinking about making a small tunnel liar like that, only about one foot high, and attach oysters to it. This was just taken about two months ago in Florida. That structure has been there without any power now for more than five years. It's still strong and in tact, but we would make something a much more scaled down version. But I'm sure, too, so you could visualize what the project would look like. We propose to do that at the Oak Hill Fish Camp. This sa view from Google Earth. The dark area is sea grass beds. Probably what we would do is run a cable from shore and put some small structures, maybe 10-20 feet long and see if we can grow the seagrass faster.
We also look closely to see how fast it grows and also would like Brian Lapointe to look at the nutrient content and see we're growing them faster. This may be a short-term solution to growing back seagrass. This could be done with solar panels very easily. You can do very large areas of the solar panel. So, if it works here, it could be potentially scaled up any place where seagrass used to grow or might be able to grow again and we might be able to get them to grow even under conditions now that they normally can't tolerate, but in the long run obviously the solution is to clean up the water quality. We can't make the water transparent, but hopefully we can get the seagrass to grow more quickly. We would love to do a pilot project there and something that would be visible and accessible and people could see and learn and post videos and photos and so forth. That's what we're proposing if that's possible to do. I'll stop there. I think that's the end of my presentation, but I'll be glad to provide more information and thank you very much for your time.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much. We do have some of the public that had questions or remarks, but I want to open it up to the council, as well, for questions. I think what I just heard in the pilot project, D r. Groeu is the mesh on the bottom and then also a low tunnel.
>> Yes, let me put it in way, I was told the county was interested in oyster regeneration. The tunnel would be for oysters because they're bottom feeders. I would like to get them up above the bottom. But the oysters, you know, are an additional project. They can be done or not depending on what the priorities are.
Seagrass is the first priority, but we can also do a small oyster project, as well, quite easily, if people are interested in doing that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. We do have two members of the public that wanted to speak. I'll just call them in order. Suzanne Shiber and then John Nicholson. Had three, one of which just had to leave for an appointment.
>> Hello. Suzanne Shiber, Ormond Beach, Florida, and I'm here representing Dream Green Volusia. I have to say this is really exciting. I think this is one of the first times I've been excited to come up here and speak in quite a while. I'm expressing support for the biorock project and the lagoon. It's exciting to hear projects come up addressing pollution in the water. Please address point of source pollution. It will take both addressing point of source pollution and strong water quality projectslike this. This has been a devastating year with the loss of over 900 manateeses in our state. And bring back marine life. Here we are with a viable project with excellent potential. I'm asking you please don't wait until it's too late to restore the lagoon. We must address grass lawns, storm water, waste water, and more. Please take action today voting to fund the future of the bioprototype in our county. It's important to Volusia County's livelihood. Thank you for your time.
>> CHAIR BROWER: John Nicholson?
>> John Nicholson, Daytona Beach. I came to you this morning about funding, watching our pennys, but there are times when things need to be done. You have to do them. This is relatively a minor amount of money. Several years ago when I was on the cabinet, a guy came from Coco with this idea of putting balloons filled with sand out on the beach, $5 million a mile, and it would increase our sand, it would create surfing for the surfers, it would lower our insurance rates for our hotels. And they said fine, we can do this for free. We have all these hotels coming down and all that waste we could put, all that cement could be created as these reefs to do it for free. And Jim said no, he didn't want it. It was within our city limits and it couldn't be done it. This is the same thing. It's virtually free. I hate to say free. But what we're going to gain from this for the little amount of money is virtually free and it's an experiment. You don't have to do the entire thing. Do what the experiment asks to do and if it works, sorry George, you can find the money. And when we do that, we solve many problems because the value of our properties, I'm always looking at the money. Remember the 8 million? The values of these properties keep going down when we lose the value of the river. If we can increase the value of the river, the oysters, the quality of fishing, the smell, which apparently in St. Lucie it's terrible. If we can increase the value of all of this, then the properties go up, the property values go up, we can pay for the $8 million bucks.
>> I would like to just say something as a response. I had meant to show a 1:44 video. I forgot to do that. I would like permission to do that, because I think in part it answers the question that gentleman just raised and allows you to see what we're preparing in Volusia. Is it possible to get on the screen and show that video?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Absolutely.
>> Do I have the screen? Yes, all right. I hit share. Let me now find that. Hold on.
TV.
Yes, okay. I hope you can see. You'll hear it in a minute. This is in the Bahamas and it's a seagrass restoration project. You can see what it looks like.
>> Seagrass beds are crucial habitats for fisheries. But there's no place for fish to hide so they get eaten by predators. This seagrass reef has attracted huge populations of fish that hide in here in the daytime and feed at night, et cetera. It's been charged with six volts and about one amp. And there are a few tiny fragments of corals. Corals couldn't grow in the sand because it's too shallow and hard for them. There are very few naturally grown fragments of coral washed away from storms and you can see they've grown quite magnificently. The seagrass inside and around the structure is quite green and growing more tall. Seagrass beds worldwide are being washed out and it's a huge ecological catastrophe. Biorock we believe we can restore them. We've done work with seagrasses in the Mediterranean and we found we're able to grow seagrasses on bare rock where they normally couldn't grow with prolific root growth with attraction of fish and mussels and clams and an ecosystem around them. We believe Biorock is going to be a crucial method for restoring seagrass habitats in fisheries in the future.
>> I would add we wouldn't necessarily use that shape. That was intended to grow corals, but the sea grass grew more around that. In this case we would probably lay it flat unless we wanted to grow oysters. Or to create habitat for fish or lobsters. All of those things we can do. But the other thing the gentleman was saying about shore protection. We're here to talk about seagrass, but the point is similar types of biograss reefs are better shore protection than concrete is, because they don't deflect the waves, which causes erosion. We can create fish habitat. It causes beaches to grow. And that's actually regenerating your natural coastal ecosystems with Biorock. Thank you. I just wanted you to see that video because you can see really a bit about what we do more clearly with that image. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, thank you very much. And Heather Post, you have a question?
>> HEATHER POST: Yes. I wanted to thank you both for being here. You know, I actually grew up in Bravard County and swam in the Indian River Lagoon and grew up in Titusville and Port St. John area. I can remember as a kid, in the '70s, I can remember the river once a year started to throughout the '80s, it started to smell so bad, so, so bad. And that was in the beginning of the '80s. And I've seen it deteriorate since then tremendously. So, thank you, number one for doing this. But my question I actually have is I know we're talking about the Indian River Lagoon specifically, but further up in our county, as well, we have the Halifax River. We have flow through the jetty, the same as Sebastian Inlet down south, and up north with the Mosquito Lagoon. But in the middle not a lot of flow, right? So, we're seeing a lot of the bad stuff sort of percolate there. And I'm wondering if something like this might also be helpful in that area? I just wondered if you had any thoughts on that?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm not sure which one wants to answer that. But I'll say something to Ginger Adair. I believe that portion of the Halifax River has been designated the northern section of the Indian River Lagoon. But it's between two inlets, so she's right. We get horrible flushing. And a lot of the partially treated effluent that gets pumped there stays and builds. Am I correct in saying that? That that is part of the lagoon now? Dr. Lapointe or Dr. Goreau.
>> I'll comment first, Tommy, and maybe you can comment, as well. I do think it would be great to look at these lagoon reefs in a number of different locations to compare, you know, the site-specific effects. And that area you're mentioning in the Halifax River, I agree. I think that would be a really interesting place to have one of these located to compare with the Oak Hill fishing campsite. All these sites are going to be reflected at different levels with algobloom and phytoplankton and nutrient availability, and the ratio of these nutrients. Several sites, and that particular site in the Halifax River sounds like an interesting place that could potentially see a lot of improvement from these lagoon reefs, these electric reefs.
>> Let me add to that. I don't know the area as you do. But I will say this. There are other applications for what we do. We grow marine organisms more quickly. Animals and plants. And a solar panel and a barge in the Bahamas. We're growing filter feeding communities to try to clean up the water in the canal, sponges, mussels, oysters, we were growing coral in there, too, surprisingly, in spite of the water quality. The reason we were growing oysters in New York City was not to eat, but to improve the water quality by their filtering action. There are organisms that we can try to proliferate that do in fact hopefully will help clear the water up. There's a lot of places, I could give a classic example, Chesapeake Bay, back when the oysters were there and they filtered the water every day, the water was clear and the light reached the bottom and that's where the algae grew. When they harvested all the oysters, the water turned murky because they weren't being filtered. They weren't being filtered clean anymore. And that's when all the crabs crashed because there wasn't light reaching the bottom. I think there's things we can do trying to stimulate other oysters, filter feeders. I don't know the ecosystem well, whatever you have there. That is a possibility, so you can actually make floating devices like that, as well as build them into pie wings or seawalls. They could be a filtering community trying to clean up the water.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. That's helpful. I have two other questions. John Nicholson scared me. I'm happy he's for. I believe I heard a number of $8 million. That's not the price tag. We could spend $8 million. He's shaking his head. That's not what he meant.
We could spend $8 million by putting these all over the ocean. But when we get done here asking questions, I'm going to ask a motion from the council that we give this to the county manager to evaluate the proposal, to evaluate cost and funding, because we're hearing that we could add other areas, different structures, shoreline. So, I'm going to ask for a motion, like I said, we have other people that want to speak. For the county manager to evaluate this proposal, funding, funding sources. The governor just released $52 million from storm water funding for the Indian River Lagoon project. We need to get part of that $52 million. Maybe we can get 8, John. And also to evaluate legal aspects of it for licensing permits because this water will be the state of Florida water. So, wasn't $8 million. Not yet. Ben Johnson?

>> BEN JOHNSON: I'm curious. How much does this cost an acre to implement?
>> Well, that's hard to say because all we've done are very small pilot projects with fencing material and they can be any size or shape. But it's hard to answer. I would have to, I guess, given that we're not having to build a strong structure that's holding weight and anything, it sits flat on the bottom, it's going to disappear into the seagrass, you wont see it from above. We could use probably flimsy fencing material, just lay it on the bottom. If we're trying to build structures that are holding up oysters or absorb wave energy, that's a different story. They have to be a lot stronger. I think it could be about as cheap as covering the ground in terms of the fencing material. There's also the power system, electrodes, that adds up. But it's pretty cheap compared to any other structure you would build, let's put it that way. There's no cement or any of the other things. Essentially we're laying down something flat and connecting it to a triple charge. And we can cover, with that, you know, I've never measured the power into those strips. I couldn't really tell you how much power it's consuming. But if you took a look at that project in the Bahamas, that was a whole roll of fencing material I rolled up. And that was six watts of power.
>> BEN JOHNSON: That is something I would have to know is how much does it cost per acre. We've got 36,000 acres in the Mosquito Lagoon alone.

>> I would have to figure out the cost and all that. I'm not sure. Let me put it this way, I don't know of another alternative of growing seagrass faster. If we could show that we could do that, it could be done with solar panels rather cheaply. It doesn't cost much compared to any other material you would have to buy. It's coming down in price. You can cover a pretty large area. I would have to set one up and tell you how much power it takes to really tell you and answer your question properly.

>> BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, those are some of the things we would have to know before I could say let's go on this.
>> That's why you have to do the pilot experiment to see how much power it uses because this has never been done. It's never been done except for these projects that I didn't maintain.
>> BEN JOHNSON: Material cost and power is something that could be ascertained pretty easily for an acre. We need that kind of information for us to make a really good decision on this. I mean we all want the Mosquito Lagoon cleaned up, but we have to look at all the different ways of doing it. I mean 36,000 acres just for us, not counting the rest of the Indian River basin.
>> Well, I would say the key thing first is to get those areas where you still have seagrass that are viably and reasonably healthy and trying to get those growing as quickly as you can and around the edges of that where you can try to proliferate them into marginal habitat and trying to clean up the water that's sourced as closest to those areas as quickly as you can. Sorry?

>> BEN JOHNSON: Water is not an infinite product, but neither is the money. That's something that we need to know.

>> With the current condition, how much of that seagrass is in healthy condition, how much is in very unhealthy condition, how much is gone. I don't know. It is a critical situation. You got to identify what there is that can be saved and focus on those areas right away, it seems to me, if it's that urgent.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler?
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yes. Very interesting. Thank you both so much. We always like to see hope and ideas to come before our beautiful waterways because that is our lifeline, too. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for bringing this to our attention.
There's several questions. Of course the money is always going to be involved in this. But you said that this has worked in the islands and everything. So, have you worked in this kind of waterway with the project like this? Has it been proven in this kind of water conditions, lighting conditions that are in there? And also, this does not start from just a bare bottom, which is what we have in many areas. There is no seagrass at all. So, there would have to be plantings or whatever and then of course who pays for the plantings? And then you said there's never really been a total follow-up. Well, that would be a big concern to me, too. How often would it be monitored and who would monitor it? So, do you have any answers to any of those things? Then I got a few more.
That was a question.
>> Well, Brian is the Florida Seagrass expert. I'll leave that one to him. I would just say this, though. You say a lot of it is bare. Is it bare because there's no longer seagrass there or because there never was?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: No, no, no. There was. But it's no longer there.
>> Okay. That denotes there was habitat that needs to be regenerated. Yep, okay.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: It would take seedlings or transplant. I was very engaged with the Indian River Lagoon estuary, by the way, Brian, Duane DeFris said hello.

>> Thank you for that.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Thank you. That's great to know.
>> So ...

>> BILLIE WHEELER: One of the things he had said, and I would like to ask you some of the questions he gave me to ask.

>> Okay.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: One of them is before council commits $60,000 or whatever it is for a pilot, is there a project proposal with some detailed designs and expected outcomes? Is there a proposal at this time?
>> Tommy has put together a draft proposal, is that right, Tom?
>> Yes. That's right.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: These are for Tommy right now.
>> Let me continue to ask and then maybe you can jump in with that. So, do you have data from previous projects to support the expected outcomes?
>> Yes, yes. That's right. Well, we don't have data because the thing is we never had the opportunity to make measurements on these things. I set them up, I go away, and when I come back they are no longer there because they didn't maintain them or they lost their lease. That's what happened in the Bahamas. I went back there once and by the time I got back, the whole operation was gone. They literally stopped everything. The one in the Mediterranean was a three-month experiment. They took it out. The other projects were not done specifically for seagrass. They were done to grow coral reefs and we just noticed the seagrass proliferating all around them, but also the sand-producing algae. What we have done there, we produced so much sand-producing algae, we're building up sand under all the structures and it's piling up on the beaches, so growing back the beaches with new sand we grew off these structures. That would be interesting. That will be one thing that is very interesting to look at. Which algae we're growing and do we get the ones we want and not the ones we don't. The other thing that is really important is that Biorock stimulates so we can transplant them into habitat they shouldn't be able to grow in and that they did anyway and proliferated.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: That was my main thing. So, ...

>> In terms of similar habitat, I did work in a canal in Grand Bahama. It's not too unlike Florida Keys or south Florida type canals. That's where we grew corals and sponges and oysters and mussels and whole huge community of filter-feeding organisms. We realized we could be using that to clean up canals that are stagnant and that's something we would like to do in Florida very much so. And then, of course, the other habitat we worked in that was as nasty as you can get is that Superfund toxic waste dump in New York City, which had every known toxin dumped in it legally for 50 years. We've worked in some pretty stressful places.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Okay. I am a little concerned that you have said that there is no data because those projects weren't carried on. That is one thing I would like to see. But then have you reviewed water quality at that site and considered site fidelity to support a seagrass restoration project? If yes, again, who is going to supply the seagrass, or are you going to rely on natural recolonization?
Those are questions.
>> Are there people transplanting seagrass in Indian River?
>> Yes.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: They have tried. It's complicated. It requires local knowledge, experience. Water quality and clarity are the basis for success. Seagrass restoration is expensive capital costs. Long-term site monitoring is required he believed 3-5 years is a minimum to really see what's going on. Site selections need to be science-based. Water quality, sediment quality, water flow, wave energy, nearby shoreline impacts are all considered important. Seagrass won't recolonize if there are no grasses to recolonize through either sea dispersal or vegetation. Planting is going to be needed to accelerate the recovery of Indian River seagrasses. That's some of the comments he had on the seagrass. And the other one has anyone talked to the agencies to see if this restoration activity and site would be permitted?
>> Tommy, I don't think you've talked to any of the agencies yet.
>> No. I'm not sure. All I can say is with transplants we get results where other people can't or don't. The reason most transplant methods fail is they get washed away from waves before the roots grow. People plant millions of them and then you come back a few years later and there aren't any. We get around that because our roots are forming much faster. We think we'll be able to expand the areas where it can grow into areas where at the present time it's not able to. That is a strategy we need to try to look at there.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yeah. But there's no data that that's been done. And then are there any Volusia organizations with experience in Indian River Lagoon restoration involved? Like UCF or Oyster Reef Restoration, MCD Riverside Conservatory? These are all for you, Tommy, I think.
I think this is so interesting and so exciting and we all know that that low voltage currents can assist calcium carbonate. I feel right now that I don't have enough data and especially when we just did a budget. So, money was a huge issue at the budget. I absolutely think we need to be progressing forward on all water issues and especially our lagoon. So, what I am suggesting and my thoughts is that Indian River Lagoon, the NAP is available to hear about new technologies at their Science STEM Advisory Committee and management board meetings and they would love to hear that there. And I would love for the scientists. I'm not a scientist. I need more data. And they would be able to help with that data. And that's a great opportunity through the Indian River Lagoon, because they do have grants, Mr. Chair. And there's money there that, you know, I think that would be a wonderful fit because they do have so much documentation. And if it's not the best place right there at the fish camp, I don't know if it is or not, but we don't really know with the testing because we haven't done that. So, I think they would be able to assist in that.
>> Let me just say that I don't know. I'm not from the area and I don't know the groups that are involved. For sure there are many of them that I don't know. And I can just say that we're happy to collaborate with anyone who has a sincere interest in seeing this kind of regeneration happen, but especially those people who have officially designated environmental management responsibilities long-term for maintaining an area. That's your hope of success.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yeah, I can see that.
>> That's your success of maintaining it and the difficulty of funding. And the reason our projects have been done short-term is because they were done without funding. We showed what we could in the time we had, but then that was it.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: That's what I'm thinking with this STEM thing. They want those new technologies. And I think that would be a great collaboration there. I could see that as being very, very exciting for more than just one or two areas. Those are my thoughts at this point.
>> We could be including fisheries, habitat, lobster habitat, habitat for other things in those area. When I make lobster habitats, I get dozens in an arm span. I don't know your ecosystems and I don't know what your critical species are.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: And that's exactly my point.
>> But definitely we can try to do something for those, as well.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Right. Right. I think that would be a great connection. Great connection for us.
>> One thing that could be done, I don't know how much of an environmental laboratory support you have in Volusia County at the county level, but some of the monitoring could be done by your personnel, your staff possibly. I've worked pretty closely with Laurie Morris and her team who do the monitoring of seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon. And they, of course, have the capability not just to monitor seagrasses, but also water quality. So, there's a potential collaboration with St. Johns Water Management through the NEP that could be brought to bear, which could reduce the cost to the county.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: They are involved. St. Johns Water Management, they are involved in the Indian River Lagoon Council. The DEP, and St. John Water Management also is involved in that. But I did want to tell you as a little bit of a little light, too, that the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary program will release its competitive RFPs for fiscal year 22-23 this fall. That's right here right now. This could be a great, great opportunity.
>> One way to do this, this could from the county. That could actually make it more competitive to approach it from that angle.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Absolutely. Absolutely.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And I'll just add real quickly, we have several other people that want to speak. That's really the process here that I'm suggesting is that if there's interest, that this looks viable. And I will add that I'm positive Billie didn't disparage you by saying I want to hear from the scientists. We are hearing from the scientists. You're two very fine scientists. I'm sure she means local. The process is to give it back to the county manager to evaluate the proposal and return with information about cost according to what we want to try, other people to involve. He and I have already talked about putting Ginger in a wet suit and letting her monitor some of the reef. We do have staff that's capable of doing that. I will add there's seagrass at the camp now. it's not a pasture for manatees like it used to be, but there is seagrass left. And part of the pilot is for you being here to test the water, test the location, and tell us if that current condition is viable for Biorock. Correct?
>> When organisms grow in it, it's definitely in the water quality. Most of these places are in the dry season, but in the rainy season when everything gets flushed into it, that's no longer the case. Obviously some places are further from the sources and a lot clearer than others. I don't know the area, but you do. The local people definitely do know the best places. We definitely need to talk to them. And then appreciate those groups you mentioned before. That lady before, if you could please put us in touch with them, we can try to work with them, if we can show it's viable in a pilot project and we can scale up.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That's what I'm hoping happens from here. There are a lot of people working on the lagoon, but the fact is it keeps getting worse. Now we've been handed this tremendous problem. So, I'm looking for other ways. I'm of the opinion that we should do everything. Everything that looks like it can help, do 300 little things and a couple of big things. This is one, this is the only one I've seen that actually grows seagrass back. Heather Post?
>> HEATHER POST: I have a couple of questions and I'm sorry I'm going to reference you as Tommy because that's what the other doctor keeps referring to you as.
>> Only my family does that, but that's okay. (Laughing) >> HEATHER POST: Or doctor on the right.
Just trying to figure out costs and if you don't have specific costs, just estimates. Can you tell us how many of those fence groupings you put down in the baa Bahamas and then how much that cost you?
>> Yeah, I don't really remember. I didn't buy it. I went to a dive shop and the guy had it laying in the back. It's a standard roll of fencing material. Six inch square mesh. It's light stuff. Not the heavy duty material that's I guess a 16-inch diameter. I'm not sure. I would have to check that. I don't remember what it costs, but you can buy them by the hundreds at any big hardware store. Construction hardware store.
>> HEATHER POST: Am I correct in that in the Bahamas, it wasn't you providing the electric source?
>> That's correct. And then what I did is I brought with me a small power supply that produced six volts power supply. A very small charger. Really a hand-sized one. And I plugged that one into an outlet and I ran one cable through that structure. The other was through a special electrode that I built and brought with me. That we would have to supply because that's a specialty material. But typically with one electrode, what we would do is we would build the power supply that would be a plug-in unit. Basically a Biorock in a box that has some electrode that you plug into a power supply that can be either standard 110 volts operating current and you would step it down very low or from solar panels, which has a slightly different transformer. But then there's an electrode and the water flows between them. And that's an inert metal. It's a specialty metal where we have to provide. That unfortunately, with COVID, has become harder to get and more expensive. With our specialty rare metal supply chains. That is going up in price, unfortunately. But what I would say is if we build one electrode, we would be able to power oh my goodness, typically we power five big structures much larger than these ones. Five or six off one of those. And that, I think, that's going to cost a couple thousand dollars for the electrode and the power system. But beyond that, all you need is a steel and a bit of electrical cable to connect it, however far away it is from the power supply. It really is not very much. Compared to building a seawall or anything like that, it's almost nothing compared to. That that.
>> HEATHER POST: Okay. I just wanted to try and get some sort of idea there. I think really the bottom line is that we, I mean I was talking about '70s and '80s and the North Indian River there and it has progressively gotten worse and worse and worse. Even the Halifax River. I moved to Volusia County in 2003 and since then I noticed it progressively getting more murky and various things going on. You can see a difference and what we know is from here to here it's getting worse. I also know that there are lots of groups and lots of committees and lots of people who are very interested in helping. And in contributing to solutions. But I also know we're still getting from here to here. So, somewhere in there we need to really be looking, sitting down and saying, look, out of all of this, out of everybody talking about it, out of everybody getting together, out of the scientists, out of everyone, we've got to come up with some solutions and we've got to start putting some things into place. Because again, when we lose it, you can't get it back. I know we have Dream Green Volusia. We have Suzanne who has diligently been pushing and pushing and pushing. And the thing she brought up this morning was point of source solution and waste water and storm water. We have to be looking at things from different angles and attacking it to try to get from point A to point B. So, what I would love to see, first of all, I would love to hear from the Indian River Lagoon Council or any of those other committees their ideas of what is actually happening, what are they doing in the river, right? But I don't see those studies, right? Unless I research and go to look for them myself. So, if those could be brought here to us so that we know as a council what's being proposed or what's being actually worked on. But I would love to hear from staff. I know Ginger is very plugged in. Ideas. Right? If we're trying to figure out the budget for water projects and we're talking about these things, you know, you said before you had, you've got water, a little bit of the water project budget was set aside every year. We would love to use these moneys and do these things, but on what? Is where I'm at, right? And I want to make sure, of course, that we're spending the money the most wisely. But I also want to get from point A to point B. And so I don't know what we need to do to that, council. Hold on one second. I'm trying to get direction for staff. If we could actually have staff come back with options. Best case scenario, Ginger Adair. If you had all the money in the world, you would want blah, blah, blah done, and we could fix the river. Just so we know. We're probably not going to start at that end. But right now I've got no options. I am very, very interested in this. Is council on board for giving staff direction to at least come back to us with options of projects or things?
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Heather, I just have to interject. You know, we do have a Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan. Have you read through that? There's a lot being done right here right now. And this was started in August of 2019. So, this is really a lot of good things that we all have that are going on. And that was Oak Hill, New Smyrna, Edgewater, Volusia County.
>> HEATHER POST: Yes. But those are things that we're working on, but what can we do to get more to get from point A to point B. That's not in there. That's what I'm asking staff for. Is everybody on board with that? Do I hear a negative? I guess that's what I'm asking.
>> CHAIR BROWER: No. For me, that's what I've been asking. That we give it to the county manager and his staff. And I know that he's willing to do that and then come back with.
>> HEATHER POST: But with options. Complete options.
>> Sounds good to me.
>> Can I interject here one second? Because a colleague of mine has just given me some information about the costs of the fencing. He said it's about $230 for a 5 by 250 foot roll of steel mesh, retail price before discounts. A bit over $200 bucks you could do a 250-foot length of seagrass, but you would stimulate a much larger area around it. I can't tell you how much. That gives you an idea what you could do. One solar panel may be able to handle one or two of those whole rolls. A solar panel, a 100-watt solar panel might be $100, it might be less now. You can do fairly large areas pretty cheaply. The expensive thing is the power supply, the transformer that we have to build with the electrode, the mesh. That's a specialty item. That would cost about $1500, but that would handle several such projects. It gives you a ballpark idea. I think it's pretty cheap compared to some of the things you could do, probably cost quite a bit less. The labor for that. That just gives you an idea that it's not that expensive.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You were done for now? After your initial visit, is it possible with your guidance for the county and for volunteers that are chomping at the bit to get involved with something like this to continue and expand this?
>> Yeah. What we really have to do is if there is funding to apply it on a large scale, and we don't know that until we have a successful pilot project that demonstrates it's worth pursuing. But at that point, we would train people to do it. If it comes to the point that you say you want to start expanding, trying to use it to transplant to some of these barren areas and get them receded on a large scale, we would train people to do it. But it's not that hard. For people who love to dive, it's fun work. This is a bottom-up solution to expand the seagrass and the filter-feeding organisms, as well, as much as you can. And then at the same time work on trying to clean up the waters. That would be a long-term strategy. But yes, we would be happy to come in and train people. Then what we do is we form a company for power supplies and electrodes. They would basically be a plug and play system that you attach to a mesh and to a solar panel or to an electrical outlet, depending on which type you get. And you could power large areas with one of those.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson.
>> BEN JOHNSON: This is very interesting and it may have some application. You know, I'm going to have to have a whole lot information before I can support it. You're talking over $3,000 an acre for the wire alone, not counting installation and after a point volunteers run out. You're not going to have them come in and do the whole place.
>> You wouldn't cover everything. You only have to do small parts. The effect is a much larger area.
>> BEN JOHNSON: I realize you're not going to do every acre out there. But from what we've seen here, basically when you don't have anything there, nothing grows where you don't have it, from a lot of what I've seen. Right next to it, where you have it grows very well. Next to it, outside of that, nothing grows. And I'm not discounting the project. We need more information and y'all need to be able to provide us more infrastructures because you're the experts on this. We also need to look and see what else is out there. There may be other solutions, but there may not be. Before we take and spend a lot of money or get too deep in this, we got to make sure St. Johns Water is involved, FWC is involved, our partners in Bravard County. There's a lot of work to be done before we start on the pilot. Let's look at getting some more information. We don't have to have all the information before we start on the pilot, but I think we need to get a little bit more information right now. It's a good presentation, possibly it may be better than the Model T. Of course the Model T got us into part of this. But it's something that we need to look at a little bit more before I can say I'm ready to go with it. And you may get me all the way before it's over with, but we need more information. We can't just hand it to staff and say y'all go do all this, because there's a lot of work that we need from the experts that are out there that have basically invented this thing.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Well, that's what staff is going to do is bring back that information from experts. Barbara Girtman?
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Thank you, Chair. This is very interesting. It's great to see people who want to invest and think broadly about different opportunities to bring about change. And it's even great to have people who aren't from here, right, bringing things with fresh eyes and that you haven't tried before. And that needs to be combined with those who are here and know the region and the area. It can be a great complement. We've talked about the opportunity for other grants and resources to help bring about a pilot project like this. I kind of feel like Ben. I don't want to give a lot to the staff to have to do, right? I think can we connect you with St. Johns Water Management and the Committee for the Indian River Lagoon and, you know, have that collaboration already working so when it comes back to us and to staff we have more to talk about and we have more detail about how the scientists see the opportunity of how to put a proposal together for a pilot. I don't know that that should come from staff. But I am excited about the opportunity. I am a bit concerned or questioning why other areas where it was done they didn't pursue the investment that you had made and they had made when you were demonstrating success. So, I'm kind of interested why that didn't, you know, continue.
(Background noise)
>> Good afternoon, Matt.
>> Hi, Matt.
>> Hi, Matt.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: But it is of a concern that others didn't pursue the investment that had been made where as you referenced it demonstrated successes.
>> I'm sorry. We did the project as short-term experiments.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: So, there wasn't a financial investment made in that time?
>> No, these were short-term scientific experiments. We were growing them for corals and we noticed the seagrass proliferating around them. We didn't expect that. We saw that happening. The other ones we did were short-term experiments. No one has done it long term. It needs to be done. If it's done in Volusia, it will be the first place it's happened.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I'm certainly in knowing more about it, but I would also like to see it connected to resources that are already working on this effort.
>> Sure.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: And seeing you coupled with that to bring even greater value. Thank you.
>> Would love to work with the local groups that are already trying to grow seagrass. We would just like to work with them and show how them how to apply our method. We would like to bring them in to whatever pilot project is involved and then try to see them continue that after.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Yes, sir. Sounds good.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Fred Lowry.
>> FRED LOWRY: I kind of think we're getting the cart before the horse. If we don't do something about the phosphorous nitrogen issue. I would like to see us attack the problem from the chemistry aspect first. If I understand the scenario here, the chemistry issue is what's causing the problem. And if we can't get the ammonium and all of that corrected, I'm not so sure anything we're going to do is going to work, because that's the cause of the problem. So, I know the professor there on the left that we've been talking to, that seems to be his expertise. But that's the area I think we need to look at first before we try any of these projects is to get that problem solved, because otherwise they're just going to keep putting the nitrates in there, the things that are causing the problem are going to continue to go in. It seems like to me we would be kind of wasting our effort to start doing projects to restore things when we've not dealt with the source of the problem.
Thank you.
>> You're right in the long run. That the source has to be dealt with. But what's amazing about our method is they're creating biologically these organisms. They're growing faster and are able to prevent stress. We're able to keep coral reefs alive through severe pollution. Around them 99% of the corals are dying from high temperatures and our corals survive that condition. We're able to grow corals in muddy water that they normally couldn't take. And our experience in New York City with the oysters and the salt marsh, we're definitely growing them where no one else could. We think that to some extent our method is able to overcome some of those limitations. They are real. But I think we can grow them in places otherwise they couldn't be grown. That's what we want to try to find out to see if we can transpond them and make them grow faster and are spread what we V. have. >> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>> HEATHER POST: I just wanted to point out, though, because I'm definitely all for looking at it from different angles, and certainly for looking at it from outside the box, for sure. But I do see Suzanne sitting in the audience. And I do know that she proposed water goats, which has been very successful. And now she sort of by herself has been working to get them more and more around the county. And those are going to have tremendous impact and are having already tremendous impact. And it's such a tiny thing. So, she's a member of the public. But here we have a member of the public who is coming up with these very small, but such impactful differences. And this to me sounds like a very small, from what you're saying with the fences and whatnot thing to do or toll try to have greater impact and to be looking a at it and hitting it from different angles. I'm all for doing that, for sure. Because doing nothing is not enough.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler?
>> BILLIE WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I just want to thank you for bringing this to the front. Because I think what we're hearing here is that all of us are in total agreement that this need needs to be pushed forward. In whatever manner. You know, we've certainly never not addressed it because we've got many things going on out there for water quality and all of these things. But, you know, the point of source, you know, that's a huge thing that we have to get. I think if nothing else, this is saying we need to project more energy and possibly more funding and go for more grants and really push the need that we see the priority in the need for this. We've got all these other ideas going on in the county. It's just because you brought this forward, it certainly showed the enthusiasm from all of us, we need to do something. We need to do something more than just even though we've been very active in doing things, what else can we do. What more can we do. There needs to be more. And if we need to have our legislator guy work on more ways to get us more grants or whatever, whatever it is, this is a high priority for all of us. And I thank you for bringing thattings because , because I think it brought us all together to realize the importance of this. Huge importance. And you being on the Indian River Lagoon, you see the expertise that's there and the people that we haven't really had a chance to go to the meetings because they've been shut down with COVID. But the expertise that is there. We need to jump on those things and really, really pursue it. And I thank you for bringing that so we could all realize the impact of how much we need to focus on these major, major water issues.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I agree with that. Which is why I brought it., which is exactly why I don't want this to dead end here. I don't mind asking the county staff to do the work of connecting Dr. Goreau and D r. Lapointe to local decision makers, but we cannot let this dead end and say it's interesting, it was good.
>> BILLIE WHEELER: I'm sure there's other people out there with other ideas, too. Maybe we need to really get that out there. What else is out there? But I think this one is wonderful and I think we have places we can connect him with to move that idea forward so we can check that out.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>> HEATHER POST: We talk a lot. I know we have all the different state agencies and I actually was sad to see Shortell go with Sanchez Water Management. Our approach to the water projects doesn't necessarily have to be at the state level or, you know, consistently looking for state moneys or federal moneys to do these big-scale projects. You know, the water goat thing is a great example of that. That is a very, very tiny, tiny amount to have a large impact. And, you know, there are things we should be doing across the board parallel and at the same time collectively. But I also think there are a lot of things we can be doing specifically as a county. And I know Ginger has been doing a number of things. But I think Ginger also works a lot with these other agencies. And so it's more of a collective push and a collective project. But I think there are also various things that the county itself can be doing to help our water supply and our water quality and all of these different areas to then assist these other giant areas, right? So, if we're asking for funding, we're asking for funding from the state and federal government, but if we're not willing to invest $5, or $10, or $1,000 at the local level to try some of these things, then I think we're not doing ourselves justice.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins?
>> DANNY ROBINS: Thank you, chair. I just wanted to thank both professors obviously for coming out here and all the council is very appreciative for your hard work and for your dedication and willingness to come out and talk to us about this. But here locally in Volusia County, we're dealing with a multitude of problems, mostly up here on the north end of the lagoon we're having a hard time handling other people's problems. We're on the tail end of a major-scale problem, whether it's base flow pollution, runoff, septic systems, whatever it is, we get a lot of our problems from Bravard. We are doing a lot here in Volusia County. I dedicated over half my life. I know a lot of the folks that are hands on and actually in this field. But here locally, recently the canal project were actually measuring the nutrients coming in and out where there's hard data, scientific data, where we can actually track some of these issues and runoff and water quality. Miss Schriber with the water goat, it's excellent. Collects a lot of trash that comes through our canals and water systems down south, especially in Veterans Park. But a couple local grants have been released. I want to say it was $20,000. We had a scientist come in from I want to say it was the University of Kentucky or Missouri to retrofit some seawalls for mangroves. Volusia County did have a quarter mile grant funding tool where $20,000 or $25,000 was released. A pilot location was determined down there in Edgewater. Also, too, some more funding was just released. I want to say another $20-25,000 to purchase over 2700 clams that are currently being hung on multiple docks throughout the southeast Volusia region. Also, too, we've also donated myself and the conservancy, many reefs that hang under docks that are a good base to grow oysters and whatnot and other filter feeders and grasses. So, there's a lot going on here in Volusia County for this, but all this stuff that I'm talking about has been proven with hard data, hard facts, and like Mr. Johnson, Miss Girtman, there appears to be little to no scientific data. I was able to pull up a Florida DEP on the Floridadep.gov site, Professor Tom. Back in 2007, in February, are you able to tell us a little bit about what you did with that study with the DEP?
At the Southeast Florida Reef Initiative?
>> Sorry, at Lauderdale by the Sea?
>> DANNY ROBINS: The February 2007 Southeast Florida Initiative. Did you do a pilot project?
>> I'm not quite sure which one that is. I was actually the first person to write a report scientifically describing the Staghorn Reef in Broward County. I'm not sure if that's what you're referring to. But after that we did a small biorock coral project in Lauderdale by the Sea. I showed you that. After the three years, they terminated the project by literally cutting the cable. Literally pulling the plug. I'm not sure if that's what you're referring to.
>> DANNY ROBINS: That picture was from 2000. But I'm talking about the study that was done in 2007 with the Maritime Industry and Coastal Impact Workshop that you were showcased in. Do you have any information on that one?
>> I vaguely recall that. No, I don't recall much about that.
>> DANNY ROBINS: Okay. And what were the results other than the power loss of that reef in Fort Lauderdale? Did they give you any indication?
>> Well, it was interesting. We had beautiful corals growing there. They're seriously underpowered, because they were only powered by a very small solar power buoy up on the top. So, they were underpowered. But in fact the corals were growing nicely. After they cut the power, most of them appeared to have died. I haven't been back there in five years. The structure is still in tact. I'm told by the local divers, they go there all the time, they're covered by barnacles now. Some of the corals we put on are still alive to my amazement, but they're not growing faster and healthier. It's sad to see. But some are still hanging on there.
>> DANNY ROBINS: We're dealing with a complex issue. The lagoon, there isn't another place like it on earth. We have some very specific problems here. And what I'm gathering in a nutshell, doc, is it's safe to say that this technology provides pretty much a foundation for marine organisms to grow. Is that safe to say. Yes or no?
>> Yeah. That's the amazing thing. We speed up the growth of all marine organisms. I don't know if you've seen on camera, but this is a book we published. It's a four-year-old Biorock reef in Indonesia full of fish and corals where there was nothing there before. We see that effect pretty much in every seek system we work in, oysters, seagrass, fisheries, lobster habitat, et cetera. What we're doing is stimulating the energy metabolisms of all forms of marine life. That's why we get pretty amazing results. The results vary obviously depending on the habitat and the water quality and all of that in terms of what can grow there. But what we find is we're able to get things to grow much faster than other people can But we also get results where nobody else can. That's where it's surprising. That we can keep things alive under awful conditions.
I think it's well worth trying to see what we can do with seagrass there and see what happens. If it works, if it works like it does in other places, I think you'd want to expand it. If you decide it doesn't, then you won't. That's fine. But we don't know any other method that increases the growth of every marine organism and every habitat we've looked at. Really, there's nothing else like it.
>> DANNY ROBINS: Well you have B-mats that are produced here locally. Oyster mats. A number of things that are produced that sort of do the same thing.
>> Let me explain. I don't know if you saw the data. Our data shows that we get the oysters to grow eight times faster length and eight times wider length. It's not a small difference. Yes, there's many ways you can put down substrate and things will settle on them. But we're doing something beyond that. We're stimulating their growth and health and their ability to survive extreme stress. If our method is applied in conjunction with their approaches, using them as substrate and put them into the electrical field, you'll get much better results.
>> DANNY ROBINS: What happens when you lose power?
>> Well, can I can tell you exactly what happens. I was doing a project in the island of Tobago and we were growing corals eight times faster. Then the the cable broke. Then our corals started growing the same rate. Then we fixed it and they started growing faster again. There was no residual effect. The actual electrical field stimulates them. We've seen that in other areas. Indonesia. Bleaching events kill all the corals in the relief. Our corals don't die if they're under power. If they're under power only a short period of time, then they die. Stimulating them directly. It's quite remarkable. Once they no longer have that, they go back to what they were like before, meaning that they are vulnerable and sensitive to ecological stresses and pollutants.
>> DANNY ROBINS: I don't know if we need, I definitely would like to see some more R&D on this. It has my ears. You have my attention on it. I think it's definitely something to maybe get a third party opinion on, as well, or get you hooked up with something. But, you know, right now and I'm the water guy. I mean it's in my district and it's a passion of mine. And I'm seeing, I don't have a lot of answers yet. But before I can make a commitment, where I'm stuck at the moment is I don't want to shoot from the hip and blindly in the dark because we don't have a lot of answers for this. And literally, I don't want to go on a fishing expedition with taxpayer money. But I want to make all this count because this could be something very well for not only Volusia County or southeast Volusia, but it could be something very well for you guys, as well. I'm definitely interested and I'm definitely interested in seeing the outcome and hearing more information that you guys hopefully come back with. Thank you, guys. Once again, thank you again for taking the time out for us.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>> FRED LOWRY: Do you have time to do some research on it? I'm trying to cut to the chase because we're wearing this thing out.
>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: The short answer is yes, we'll make the time if that's the council's desire. I want people to understand that I think we have a water quality plan that's been in place for several years and on part of that plan was the reasonable assurance plan in the lagoon. And a lot of that work, just about all of it, concentrates the efforts on the sources. So, as Mr. Robins pointed out the canal is a good example. Millions of dollars have gone into cleaning the water that goes into the lagoon. We have the aerial canal project coming soon. We have work with the water treatment plants, waste water treatment plants. There are still plants up and down the lagoon that overflow at times into the lagoon. That's something that the cities that are involved in that need to continue to work on. They were our partners in the reasonable assurance plan. I see this, what we're doing here, is complementary to that work. In other words, what these gentlemen are pointing out is if you can fix the stuff going in, you also have a time element here, trying to get these seagrasses growing, which would complement the process. The point of getting those sources and stuff out of the water is to prevent the algae blooms, to bring back the ecology, so to speak, of the water. And obviously, the seagrass is a critical component of that. And it looks like the systems, from what I can tell, not being a scientist, but it's aimed at as he says speeds up the process, literally adds juice, electrical juice in this case, to the plants and to the organisms to give them the ability to withstand either harsher conditions . What we need out there. I do think we need to get them connected to our state agencies because those projects we've been doing, the millions of dollars. Judy. And of course Ginger and her staff. They will tell you we need the support of those state agencies. They need to also be on board with these type of products. And then we will help fund them. That's a big part of what we're doing. We can work with the state and other agencies and grants and get it approved as a viable project for them to help fund. Then I think everybody wins. I see a future with this product, as well, that I think what I'm hearing that I think they're going to teach us things as part of what they get out of that. And then I do think it sounds like the construction of it or the monitoring of it could be definitely things our staff or local groups, marine discovery center, could also participate and monitoring. It sounds like one of the issues has been having some stable body that can carry through the data and carry through the work that they've done. They've done initial stuff to show that things work, but they need some way to carry that over a period of time to see again what does it cost to maintain it and monitor it. And is it cost effective? But they don't have a large-enough data set to prove all that yet. But again, I think it's very interesting and exciting and I think it's another tool in the toolbox that I think we need out there. In this fight for water quality.
>> FRED LOWRY: Okay. I'd like to wrap us up by saying we make a motion to direct staff to look into. This
>> CHAIR BROWER: Perfect. Motion by Lowry to take George up on everything he just said and bring us back more information and to work with Dr. Goreau and second by Wheeler. All in favor say aye?
>> Aye.
>> Any opposed?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion carries 7-0. You will be hearing from the County Manager and other people, from me. And yes, thank you very much for spending this much time out of your busy schedules. I hope everything is going well in the Keys. Dr. Lapointe, we need more lobster down there.
>> Did I mention ...

>> And more corals.
>> I need to head to the Turks and Cacos to get another look at this.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, we need a county council boat and a field trip. The coral is dying at a more rapid pace in the Keys now?
>> Yeah.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Wow.
>> That's right. It's very much related to the ratio. That is problematic for the corals. They become phosphorous starved. You need ADP, these phosphorous-containing molecules for basic photosynthesis and respiration. It lowers the temperature threshold for bleaching and promotes coral diseases. It's related to water quality, high nitrogen, and high nitrogen to phosphorous ratios. Very similar to what's going on in Volusia County and the Mosquito Lagoon.

>> I would just like to add to what Brian said. What the Biorock process does is encourages organisms to make ATP, which is why they have this energy. It's pretty fundamental.
>> That's right.
>> Obviously, we can't guarantee results, you know our ecosystems and we don't. But we're eager to see how we can help you stimulate what you have and help you with your critical environmental management problems there because we think it will help and, you know, to what extent and how cost effective it is, we'll find out by trying and we're eager to work with people there who are working hard to try to solve the problems and transplant the seagrass to combine forces with them to see if we can help them be more effective at what they do.
Thank you for the opportunity. We hope we can work together with all of these people in Volusia.
(.
(Applause).
>> Thank you also, Mr. Chair, for your interest in this. I look forward to working with your staff on the water-quality monitoring end of this project and how seeing how we can leverage collaboration with the agencies because I do work with a number of these agencies.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you D r. Lapointe. Thank you, Tommy. (Chuckling) we appreciate it.
Okay. Thank you, George. Pardon me?
Are we on 12?
I think we're on ...we did 11. I don't show that we did 12.
>> We did not.
>> We're on item 12. Thank you, again, gentlemen. That brings us to item 12. Ordnance 2021-22, transmial hearing for amendment to chapter 8, solid waste element of the Volusia County comprehensive management plan.
>> Good afternoon. What you see is an administrative effort to get our plan in order so we're in compliance with the state's requirement of having a ten-year planning horizon. We initiated this actually two and a half years ago to get these things done. What we realized is the ability to come in and make giant policy changes and everything else, we did not have enough time. Because right now we're four years away from our planning horizon and it's supposed to be ten years out. So, these are relatively simple changes to update dates, terms, and anything else that is pertaining to the particular element. In this particular one, we're talking about solid waste element. The element sets in place goals, objectives, and policies that will pertain to how Volusia County handles the waste stream and management of solid waste by the residents and businesses that are here. It focuses on a variety of different topics including how it's collected, the efforts to try to improve recycling, and to minimize the stream going into the various solid waste landfills.
If you read through the first page with when the introduction was revised by our solid waste director, the timeline was pushed to 2035 to meet our requirements. We removed the term subelements, what you're seeing is all of the items that we're bringing for you today were under utilities element, subelement. So, we're making these their own element to eliminate any kind of confusion. We deleted variety of policies pertaining to the Plymouth Road Landfill as closure has been completed. We focused on maximizing capacity at the Tamoca Farms Hill Landfill since capacity is available beyond the 2035 timeline. We've included criteria for household, hazardous waste sites and future landfills. Added language. We delated 8.3.3.5 at the request of fire services as this is a critical service consistently funded by the general fund, and then we added provisions for social media and the internet as way to educate the public. This was brought forward and they unanimously recommended approval. Anyone who is looking for how we specifically changed and why. At the end of all of these elements, what we try and do is put in a matrix. What it does is it breaks it down by goals, objectives, and policies. And it indicates whether we're keeping it the same, if we're changing it, and if we're deleting. And then the last column indicates what's going on in a very brief way. So, what you're seeing is that this is the solid waste element. We believe that we are meeting all the requirements of our statute 163, the community planning act. And we request your approval to transmit so we can initiate that effort.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. The next four things that we're working on with comp plan, I just want to commend you and your staff. There's a lot of really well-written information in there.
>> Thank you. It's not me; it's all them.
>> CHAIR BROWER: It's the third time today you've been complimented in lieu of a raise at the end of the year. (Chuckling) I just have a couple questions for information for the public. Because I'm asked this all the time, especially after touring the Tomoco Landfill. I'll make a statement first, kind of a cheap commercial for what's coming up in November. But on your goal 8.1 on page 12-7, you mentioned the fact that we have to reduce the amount of landfill. And one of the ways we can do that is with the high heat commercial composting that we'll be looking at. Just a couple of quick questions. Recycling has been a real problem with markets around the world. I understand that's improved now. Can you just quickly tell us what all is being recycled?
>> Well, right now according to the information we have from our public work staff, specifically Regina Montgomery, who oversees your landfill, we are recycling aluminum, cardboard, glass, plastic. All the major categories. Yes, there has been a downturn in some of these markets. It has made it difficult at times to find an end user. But Gel Corp., our consultant out there is good at holding onto the raw aggregate until they can secure the price so we can work with them so that way it will still be profitable for them and still be economical for them to continue to do it.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You discussed voluntary recycling from the public. What do they need to do to participate in that?

>> Right now we provide recycling bins for all residential and non-residential, many of them are doing it on their own just because of the returns. Any time you go to a grocery store, you will see they have a huge cardboard compacter, because they see that as a revenue stream that they can utilize. Contact Regina Montgomery and our folks at Solid Waste, and they'll be able to hook them up with any kind of issues or programs or education that they want about that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Most of us probably have the little container that it goes in. That just gets put out on trash day or is there a separate recycle day?
>> There's a separate recycle day depending on your location.

>> CHAIR BROWER: They can get that information probably from our website?

>> Definitely from the website. If there's any questions, folks are available at Solid Waste who can answer those questions.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Dr. Lowry? >> FRED LOWRY: I was going to move approval.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion for approval by Lowry. Second by Johnson. All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0. Which takes us to item 13.
Also a transmittal hearing to chapter 9. Clay?
>> Again, same situation. The drainage element talks about how we handle not just drainage a, but how we treat it and how we process it. It provides us the utility aspect of storm water. Again, going through just on what's on the agenda sheet, we revised the introduction based on information we received from our friends in public works. We extended the timeline out from 2025-2035. Again, this also we changed it from a subelement to a full element for housekeeping. Updated agency names, added reference to the future flood conditions and predicted sealevel rise and storm water management. That is consistent with our resiliency action plan that we've approved and adopted here through our coordination with the East Central Region Planning Council, in addition to other initiatives for sea level change. We deleted policy 1.9.25, as environmental management discourages the use of wetlands for storm water retention and environmental engineering recommended deleting the policy, referring simply to state words.
So, in other words, the ability to utilize wetlands for some storm water treatment can be done, but only in circumstances and the fact is that directive charges is not one of them. Adding policy 1.9.7 to monitor conditions in Volusia County. Local data can supplement federal and state data. And adding policy 9.1.2.6 to encourage low-impact development and green infrastructure for storm water management. One of the things we're seeing, especially in green development efforts is being able to put in large ponds and all those other things and alterraltives would be much better and provide for options that would be more conducive for redevelopment, and also looking at what can be done to help green field development be more in line with those goals of low impact.
So, again, this went to your planning and land development regulation commission with recommendation and approval from the staff who drafted these changes. It's coming to you with a 6-0 recommendation for approval. Starting on page 13-22 is the matrix I referenced in the last item in regards to the changes being proposed and why.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Another question. I don't know how you can answer this. You just mentioned on page 13-99.117, Volusia County will study the increase until ground water elevation caused by predicted sea level rise. I'm wondering. We spend all this time on these documents on the comp plan. And sometimes I wonder why. What good is it doing if we don't follow it, if we don't implement it? And what I want to ask you about is not that directly, but increase in ground water elevation. We are experiencing all over the county, we talked about one yesterday at Sawyer's Landing. With new development, we take ground that is accepting water now, absorbing it, as it should be, and developing it, paving it over, so it's permeable and the water has got to go somewhere. The developments are designed to not spill water somewhere else, but they often impede the flow of water or cause flooding somewhere else. What can we do? What can we add to a com plan to make sure a new development going in isn't causing flooding to their neighbors? That's part of private property rights. You can do what you want with your property until you harm your neighbor.
>> There's three distinct tracks we need to look at going forward with this. The goals and policies we have in all of our comp plan. You can't just read one element and say that's exactly it. You have to look through all of our elements to make sure you have a clear understanding what our focus is. There's the acknowledgment that sea level change will have the potential for increasing ground water. The reason why that's important is if you're designing a storm water pond or treatment system, you have to have free board. That's the distance between the surface and the median height of the ground water. That's an area where you allow for percolation. And that's where water in a pond supposedly goes to as it's treated. So, therefore if your groundwater levels are increasing, that means you have two impacts. Future development has to address it, but also existing development where they banked on the ground water being here. And if it's up here now, have an issue with what you were talking about in that monitoring and follow-up of those designed and those engineered storm water systems to make sure that they are being able to accommodate any changing conditions. And also the fact is that we have two distinct systems in regards to storm water management. We have the areas that were done before we had many of the storm water regulations we have in place. And most of these are in urbanized areas where you have curb and gutter with pipes that lead into either a river body, a water body, or a pond. Those are the ones that are a bit older. Those are the ones that perhaps are better maintained because they're usually a local government-owned and maintained utility. With new development that's occurred other the 80s, 90s, and into the 2000s, many of these are having to provide their own storm water onsite. So, when we get a green field development, they have to provide their own storm water pond. They are responsible for the maintenance of it. We do not maintain any of those that are in these private residential developments. So, therefore, it's basically working with St. Johns River Water Management District and making sure that these homeowner associations are doing what they're supposed to be doing in regards to pumps, and ensuring conveyance lines that may be on their property are continued and maintained. It's a three-prong approach. It's making sure we have good, valid data, and making sure we have good, up to date regulations that are pertinent and effective. And three, it's also making sure we have effective methods of going forward and ensuring that any of these privately held ponds are being properly managed.
>> CHAIR BROWER: So, who is doing that?

>> Well, first of all, we do have complaints that are given to our engineering department and our public works department. So, if we go out and if we see that something is going on in a private pond that is within the jurisdiction of Volusia County, we will make them correct the problem. Also, the St. Johns River Water Management District has some responsibility in this, as well. We will always coordinate with them in regard to that. So, when we get the flooding complaints, that's where Ben and Tadd, they convey, or they meet and they see what can be addressed based from a site-specific inspection.
>> Have they been out to Sawyer Landing?
>> I have no idea.

>> How do we find out?
>> It's in the city of Deland. We will check with them to see what's going on.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. You know what I'm referring to. There's serious flooding problems. In 9.1.2.1, you discuss Volusia County will identify and prioritize urban drainage systems in need of retroughing. That to me is one. I don't know if that includes existing flooding problems from current development. It's a problem we're going to face from here on out as we add developments in Volusia County. We're going to have more flooding. And there needs to be a way where a development going in is responsible for the effects on their neighbors, if they cause flooding.
Again, what you have here is excellent, but I don't think it covers that. I don't know if we need to add something or do what you just said and follow up with the St. Johns Water Management District where we're spread out here. And who is responsible for what.
>> Speaking for Volusia County, what you have on your books right now is a series of county-wide storm water management requirements that are part of our Chapter 50 minimum environmental standards. Those are carried out such that our standards are above and beyond what you currently see in St. Johns River Water Management and also through the state. So, we already have initiated an effort here in Volusia County to do something that is addressing what we see as an important issue. So, therefore that translates into standards that are contained in Chapter 72 of our land development code, which pertain specifically to development that occurs within the jurisdiction of unincorporated. And that's where they go forward and when application is coming in for review, we're making sure that it's complying with, you know, it's a 24-hour, 25-year storm event with 72-hour attenuation, making sure we have all of the data that shows they're going to be in compliance with those requirements, and making sure you'll hear engineers and planners talk about pre and post development. If I have 100 acres that I'm developing, I have to provide you as a reviewer, the contours, the soils, the groundwater levels, the naturally occurring at that time storm water such that pre-development conditions are maintained with post-development. That's including water coming off the site and conveying through the site. So, there is that requirement for pre and post so it does not create a problem with a 25-year storm event.
>> CHAIR BROWER: It gets complicated when Cyprus Landing can city, correct?
>> Again, they have to meet the minimum requirements we have from a county standard and also St. John for River Water Management. Trans
>> CHAIR BROWER: Are you finding cooperation or finger pointing?
>> I would say cooperation.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
Dr. Lowrr?y?
>> FRED LOWRY: I would move for approval.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry to accept. Second by Robins. I see no other questions. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? The motion carries 7-0.
And that brings us to item 14. Similar discussion. Transmittal hearing for amendment to chapter, so ground water and recharge element of the Volusia County comp plan.
>> I would be saying we would be doing this regardless because we understand the importance of protecting an aquifer, because it is our primary source of potable water. What you're seeing is bringing it into compliance and getting rid of the term subelement and all of those other things. We added 10.1.1.13 to address green infrastructure and low-impact development. We've added policy 10.1.2.13 to address stricter, if DEP protection rules in the spring sheds of the basin action management plans and priority focus areas. These are very important. We're coordinating here basically to ensure that our comprehensive plan is consistent with the state's effort with its outstanding Florida springs. We have three of them within our jurisdiction. So, what we're seeing is these basin management plans and the priority focus areas are critical. We're working through some other changes to make sure that we are up to speed so that that way if we do have development applications for new development in these priority focus areas that we are making sure it's going to have the least amount, if any impact at all on those springs. And that's what this is tied to. We had definitions for the BMAP and the PFA. That's talking about that. And we're planners, we can't get away without having another acronym. TMDLs. Total maximum daily loading. This pertains to your nutrient. Several years ago, the state of Florida realized that just doing the basic storm water management does not necessarily address the fact that you're changing potentially what is happening with storm water as a property is developed from say a forested or relatively low-impact agricultural state to a developed state. So, they said that there's a loading that has to be addressed because now all of a sudden you're changing it. And so they've created these total maximum daily loading requirements for specific parcels so that way there's additional treatment beyond what is required by our storm water management. And this is all pertaining to making sure that anything that is being filtered down to our ground water is meeting all of the requirements to ensure that it's as clean as could be and is not going to have a negative impact on that resource. We provide policies related to the county's petroleum storage tank. If there's any questions, many years ago we had a staff function where we were working to do basically the tank enforcement. It was a contract with the state. The state started slowly but surely decreasing the amount and changing the requirements. So, therefore, we made a decision that was best handled through the state and allowed them to do it and we no longer contracted for those services. So, now they've contracted and they've got other, I believe other counties of Hillsboro and Orange handling some of our tank problems. And removed policies, excuse me, and updated the Florida Aquifer recharge area map. That map was in woeful need of updating. The fact is we got to remember this comp plan was originally adopted in 1990. There's been a series of map changes. The last is in 2010. So, we were able to go in there and Chris Cromer who oversees our functions for GIS for planning was able to update that map with the latest data and so was Kelly Stewart, who is in our environmental management division also helped out with that. So, that is what's going on with regards to the groundwater recharge element of the comprehensive plan.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. At the risk of making enemies up here, these are some of the most important things we do, I believe.

>> Yes, it is.
>> CHAIR BROWER: In the comp plan. On page 14-4, in the BMAP, which is acronyms you keep mentioning. It's Basin Management Action Plan. It's a framework for water quality restoration. Request I Can I just make a plug for Biorock? Pay attention to that. I'm sure you will. It's coming to your department to look at. But go to page 14-7 Chapter 10 overview, if I can get there.
At the bottom of it, it just mentions natural groundwater recharge areas. Have those areas been identified on a map?
>> Yes, sir.
>> Sit us or St. Johns Management District?
>> We'll have to check. I'll make sure we get that to you. We'll send it out to the council immediately today.
>> MICHAEL DYER: Mr. Chair, I believe page 14-15 is the exhibit for the Aquifer Recharge District here in Volusia County. It's not completely accurate. I believe it requires some additional studies to determine the extent of the recharge area. But we do have those general areas in our comprehensive plan.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, I would be interested in seeing that. On page 14-8, you mentioned, or the document mentions monitoring the auquifer. Do we know what's happening there? If we look at 10.1.1.5 now. I know you've taken out definitions.

>> Yeah, we completed the study and went forward with that. Are you referencing Volusia County utilities shall promote the efficient use of ground water supplies as outlined in the potable water element or one above it? Where it says those are all pertaining to, hmm, I'm sorry, sir. Which specific policy are you referencing?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm looking at 10.1.1.4 or .3. And it looks like that response, it says we're collaborating with the St. Johns Water Management District.
>> Predict sea level rise and make projected changes in policies depending on the findings.
>> What is going on is the state has acknowledge the importance of resiliency. There are significant funds being sent to local governments to come up with resiliency plans. And one of the critical things is partnering with the water management districts, because they are the ones that oversee basically what is the water supply. They are the ones who are conducting much of the modeling and determination because again the water management district is the group that issues the consumption use per permits for those who want to withdraw water from the ground. We'll be coordinating with them as we go through the models for sea level change. That way if there is anything that is changing with regard to where our well fields are located and what equipment is is being utilized. One beach was able to get a grant to switch to reverse osmosis so they could utilize lower-quality ground water. Where we're coming from is this gives us a lot of valuable data that we get from the water management districts so then they can make plans and we can also modify our codes that are needed in regards to other aspects of development that would be impacted by the increase in ground water.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Just underneath that at 10.1.1.5 groundwater protection plan, all that's been struck out.
>> Because the plan was completed and implemented through a variety of different codes or other aspects of it.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay.

>> I can get y'all an update on that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I'm trying to be quick. On 14-910.1.1.11, it says prime, this is really small print. Huh?
I thought you asked me if I wanted your cheaters. You don't have cheaters. Prime or high recharge areas appropriate for development shall be developed as appropriate to maintain predevelopment retention.
And then the rest is struck out. How are you doing that?
>> You can see that struck-out language was moved to another policy directly afterwards. We split it up because those are two separate policies and we want to treat them as two separate policies.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Does that tell us how it's being done?
>> No, sir.
>> That's carried on in chapter 72 and chapter 50 of our code ordnances. What we can do is send you a clarification on those specific points where we have the regulations. >> CHAIR BROWER: I don't know if I need a clarification. What will I want to know is when there's a new development if we're supposed to be monitoring the aquifer recharge areas, how do we know if it's happening?
>> They're factoring in the native vegetation and the height of the ground water. Right off the bat there's going to be a model that's going to analyze what's going to be needed to do the treatment of that area. From that perspective, we know what kind of predevelopment needs or containments need to be done. At that point, again, what you're asking is how can we make sure that the aquifer is being diluted or polluted. What is happening is we can work with St. Johns on a larger area to see what is happening with regards to water quality and quantity of the aquifer.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And are we? It's all the developments together. Are we draining the aquifer. Is there time for it to replenish?
>> We're not in charge of issuance. That's something that St. Johns River Water Management District does. I can tell you anyone who has gone through a consumption use permit, the amount of information you have to provide is exhaustive and they will deny and modify and require alterations. There is information provided toy the water management districts to ensure any kinds of impacts. You know, many years ago we had the Volusia Water Alliance, and the Water Alliance of Volusia that were all again trying to make sure that we were doing a coordinated effort. And right now we still have that to a certain extent on a looser organization where the water managers of the individual local governments and providers work together in regards to ensure that we have that taken care of.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And finally, it's along the same lines on the next page of 10.1.1.21. I think it's what we're talking about. The county shall continue to utilize and update regulations to protect the aquifer, which includes standards to maximize open space, limit impervious surfaces, protect natural vegetation. I don't see that happening. It looks good here. It's great to have in the comp plan, but we don't see it happening.

>> These are right now regulations in chapter 72 of your land development code. We have a requirement for native plantings. We have requirements for minimum 15% native vegetation area to be retained with each development site. We have limitations on impervious surface depending on the zoning. That's where you see like the maximum building coverage requirements that we have. We've actually implemented almost all of these. I'm not certain about the CARST-sensitive areas, which makes sense, we should be, but I can't speak exactly what's required there. But I can tell you all the other things we do currently have as regulations in chapter 72.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to give you an example. It's Daytona Beach. It wasn't a county project. But if you look at latitudes. And we've gone from just throwing out numbers 300 homes in that development to 6,000 or 3,000 I think it began with. Does the county have any influence or strictly Daytona Beach? Because I don't see maximum open space limited impervious open sure vases. surfaces.
>> The county does not have any review over that development, because it's within the city of Daytona Beach. They do have impervious surfaces. They have to meet our minimum standards from chapter 50 with regard to tree preservation and tree protection. They do have minimum open space requirements, impervious surface restrictions. They do have requirements for natural protection. They also have a firewise requirement in regard to what kind of landscaping and where its placement can be. Yes, the city does have those same standards in place.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All right. They don't seem to be working.
I'm not, I know that you can't go into another city and tell them to, but it's a problem all over the county and with the rate of building and the rate of landscape that we're taking out and recharge areas that are being paved over where the water can never get through, we're seeing flooding in places we've never seen it. We have it right here in the comp plan, but, Heather Post?
>> HEATHER POST: Yes. I actually just have one quick thing. If we could change one of the words. So, in 13, item 13 that we just went through for the drainage element, you don't need to look at it, Clay. You don't need to pull it up. But in that one regarding drainage, we mentioned sink holes. And now we're in item 14. And we mentioned buffer CARST sensitive areas. So, to tell a tiny story, I was looking into a sink hole issue and had some questions about a sink hole and the word carst kept coming up. They're the same thing. Is it possible to just say buffer sink hole sensitive areas since we do use that verbiage in the other?
>> What we can do is say buffer carst sensitive areas and in parentheses says areas prone to sink hole.
>> HEATHER POST: Okay. Because there was some definitive confusion with others on that.
>> You got it.
>> HEATHER POST: Anywhere else in here where carst might be used, can we do that, as well?
>> Yes, ma'am.

>> CHAIR BROWER: You don't like carst?

>> HEATHER POST: I was specifically told it was not a sink hole and then I Googled it and it said sink hole. So, I think if we put it in here in layman's terms, I think that works out better.
>> FRED LOWRY: I'll make a motion, if that's okay. I move approval.
>> And we will do a global search over all of these elements if they reference carst. >> HEATHER POST: Thank you. >> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to accept by Lowry, seconded by Robins. All in favor say aye. Any opposed?
And the transmittal passes 7-0.
And you have one more.
>> Yes, sir.
The last of these is agenda item number 15. Pertaining to our recreation and open space element. We coordinated with Tim Bailey over in our Parks and Recreation to update. this. Again, same situation in regards to the dates and all those fun things. There have been some questions regarding this and I do need to clarify. We have policies in our older comp plan that went across multiple elements. And over time, it may have been changed in one element, but not the others. And so it's created this unfortunate inconsistency where we've tried to be redundant with goals, objectives, and policies. So, when we started on this venture two plus years ago, we decided that it was probably best so that way we concentrate anything under that specific element that's tied to it. So, for example, in this particular one, we had some things in regards to the scenic highway programs. Those have been moved to the transportation element. So, just when you see some of the changes going on here, you will see they may have been moved over to the transportation element, postal management, or conservation. We made minor changes throughout, we removed policies related to coastal management, all of which was updated in 2020. We updated the recreational facilities list for each part type to reflect current practices. We removed items from the list type that are not actual facilities, such as tree replacement andplacement, and added kayak and infrastructural kiosks, and added goal .3 to recognize the commitment to a comprehensive trail system that serves a variety of users. This was presented to your planning and land development commission who unanimously recommended approval. We did receive some questions in regards to specifically, if I can find it, the term "tree replacement." I have to kind of clarify. Starting with policy 1 3.1.4.2, this is where we list the components of what is a local park and what is a district park. And within local parks, we identified tree replacement as an acceptable component of what a local park could be. Tree replacement pertains to utilizing it for mitigation for trees that are impacted by either development or the county along those lines. So, we felt that that was not necessarily a true local recreational component. It doesn't mean that we are not going to be held in account by our own chapter 50 and our own code in regards to the amount of natural vegetation area so when we go to develop a park, we will have to retain at least 15% of the site of natural vegetation area. If there's critical wetlands, we're not going to be taking those out. And we do have a tree mitigation fund where we collect money from developers who are unable to do their mitigation on site. We can use that on public properties including parks. So, there's no real need to have this in our comp plan as a component of a local park for us to be able to utilize those funds. There was also questions and concerns about how our parks department manages and maintains our existing tree canopy. Again, they have to go through a tree removal process just as we all do. So, for example, DeBary Park, Tim had an unfortunate situation where he had to take out some of the trees. We came in, worked with our staff in environmental management, got a tree removal permit, went through the process, and was able to do the mitigation intake here because of all of that. We already have in place these checks and balances to make sure that Parks and Recreation is abiding by what we would have any landowner follow. Okay?
>> CHAIR BROWER: That was going to by my first question was tree removal. So, thank you for taking that up.
I do have a question if I could get to it on page 15-9. And it's about all the policies from the beach that have been taken out. It's moved to other areas. That's clear it's in the matrix. How are you dealing with beach access? It says every two miles ...
11.6.1 it says two miles.
>> Pardon me. I'm getting there.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That's okay.
>> HEATHER POST: What was the number?
>> CHAIR BROWER: 11.6.I'm sorry.
>> HEATHER POST: So not on 15.9 anymore.
>> CHAIR BROWER: .6.16789
6.1.
I am on 15. I wrote down 11.6.1.
>> Okay. Volusia County should provide coastal access and walkovers no greater than X miles in interval except for the north area of Bass Drive and the area of Canaveral National Seashore. This was all struck because it was sent to the coastal management element.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Do we have interval standards now?
>> Yes, sir.

>> CHAIR BROWER: What are they?
>> Unfortunately, I don't know that one right off the top of my head, so I'll have to ...
>> CHAIR BROWER: While you're looking for it, I'll tell you why I'm really not trying to be a pain in the neck. But areas where there were approaches far apart by Ormond, Ormond By the Sea, Ponce Inlet, which were rural areas, which are now highly developed, and if it's two miles, it's too far. I just don't want that to get lost.
>> Ormond Beach is mentioned 36 times.
>> I'm just Googling. I'm no expert. Oh, sorry, Ginger Adair, environmental management. It keeps the language. That language is in the coastal outline.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And you don't think that's too far apart? This is for, we control the entire beach.
Again, we >> Again, we were not trying to make any major change in policy. If there is a standard in place that was part of it, we were maintaining that. If there is something that the county council wants us to review, we would be glad to bring it back. Again, I got to stress that one of the things that keeps me up at night is knowing that this comp plan is not 100% in compliance with state law and we don't have a ten-year planning horizon. The Department of Economic Opportunity knows that and they're basically giving us time to get it cleaned up because our what they call evaluation appraisal report is due next year. They're saying get all your ducks in a row by next year so your evaluation appraisal report is clean. So, when we started on this, we were thinking about series of workshops and trying to flesh out a great deal of policy changes and we realized we don't have the time. Because just as talking through here, these are critical points. You're bringing up very important issues that we should be debating. Right now, we're trying to just maintain what we currently have, push it out for ten years, and we'll be glad to come back and do whatever y'all want to do in regards to a deep dive on our comprehensive plan.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, I think we need to do that to come back and discuss what is beach access to open up approaches. Let me, again, I'm making enemies here. I understand that. But let me read something that I think is encouraging me to say this.
This was a quote from somebody.
At the same time that the county assumes responsibility for beach access and beach safety, the committee believes that the electors should have the opportunity to state that the purpose and intent of the transfer of responsibility is to protect beach access rights, specifically including vehicular access rights, the right of public beach access and enjoyment should be clarified and codified. The committee has found that there is a definite need to protect the traditional rights of public access and enjoyment of Volusia beaches. The public right of access to the beach, which is a legally protected right would be meaningless if vehicular access were not allowed.
I don't know how long you've been in Volusia County. Do you have any idea who said that? Who was it?

>> If I remember correctly, that was all part of the original beach committee, I'm sorry, doesn't remember. I can't remember.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm not trying to trip you up. It surprised me when I read it because it was from the Volusia County Charter Review Committee in 1986 and that was written by T. Wayne Bailey, not who you would consider as a member of Sons of the Beach today, but he understood the importance of the beach to our county and locals for beach access. That's why I bring it up. It's important.
Billie Wheeler?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yeah, if there's no more conversation, I was just going to make a motion to approve ordnance 2021-27 transmial hearing for amendment to chapter 13 recreation and open space element of the Volusia County comprehensive plan case CPA-21-011.
>> HEATHER POST: Do we have public comment on that?
>> CHAIR BROWER: No. We will have public comment. And sadly, I have a couple more for it.
So, the motion to approve was by Wheeler, second by Johnson.
Rather than take us all over to different pages, I want to hear from you the reasoning for taking out scenic byways. And scenic byways tend to be roads. In my opinion, as I look at them, first of all, it took about ten years for the byway committee on the TPO to get some of our byways approved especially on the beach side. And it's more than a road. They offer amenities. They bring people to our area. And I would like to see now that we have these byways, I would like to see them really be capitalized on for the good of the residents of Volusia County, but for the visitors that come in to use them. And they do. They're popular. So, I see a future need for pavilions, for water stations, for overlook areas, for different amenities, because the byways do offer recreation and they speak to our culture, they speak to historic buildings in the area, draw attention to them, and I'm concerned that if we take it out of this, does that mean they'll never qualify or be able to qualify for an ECHO Grant or some kind of a grant?
>> Please remember, we're not taking it out. It's already located in the transportation element that you adopted earlier this year.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I do understand that. But as part of the transportation element, can they still apply for an ECHO grant?

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, that was my concern.
>> The critical part is is it in your comprehensive plan. We're not going to sit there and make specific decisions. Because again, how cities and the county, where they put these particular things does not have to be in a particular element. So, therefore when the ECHO committee is looking at it and we can provide overview and goals, objectives, and policies that are currently contained in the transportation element, which I'm just going to read this is part of the introduction. There's an ongoing commitment within Volusia County community to work together in the development of cohesive network of sidewalk, path, and trails, that allocates for the construction of trails in the master plan. And then it talks about natural and manmade areas of Volusia County provide a variety of areas included in the scenic corridor program. Figure 2.8 depicts several roadways that the county, state, or federal government has designated scenic corridors. The county has been participating in biway groups throughout the Florida scenic, and will continue to do so. I'm trying to abbreviate. But we still have in a commitment that we as Volusia County will not only keep what we have, bub , but look for opportunities for the future.
Billie, your name sup. is up. We do have one member of the public who wants to speak. I'll call Suzanne Shiver.
>> Thank you. Suzanne Shiver. Ormond Beach. I sent an email late last night to the council. I'm not going to assume that everyone had a chance to read it. Item 15 on the agenda is a concern for scenic highways. Earlier this year we expressed there is no protection for scenic or heritage byways. They are designated by resources by, FDOT biways provisions. Please allow time to allow ECHO and grants. Scenic highways are not about the pavement, even though they're in the transportation element. They're designated based on their resources. There wasn't enough time yesterday after I received an email from Patricia Smith on staff where staff seemed open to hearing of language to go in to the recreation, open recreation section that we're discussing here. I'm asking for time to meet with Brad per Patricia's email to work on language related to scenic corridors. And I thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Clay, in light of what you just said, is that necessary?
>> Right now, we have sufficient goals, objectives, and policies that if we wanted to continue to apply for, and remember a lot of these designations require a corridor advocacy group. Many of them are grassroots. When I was at Ormond Beach, I was part of the staff that helped the corridor advisory group get the Ormond Scenic Loop on the map. So, it's a citizen-initiated, and what usually happens is the local government assists by providing the technology and graphics and the background information. We have sufficient goals, objectives, and policies in the transportation element so any fears about loss of our corridor scenic highway designation is not going to be realized. However, if there are additional protections, standards, or other things that these grassroots folks want us to do, we would be glad to do. So what we're asking you is to allow us to continue on in this process. And if you want us within six months to work with them and come back with recommendations, we'll be glad to do. But please just allow us to get through this because we can process an amendment to this after we at least get the planning horizon pushed out. I don't know if you can tell the desperation in my voice, but it's one of these things that again we're going to get through this process where we're not making significant changes in policy. We are keeping everything there. We're reorganizing it. And we're updating it. And that's really what we're hoping to do here.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I understand that. But we also need to hear the desperation in the voices of the people who have worked for ten years to get byways. I understand that the biways are not in danger. You've confused me a little bit. I'm going to wrap this up. The byways are not in danger, but the designation. The ability for the byways to get a grant for a pavilion or a water bottle refill station.

>> They will be able to continue to do so.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I would suggest she does continue the conversation with Brad and see what, and then we can come back with something to tighten it up if it's necessary.

>> Let me give you the worst-case scenario. Our comp plan is found not in compliance with state law, so therefore any state where you say you have to be in compliance with an adopted comprehensive plan is gone.
That's more important is having that is in compliance. Right now if there was a grassroots group and said that this this road from here to here can be added to the scenic highway program, can we sit there and can we make a statement that it's consistent with your comprehensive plan, we would send them a letter immediately saying yes, here is goal 2.3 of the comprehensive plan transportation element. And we would rattle off all the policies. And then we would also include our land development codes for scenic roadways where we have protections on those. Yeah, we have stuff now. If it's not sufficient, we can work with her to come up with additional information if she is looking for additional protection or additional ability to do more than just simply get the designation.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Or the byway committee chairman on the TPO. I do hear the desperation in your voice. But it's unintended consequences is what I'm trying to avoid. We have a motion on the floor from Wheeler, second by Johnson to approve item 15, transmial hearing for amendment to chapter 13 recreation and open space element. All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Tadd, it may get easier here. Item 16? Pardon me?
Oh, it does say removed from agenda in big bold print. You came up anyway.
>> I've got to the next two.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Item 17, which is not removed. Proposed abandonment of a portion of Volusia Bar Road. Speaking of bars ....
>> Good afternoon. This is for Volusia Bar Road. The road segment is completely located within or adjacent to Pogg Enterprises Property. They're requesting the vacation of our interests in it. They have some issues with vandalism and such out there and they would like to be able to put up a gate to restrict access. They would put on as part of the gate, they'll construct a turnaround, as well as put on a control box that allows for our emergency service to get in and out as well as anybody staying there. Staff recommends approval. There were no objections from any of the adjacent property owners or any of the utility companies.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Motion to approve, Girtman.
>> CHAIR BROWER: (Chuckling) Motion to approve by Girtman. The second was by who?
I'll give it to Fred. And I didn't have any questions.
And not seeing anybody else that wanted to speak. All those in favor say aye?
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? And the motion carries 7-0.
Item 18.
>> Yes, item 18 is a vacation over in the highlands area northwest of Orange City. There were alleyways put in ad in adjacent to the lots. M r. Pablo Martinez would like to vacate the alleys. We don't want to maintain them. We recommend approval.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Motion to approve, Girtman.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman. Second by Robins.
>> Let me add something. Quasi-judicial. You may want to check on that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Mob from >> CHAIR BROWER: Nobody from the public is here. Do any council members have ex parte? Nobody from the public cared to speak. We'll close the public hearing. And none of the rest of the council wants to speak, we'll call for the vote. Motion by Lowry, second by Wheeler. All those in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
19 is done. 7-0.
Item 20 is done.
And item 21, Captain will give us the community update. Oh, he's got Tenil.
>> Tenil is here.
>> Is Tenil going to sing? Whoa! You don't know if he can sing. (Chuckling) Sorry, Gary.
>> Kevin Captain. Community information director. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, honorable members of council. Community events update. First, fire prevention, we kicked off this past Sunday. It goes to this Saturday October the 9th. This year's theme is learn the sounds of fire safety. We're promoting the event with obviously a news release, social media post, and web content. And also, for the second year in a row, fire rescue has had an online virtual classroom with loads of fun games, apps, children books, videos, songs, all with a fire safety and prevention message. Baa talion chief Scott Smoke joined us on the radio show. We had some fun with his name. A firefighter named Smoke, how can you not? That a was fun. The Volusia Forever program is accepting land purchase nominations through November the 15th. Willing sellers who want to sell their property to be considered for purchase may complete an online nomination form at Volusia.org/forever. Public works has one more listening session. It's scheduled 6-7 p.m. on the first floor here at the TCK administration building Wednesday, October 13th. And there are some really exciting events happening at DeBary Hall, the environmental center, and with our Explore Volusia Program. Events like creating your own edible landscape while visiting DeBary Hall, to learning how to create healthy turf grass lawns while visiting the LEC, and also bike tours and ecobugy tours with our Explore Volusia program. There's something for everyone and you can check out these events and more by visiting the county calendar. You can also look at the public meetings on there, as well. Just go under news under Volusia.org, county calendar, and then you can click on that. It has all the events. You can click on them. It takes you to the information. But you can also just use the search key, as well, too. So, I wanted to talk a little bit about trash. So, just for a few minutes here about an anti-litter campaign. As you know, we've been hearing some really great actually awesome things lately about anti-litter efforts out in the community on social media, in the news, and from our local residents. This is terrific, because to effectively address litter problems, it really does take a community-wide effort in involving all of us. So, whether it's government, the private sector, civic organizations, businesses, we all have a role to play in keeping our community and our natural resources clean and beautiful. The county has a Keep Volusia Beautiful campaign program, which is an affiliate of the National Keep America Beautiful nonprofit organization. And we have a wide variety of programs and resources devoted to anti-litter efforts. Those include adopt a beach, adopt a river, adopt a trail, and they also include underwater cleanups, which I wanted to quickly focus on today. It also includes the routine cleaning of gutters and the removal of tons of litter from the right of ways from our road and bridge crews. This litter issue is near and dear to you Mr. Chair. And we've been discussing ways that we can maximize the efforts for even bigger and better results because we can always do better. And so coming up, environmental management is hosting a storm drain marking event on Thursday, October 28th, where volunteers will be helping us mark storm drains with no dumping curb markers to inform the public not to dump anything into these storm drains. We're also partnering with an environmental management and road and bridge so we can feature this event in southeast Volusia because not everyone knows that when water goes into some of these drains they go right into our waterways, some of them. Granted, we do have some that go through the filtration, but certainly there's means of prevention there. So, by marking the storm drains with no dumping curb markers, the intent is to remind residents to avoid putting litter or other contaminants from the neighborhood into the lagoon. Also just want to mention the international coastal and Halifax Indian River Cleanup. We did that over the last couple of months. Specifically on September 18th, the county had 1305 people participate in the cleanup. Volunteers collected 4800 pounds of trash at 36 different sites. And a whopping total of 56,710 items were collected. The most common item was the cigarette butt. The total amount was almost 22,000 cigarette butts. I had to ask Ginger, how do they come up with that number? Is it by weight? No, they actually count them. All the volunteers count them and they tabulate them. Amazing event there. The county also has a monofilament recycling program. Environmental management has 117 bins throughout the county with 12 local businesses that volunteer and act as collection points. 98 of these bins are adopted. We have 19 bins left available for adoption. And if you're interested in that, monofilament recycling at Volusia.org or we can talk with Ginger and get those remaining one adopt 9. ed. We did update these with the QR code. It's good information certainly. Also the underwater cleanup at Ponce Inlet for the removal of monofilament, fishing lines, and deadweights, which are harmful to marine life. Specifically NO carst Since 2004, environmental management has had a team of specially trained divers and shoreline ambassadors who have retrieved thousands of pounds of marine debris each year. There's a guy here who might look familiar, too. But as mitigation efforts continue to keep these items from entering our water, discarded or abandoned items still make their way into the water. And a large quantity of these items can take hundreds of years to decompose. This event on September 8th in Ponce inelect collected 144 pounds of debris. Between the two programs combined they recovered over 12,000 pounds of fishing line and marine debris from our environment. There's a lot of exciting work and collaboration going on. And community information will be actively publicizing these efforts to help increase public awareness and most of all, engagement. So, I thank you, Mr. Chair, for continuing your support. And I want to ensure council and the public, and we're excited that all of the council is so actively involved in this. Because we applaud our community and our community groups, organizations, and individuals, to help keep Volusia beautiful. I would like to just move to the coronavirus update quickly. We have four continued social media campaigns that we have been running on paid social media since spring. Our reach is close to about a half a million and our impressions are nearly three quarters of a million. We also have another testing initiative with the movement of the testing site to the speedway. And that's again just a reminder for everybody it's Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30. Appointments are preferred, but not necessary, and that testing is free. And also just want to draw a little bit of attention towards some of our latest production efforts related to vaccination. Councilwoman Girtman, thank you as always for your concern about getting the word out. We took little snippets from our interview and we're going to be periodically posting those. Of course, they're very happy with it, too, because it's helping our community get more and more vaccinated. And there's more, whether people take the vaccination or not, the herd immunity is still going up. That's also what Dr. Crossman discussed in the interview. With that, we'll move to Mr. Ethan Johnson, from the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County.
>> Good afternoon.
>> Good afternoon.
>> All right. We've had 73,507 COVID-19 cases among Volusia County residents and 1,426 COVID-19 deaths reported in Volusia County since the start of the pandemic.
We continue to experience a decline in cases, in case positivity. As of the end of last week, it was down to 10.5%. Our case numbers are continuing to fall, as well, obviously, with our case rate currently at 170 cases per 100,000 population. Two weeks ago when I was here it was at 339. So, that's really good. That means we're trending down and getting closer and closer to that threshold where we'll move from high transmission to substantial. So, that's anything below 100. So, at the health department, we're really looking forward to getting back to other public health activity besides COVID-19 response, of course. Vaccination rates continue to go up. We ticked up 1% over the last week. Last week there were 1180. This shows the number of people who visited emergency departments with complaints related to COVID-19. September wasn't quite complete last time, but we did project a significant decrease, and of course that is what we see in September. And then looking at hospitalization data between September 22nd to September 28th. There were 81 new hospitalizations related to COVID-19 that marked a 25.69% decrease in the last seven days. 10.09% of hospital beds were used for COVID-19 patients, but that marked a 1.96% decrease within the previous 7 days. And then 2 7.46% of ICU beds used for COVID-19 patients, which also marked a decrease of 8.08% in the seven days.
One thing that I added to this week's presentation but just the difference between the third dose and the booster shot. We've been getting a lot of questions about that. This is just the guidance. This is taken directly from the form that you complete when you do decide to get the vaccine. If you do decide to get the vaccine. So, we've been providing third doses for weeks now. What happened last week was the booster shot. Of course for the third dose, residents would attest to being moderately to severely immunocompromised and at least a certain amount of time would have passed. For the booster shot, you have to be 65 years or older or reside in a long-term care facility or be between under 65 or between 18-64 with underlying medical conditions or be at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure because of your occupation or institutional setting. And at least 6 months have passed. We give the shot the same way that we have been providing it for months now.
And then of course we continue to provide the vaccine at all four of our office locations and testing at Holson Back as well as Orange City. However we did have an issue with our Orange City building. That's being handled. Hopefully over the next day it will be back up and running there. It was not related to COVID. We're not really operating there today. But we should be back in a couple days. It was just an issue with the building itself. But other than that, we continue to do testing. The demand for testing is starting to decline. We would expect that. We're testing a lot less individuals and it seems that the two community sites are, as well. But that's a good thing because that's in line with what we're seeing with the cases. And then also with the monoclonal antibody treatment center, it's still being used but averaging around 52 patients a day, whereas a month and a half ago it was like 180, which of course is what we expect. Other than that, that is all I have, unless there are any questions.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much.
Did you have a question for him?
>> HEATHER POST: Yes.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Heather Post.
>> HEATHER POST: Thanks for waiting. I saw you in the back.
>> No problem.
>> HEATHER POST: The PCR testing is the health department providing rapid testing?
>> We only provide the PCR testing to our clients. We have rapid antigen tests and we give them to community partners, but its purpose isn't really meant to be diagnostic, so, that's why we don't use it at the health department. The rapid test is used at I believe NOME provides it. And we have, this is anecdotally speaking, a lot of residents have been traveling and seek to get tested, they've been going to NOME, which is acceptable, which is why they're getting a little bit more traffic.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: It's great news that things are going in the right direction. I still don't want anybody to take it for granted because we're still four times more than we were in June. Right?
So, yes, we're coming down, but we're coming down from an extreme high.
Cooler months are coming. Florida stays hot, but snowbirds and others will be heading our way. So, is there any indication of or any messaging that we're hearing? Because when you listen to the news, you hear okay, up north people are going to be, you know, now going back inside and so are we seeing that there's enough vaccinations that we're getting, that we're starting to get into the herd immunity? And is that what's helping to bring the numbers down? Or is it that we're coming off of the summer?
>> I think it's a combination of everything. You have a very significant portion of the population who's already been infected. 65% of the population who has been vaccinated. You have a variant that came through and did things that we didn't see before. So, it was a combination between all of those, whereas we see that decline now. I think in terms of the weather, up north they may be getting ready to see a surge, since they do tend to retreat inside and you're going to have more indoor events, whereas here the weather is a little bit more tolerable for folks. That may be a good thing. I haven't seen anything in terms of messaging, but the messaging could be Thanksgiving, let's have an outdoor gathering. Encouraging gathering outdoor spaces, that would be a good part of proceeding with cautious, even though we're celebrating trending in the right direction.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I agree. And I think it is becoming more important that even people who have not been vaccinated may have had the virus, so have the antibodies and perhaps, you know.

>> Absolutely.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Hopefully we'll have a good holiday and go into 2022, you know, with this somewhat behind us. I know it's never going away, but if we can get ahead of it, hopefully that's the direction we're headed. So, thank you for your information.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Do you have a model of that virus?
>> I do not, but that would be really neat to have.
>> I don't think they have one.

>> CHAIR BROWER: So, as some point you can bring it in and we can blow it up. Barb is right. It's not going away, though. Just like influenza, other flu varieties we have to deal with every year. But it will be nice when it's not the topic of conversation.
>> HEATHER POST: I have a challenge going on. We can throw it across the room, hopefully.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I don't see any other questions for you. Thank you very much. Kevin, is Gary going to talk?

>> He's going to sing.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Pardon?
>> He's going to sing.

>> CHAIR BROWER: You're done? Okay. I didn't know if he was going to speak or not. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, all.
Okay, 22. Do we have any appointments?

>> I want to make an appointment.
>> BEN JOHNSON: I'll nominate John Adams.
>> CHAIR BROWER: There goes two of you. John Adams by Ben Johnson. Heather Post?
>> HEATHER POST: And I'll nominate Sandra Boyd for the four-year term expiring October 15th.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Say the first name again?
>> HEATHER POST: Sandra Boyd.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Sandra Boyd.
>> MICHAEL DYER: If council could make a motion to approve that slate. This is an unusual board that the state law requires us to appoint them by resolution. A draft resolution is attached. We'll fill in the blank for the first set of names. If you can approve that slate of names.
>> Motion to approve.

>> Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve John Adams and Sandra Boyd. You have the names all right and the people that nominated them?
>> Mr. Chair?
>> Yes?
>> May we have who seconded it please?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Wheeler and second by Lowry. I still have Ben Johnson's name up. Do you want to withdraw?
>> Yes.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. All in favor?
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Adams and Boyd have been approved. Item 23 is at large and district 5 appointments to the code enforcement board.
>> FRED LOWRY: I'm ready. >> CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead.
>> FRED LOWRY: Chad Lingenfeller. Extra points for pronouncing that name.
>> CHAIR BROWER: How about spelling? (Chuckling)
By Councilman Lowry. At large?
Pardon me?
>> BEN JOHNSON: Gary Wild.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And a motion to approve these two candidates?
>> So moved.

>> CHAIR BROWER: By Lowry. All in favor say aye.
And that takes us down. I know what's going to happen here. I'm going to look at the county manager and he's going to say he's done. No?
>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: We do have one item. I sent out, Maria actually sent out for me a draft of a letter of support asking for the Department of Transportation for us to support them with their effort to get a grant for the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvement program. This will help several crossings on the Sunrail line. And so I did put a copy also of the letter out on the dias. At the council's will, I would like to ensure electronic signature on there and send it to the department.

>> FRED LOWRY: So moved.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by wheeler. All in favor? Send it on.
>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: And that's it if me.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, I jumped the gun, because we got a late, does anybody want to guess?
John Nicholson.
>> John Nicholson, Daytona Beach side. Two things. One on flooding. I go to the library several times. Increased, it used to be a drainage area, low lying. They increased it by 10 feet. Their buildings are now 10 feet higher than it was. The city in their infinite wisdom decided to redo the seawall and they raised it an inch. So now the city was smart enough to add a couple of areas so the seawall water will not come in. And we already have the problem on Beach Street and Bailey Road. We are really out of luck if there's any water coming through.

Last year, and this last meeting people talk about drainage in their yard. The property you buy some real, she was getting (inaudible) last year the gentleman came in, the pastors were getting flooded. If we are going to be doing this, I understand there are several people out in Margaritaville that's already complaining about flooding in their properties. At some point, we have got to start lifting up our land.

I know I recommended it to someone from habitat for humanity. They have several properties in Midtown that they cannot of law because the city has all this extra dirt. So she's going to have to (inaudible) some of that.

We have to learn to not put housing in the worst areas. Secondly, you are talking about it already, the city got divided up. The County and the state got together and divided the county into 27 districts so we would would have no power at the state. That gave me the impression when they divided the city of Daytona Beach that we were getting through to the city of due to new beach. In the year 2010, that's where we began.

The presentation this morning said for the fourth time, that Daytona Beach is going to get screwed. Staff said, that's because Daytona Beach has over 100,000 people. But we really don't. They were talking about the infill. (inaudible) in the shores, there's no possible way 100,000 people can fit in the shores. There's only a little bit around wanted help. I don't know where they are getting 100,000 people. But I ask you to look at keeping the city of Daytona Beach hole for once. Type County attorney?

>> Just briefly, first of all thank you for your time and patience. This morning during redistricting presentation. I have been informed that the school board will take up the map scenarios at one of the regular meetings and they canceled and declined the joint meeting opportunity for Monday. They will plan on meeting as we scheduled in the joint meeting on October 18. No meeting on Monday. I will send something out and make sure that it's on the calendars. I appreciate it.

>> Any indication where (inaudible) or fabulous?

>> It seems like what I was told was that they wanted to go through an exercise like they did this morning.

>> That's it? Thank you. Doctor Lowery?

>> I'm good.

>> Heather post?

>> I have a couple of things. We had someone mention something this morning. I have a question for staff. George maybe you can answer this. As the subquestion. There was a question from the public, has there been any change, can code enforcement respond to anonymous complaints anymore?

>> That did change. They cannot.

>> I think we had someone this morning mentioned that there was no anonymous complaint and I wanted to follow up on it. Echo meeting is not being archived. Are they archived somewhere?

>> I'm sure they archived

>> Archived for public view.

>> I'm not sure.

>> I'm just trying to answer a number of questions.

>> Yes, ma'am. We have the minutes it and the full agenda packets with all the information on the agenda. Because of COVID precautions we have been moving the meeting and we have the recordings. We are in the process of converting those to YouTube file so that we can upload them.

>> Excellent. Perfect. Several people mentioned today apologizing on counsel for asking questions. You therefore own clarification and old were for the public - please don't apologize. Every item is just as important as the last item. I understand but is not a problem. I just really want to stress that. We had the groundbreaking. You think pick Tona, but it's a really big thing for our county. The international organization is looking to have the headquarters here which is phenomenal. And the money that it brings in is tremendous. They are looking at doing... I don't want to say skyboxes but they are looking at doing tiny skyboxes.

And all kinds of stuff in this second phase that is already approved and going through. That is fantastic and certainly fantastic for the city of Holly Hill. Also, we talked about the Florida Association of Counties conference. And pushing those policies but I also want to point out intergovernmental affairs call and I want to stress that this last administration was fantastic and brought forward a tremendous collaboration with county commissioners. Across the board just hearing from everyone. Whether you are Republican or Democrat. This new administration, with a little poking, has been very on board with that. I'm very happy about that.

We are there local voice and they need to definitely be having those conversations and have those connections. The last question I had, we did the ordinance last time for the COVID testing. For the employees.

He provided two days for the employees to get tested. What I'm finding is the health department is pushing them to do the PCR testing. Sometimes that does not get back within the two days so they have to take that lead. I don't know if there was a way that we can try to work outâ€¦ I know the health department pushes them to other partners. Like CVS and ascender care and those kinds of places.

But if there's any way to try to push getting the testing to get it within the timeframe, would be good to mediate.

>> I will chart out the frequency of the issue.

>> Many of you heard as well, there was one death in my family, but Randy was also T-boned in a traumatic car accident. It totally ruined the honor guard but Randy is OK. Certainly a shock to our family. Also a point, if you are driving, I don't know she was (inaudible) anything. She had a tremendous gash across her face when the airbag went off. Keep that in mind when you are driving. I'm glad everyone is OK. It's been a horrible month.

If everyone can keep my family in your prayers for sure, and moving forward. My birthdays this month which is good. At least I'm getting another year older.

>> Councilman Robbins?

>> Just two quick things. Hopefully I can get counsel support to send to short things to staff. If we can send this to counsel or at least get counsel support and get a little bit more information. Look at the fees that we charge the inmates that are designed to offset the cost of their stay.

Take the little bit of burden off the taxpayers. And possibly get more money for some of our employees. Secondly, to look at the typing phase, I mentioned it a few months ago early on. To bring the typing fees out of the landfill. When it comes to shingles, make them possibly the same as the class III. I think there's some additional revenue sources that we can look at. I would definitely like to see what we could do there. I appreciate it.

>> County attorney?

>> At Council's discretion, if a motion is made, I seconded, as we determine information on either of those.

>> As far as the tipping fees, we are going to study that. That must be taken care of. Information on whatever the counties are doing, would you like to make the motion?

>> I make the motion.

>> Second that.

>> Motion to come back with some numbers of information on the pay to stay for the subsidence fees collections.

>> Seconded by Wheeler. Other post for discussion?

>> Quick discussion on that. We touched on that a little bit in the past. Being part of the claims committee with the lawsuits that the county is involved in, basically when the county has been... Say the bus accidentally hit someone in and we are in the litigation with them. What was typical and not just for our county but across the board in the legal world and if we had had some sort of criminal history, per statute you are allowed to charge for inmate time.

What was normal practice here and everywhere else, was to charge or discuss that in the settlement. During that point I did not feel it was OK, because then we were not pursuing those fees with everyone across the board. Only with people that we entered. That did not set well. Since that is sort of the legal standard across the board, I think it's a good idea that if we are good doing it totally across the board, that would even out that end as well.

>> There are things like meals and processing. Every time we touch something it costs money. Just to see where we are at and chew on the numbers a little bit. If anything it would alleviate some bills.

>> I think it would even out things as well.

>> No further discussion. All in favor of the motion say I? Any opposed? Is that it?

>> I had been able to give it to her in the Dickerson center. At one of our Boys and Girls Club. We are always looking for people that really support us. The president and CEO of the girls and boys club of America. Also as an executive board member, the planning Council, and one of the founders of the east central resilience collaborative. Last week, I was asked to welcome all of the virtual meeting that was a strategic action plan. It's the resilience case for resilience webinar. I will say that our very own Orlando economic partnership and Heather Schubert was a big part of this.

She just did a wonderful job of moderating part of it. I want to say kudos to her. I welcomed a lot of businesses and some of the ones that were on the panel was Disney, Tupperware, legacy resorts, and the First Bank. I had the great honor of welcoming her majesties EU take counsel Joe Nicolette Brent. It was such a pleasure to hear some of the things that are being done with resilience in all of these businesses as well as in the UK. Very informative. I'm sure it's informative to go listen to. It was dynamite. I was really glad that I was able to be a small part of it.

>> Can you bring that picture up for me?

>> I'm sorry but I want to add one more thing. Mary MacLeod her statue- â€¦ I'm going to get choked up because I just got an email. It's on the way right now. It will be in Daytona and she's finally going to come home. It's at the news Journal center. You will be able to see her from October 12 to December 12. She will stand there and we have history all around her.

Then she will go to Washington where she will represent this area well in the statuary Hall. What an honor. I've been there with all the fundraising events. I've been on the board with that. Actually the board, on the books that she is standing by on this 12 foot fabulous marble is all of her words of wisdom, and as a board, we all went through and pick those out of some of the things that came out of her will. It's all emotional that there were so many hands involved in getting that done.

I'm sorry, I had that at the top.

>> Well worth the wait.

>> Please make it a point to go see, take your groups and organizations, and this is big time. But she's going to have a police escort tomorrow.

>> Of course.

>> I just have one thing. If you can see it, this is a mural that was done by Courtney Canova. It's in regards to sickle-cell awareness. I'm really proud of the efforts that Sharif that Dixon and her staff were able to bring awareness to sickle-cell. Over 300,000 babies are born annually with the sickle-cell trait.

Last meeting before I asked about the funds. As we asked word for their programming. This is right next to the resource center. I just want to acknowledge their staff. Courtney was the artist. Terrel Johnson owns this restaurant and also the one doing the restaurant across the street. To be able to redevelop that area, it all pours into making this area more approachable, more lovable and better connected within the community. We recognize the efforts that we have a going into it. I think each one of you for your support.

>> What road is that at the end of the building?

>> I think it's Mathis.

>> Those are really good. It doesn't look like a mural.

>> Also, the gentleman to the furthest right is Joy's nephew who passed from sickle cell. It really resonates with our community. It acknowledges the personal. Thank you.

>> I would like to make a motion that if we see John headed for the Mike, to tackle him. I do make perseverance

>> Would you like to give the remainder of your time to Mr Nicholson?

>> I just have a couple of quick things. Back to the videos for echo, you are putting them on YouTube, can you have the dashboard done? Can you link those to the dashboard so they are easy to find? One link for all the videos?

>> The dashboard will be on the top underneath will have the minutes. We've started publishing the full agenda packets with every single item. Under the minutes we will link the YouTube. We will have the minutes and the video. The YouTube videos are already done.

>> What about other citizens advisory committee? Are they you videos and archives?

>> Not all of them are videoed. It would be a staff issue. Some are just audiorecorded. But we all have the minutes. We can get a list of what is and what isn't.

>> They are all public meetings, correct?

>> Yes. We just get a list of where the public can find them.

>> I've been asked several times.

>> Brad, when you mention that they would be on YouTube and put on the website I assumed it would be on the main page with all of the Council meeting videos the end of the field videos. All of those additional committee videos that we have around the main page so why wouldn't that be? Any committee meetings, any additional's to be on the page because we do put additional committee meetings on the page.

>> We will look at that and make sure that we have easy access from the Council. From the Council page to get to the other page. There's no one here from the health department still is there? No? I keep hearing on the news that the people crossing our southern border, the federal government is reporting that 20% of them have tested positive for COVID but they are not required to get a vaccine. The border agents are. But those people are not. Then they are put on buses or planes. Do we have any idea if any of them are being dropped in Volusia County?

>> I've not heard of that. Maybe the health department?

>> I think the community service will know they are doing anything.

>> I think the governor had input on that recently. About stopping that.

>> (inaudible)

>> OK. That's all I had to. So at 525 we will adjourn. I would like to thank the Council and staff for a long day.

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