

Environmental Science Forum (ESF)
Weedon Island Preserve Cultural & Natural History Center
St. Petersburg, FL
Thursday, 5 March 2009
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES
Subject to Forum Approval

Attendees:

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| 1. | Bruce Hasbrouck | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 2. | Cathy Harrelson | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 3. | Tom Muntz | Forum Member |
| 4. | Barbara Hoffman | Forum Member |
| 5. | Jeanne Murphy | Forum Member |
| 6. | Robert McConnell | Forum Member |
| 7. | Lindsay Cross | Forum Member |
| 8. | Howard Rutherford | Forum Member |
| 9. | Joseph Maier | Forum Member |
| 10. | Ray Wunderlich | Forum Member |
| 11. | Dr. Randy Runnels | Forum Member |
| 12. | Elizabeth Warren | Assistant County Administrator |
| 13. | William Davis | Pinellas County Environmental Management |
| 14. | Andy Squires | Pinellas County Environmental Management |
| 15. | Dr. Dewayne Taylor | Pinellas County Animal Services |
| 16. | Jason Ester | Pinellas County Attorney |
| 17. | Lynn A. Smith | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 18. | Sidney Crawford | Citizen |
| 19. | Ronald Dwight | Citizen |

Handouts: Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum Agenda; ESF Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2008; Project Timelines for Pinellas County Environmental and Park Lands; List of Voting Members and Alternates for Environmental Science Forum; Bylaws of Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum revision; Pinellas County News Release of meetings seeking Public input on budget reductions.

I. Welcome and Introduction:

- Co-Chair Ms. Cathy Harrelson called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. with a general welcome. Members and audience introduced themselves starting with the newest ESF member Ms. Jeanne Murphy.

II. Additional Agenda Items:

- Co-Chair Ms. Cathy Harrelson asked for additional agenda items from members.
- Ms. Barbara Hoffman took the opportunity to express her appreciation to Mr. Andy Squires for sending the update on the bat issue from Mr. Paul Cozzie.
- Ms. Cathy Harrelson suggested discussion of the County Fertilizer Ordinance.

- Mr. Tom Muntz suggested that stakeholders of the fertilizer ordinance should be invited to ESF meetings on the topic. The item should be on the ESF agenda in advance of the ESF meeting where it will be discussed.
- Mr. Will Davis suggested that Ms. Lindsay Cross with Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) give a presentation about the development of the Tampa Bay area model ordinance similar to what TBEP has given previously at other meetings.
- Mr. Davis added that the county's draft fertilizer ordinance should be available by the next ESF meeting.
- Ms. Cathy Harrelson suggested that the topic of sea level rise/climate change be put on an upcoming ESF agenda. Mr. Davis said he could ask the Planning Dept. staff to provide an update on how sea level rise and climate change have been integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Will Davis also suggested that Dr. Nicole Elko, Coastal Management Coordinator with the Department of Environmental Management, could give a presentation on how sea level rise is being addressed in the county's beach management plans at an upcoming ESF meeting.
- Dr. Runnels noted that many conservation lands of high ecological and coastal protection value are vulnerable to sea level rise.

III. Announcements:

- Mr. Andy Squires reminded those members without an Alternate to please try and find one.
- Mr. Andy Squires also requested that each Co-Chair designate an Alternate Co-Chairs to facilitate meetings if they are absent.
- Mr. Tom Muntz volunteered to be the Policy Alternate Co-Chair in Ms. Harrelson's absence, and Dr. Randy Runnels volunteered to be the Science Alternate Co-Chair in Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck's absence.
- Co-Chair Ms. Harrelson asked for approval of Mr. Tom Muntz and Dr. Randy Runnels to serve as the Policy and Science Alternate Co-Chairs, respectively. All 11 ESF members present, including the co-chairs, were in favor.
- Mr. Andy Squires noted the County Administrator, Mr. LaSala, approved the appointments of Mr. Ed Sherwood and Mr. Warren Hogg to serve as alternates for Ms. Lindsay Cross and Mr. Robert McConnell, respectively. Mr. LaSala also appointed Ms. Jeanne Murphy as a new ESF member.
- Dr. Randy Runnels distributed a résumé and spoke briefly about his proposed Alternate, Ms. Libby Carnahan, who works with Dr. Runnels at the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves office.
- Dr. Randy Runnels made a motion for the ESF to recommend to the County Administrator that Ms. Libby Carnahan be his Alternate. Mr. Tom Muntz seconded the motion. Vote carried unanimously by the Forum.

IV. Approval of December 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

- Ms. Cathy Harrelson asked for additions or changes to the December 4, 2008 meeting minutes.
- Ms. Barbara Hoffman made a motion to approve the December 4, 2008 meeting minutes. Ms. Lindsay Cross seconded the motion. Vote carried unanimously.

V. Role of ESF (Elizabeth Warren, Assistant County Administrator):

- Ms. Elizabeth Warren, Assistant County Administrator, said Mr. LaSala has been extremely busy working with our two new commissioners and dealing with the anticipated budget reductions. She said the county is in the process of right-sizing the government. She also mentioned the upcoming public meetings on the budget and encouraged Forum members to attend. The meeting schedules as well as additional budget-related information are on the County website (www.pinellascounty.org).
- Ms. Warren distributed a letter to each Forum member from Mr. LaSala about his perspective on the ESF. He regrets being unable to attend an ESF meeting to date. On behalf of Mr. LaSala and County Administration, Ms. Warren said the ESF plays a vital and valuable role. Over the past couple of years there have been great initiatives, spirited dialog, scientific evidence, environmental opinions, and good community results. The Forum is very important but members should also be mindful that our budgets are being reduced and we must still provide core mandatory services. As the county moves forward, please be aware that we have a daunting task ahead.

VI. Revisions to ESF Bylaws (Mr. Andy Squires):

- Mr. Andy Squires reviewed the proposed changes to the ESF Bylaws concerning the possible removal of Forum members due to lack of attendance at meetings (Bylaw Article 2.4) and the recommended minimum amount of regular meetings held each calendar year (Bylaw Article 4.1).
- Mr. Tom Muntz asked if the 2/3 approval needed by the board was of all ESF members or 2/3 of the ESF members in attendance at the time of the vote. Mr. Andy Squires replied it would be 2/3 of the ESF members in attendance at voting time.
- Co-Chair Ms. Cathy Harrelson was concerned that if your Alternate was in attendance does that mean you missed the meeting.
- Mr. Andy Squires replied if your Alternate attends a meeting in your place, then it is not considered a missed meeting by the member.
- Ms. Lindsay Cross moved to approve the changes to the ESF Bylaws. Mr. Joseph Mair seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

VII. Update on Feral Cats Committee (Dr. Dewayne Taylor):

- Dr. Dewayne Taylor, Assistant Director of Pinellas County Animal Services, explained that this is an emotionally charged issue. Ms. Barbara Snow, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Pinellas, Inc., was also invited to attend today's ESF meeting but was unable to attend. Ms. Snow facilitates the committee that is working to gather information to reach consensus on how to deal with feral cats. The mission statement which has not officially been approved by the committee is: "To provide a volunteer service to Pinellas County by studying the problems, prevention and solutions relating to the impact of feral cats; to research and gather professional data and information from stakeholders concerned and impacted by the issue; to provide a public forum for citizens wishing to be heard and give input on the issue and to make viable and community based recommendations, in consensus, that reflect the public health

and safety, environmental, animal welfare, budgetary and social concerns of the County on behalf of its citizens.” Dr. Taylor went on by covering some of the many aspects surrounding the feral cat issue from public nuisance, public health, euthanasia, to trapping and releasing cats into the environment cats. The committee hopes to consider all sides of this issue and give suggestions as to what is the best way for the County to handle feral cats.

- There will upcoming public forums this spring on the topic. The Public Forum will be at the County Extension Office on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. until approximately 7:30 p.m. At this meeting citizens will have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the subject.
- Following Dr. Taylor’s presentation was a short question and answer session with Forum members covering topics that included how you determine if a cat is feral, how many cats are spayed/neutered each year in the county, to what is the youngest age of female reproductive cats.
- One member asked why the feral cat issue was brought to the ESF. Mr. Will Davis noted that feral cats do impact our Parks and Environmental Lands at this time.

VIII. Next Meeting (Agenda Items and Date):

- Next agenda should include: fertilizer ordinance update and presentation
- Next meeting date will be April 2, 2009.
- Ms. Barbara Hoffman said she would like the feral cat issue brought back to the ESF

IX. Public Comment: (none were heard)

X. Adjourn:

- Mr. Tom Muntz made the motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m., seconded by Joseph Maier. Motion carried unanimously.