

Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes –February 2, 2009

Members in attendance

Daniel Alberdi, Jeremy Burris, Hallie Calig, Roy Davis, Wayne Echelberger, Ph.D., Harold Falls, Ann Hodgson, Ph.D., Joy Ingram, David Jellerson, Vivki Kenyon, Kim Koleos, Dale Meryman, Ph.D., Cam Oberting, George Parker, Jr., Sharon Terrill-Elfers

Members absent

Deborah Cope

Guests

None

EPC Staff in attendance

Richard Garrity, Executive Director, Rick Tschantz, General Counsel, Rick Muratti, Assistant Counsel; Hooshang Boostani, Waste Management Director; Tony D'Aquila, ERM Director; Leslie Campbell, Waste Management, Tom Ash, ERM Division; Laura Thorne, ERM Division; Margaret Rush, ERM Division; Jeannette Figari, CEAC Liaison.

I. Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

a) Public Comment

No one addressed the Committee at this time.

b) Approval of January 5, 2009 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

c) Introduction of New Members

Two newly appointed members: Vicki Kenyon, appointed by Commissioner Ferlita and Daniel Alberdi, appointed by Commissioner Beckner, attended their first meeting. Each of the CEAC members including the new appointees and staff took a moment to introduce themselves.

d) Review – January 15, 2009 Board Meeting

Dr. Garrity provided the review of the January Board meeting.

- The proposed model Residential Fertilizer Ordinance was discussed. Representatives from EPC staff, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), the Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) and Sarasota County addressed the Board.
- ERM staff provided an update on the Morris Bridge Sink issue. There is citizen concern regarding the pumping of the sink and a Public Meeting has been scheduled for February 10th from 6-8 p.m. at the SWFWMD Tampa office.
- The Air Division staff provided an update on the new ozone standard and informed the Board that Hillsborough County will be considered a “non-attainment” area under the new standard. In order to bring the State into compliance with the new standards, the State will be afforded several years to identify and implement a plan that reduces the ozone levels to the acceptable limits.

e) Preview – February 19, 2009 Board Meeting

Dr. Garrity provided the preview of the upcoming February meeting.

- Wetlands staff will submit the IPA Quarterly Report for the Wetlands Division.
- ERM staff will report on the Egmont Key issue. The funding for Egmont Key is not under consideration in this special Legislative session.
- The Information Systems Staff (ISYS) will report on the development of the new EPC website. This item was continued from the January meeting.
- Staff will report on the determination of EPC to develop numeric nutrient standards for Florida versus the current narrative standard.
- Waste Management staff will provide details on the processed yard waste workshop that they will host.
- The Administration staff will report on the recent vehicle economization efforts that have been made by EPC.
- The EPC Wetlands staff and the Planning Commission staff will make a joint presentation regarding wetland regulation and long range planning.

II. Items for Discussion, Action or Presentation

a) Rich Tschantz, General Counsel, reviewed the CEAC Bylaws for the benefit of the new members and as a refresher for the other members. Rick Muratti, Assistant Counsel, informed the new members and reminded everyone that members of CEAC are subject to the Sunshine regulations. He reviewed the Sunshine Law and explained how it pertains to CEAC.

b) Hooshang Boostani, Waste Management Division Director, informed the CEAC members that the Waste Division would be conducting a public workshop to take input from interested parties regarding the rules and regulations governing processed yard waste. The decision to host this workshop resulted from the recent mulch issues at the Hobbs Road site. The workshop is scheduled to take place on March 5, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. at the Environmental Protection Commission, Roger P. Stewart Center, 3629 Queen Palm Drive in Tampa. Mr. Boostani indicated that the FDEP is in the process of revising their rules concerning mulch and yard waste and EPC wishes to remain consistent with the FDEP. Representatives from EPC, SWFWMD, IFAS and FDEP will be present to discuss the existing regulations, respond to questions and take recommendations for possible rule changes. Industry representatives, the general public and CEAC members are invited to attend.

c) Tony D'Aquila, Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Director, utilized a power point presentation to update the Committee on the status of the Fertilizer Ordinance and the proposed public workshops. The presentation included background information on the statewide development of guidelines for fertilizer use; the effects of nitrogen, a component of fertilizer, on water quality; the effect impaired water bodies had on the development of the Model Ordinance; and an overview of the Model Residential Fertilizer Ordinance that was the result of multiple workshops facilitated by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Chairman Jellerson inquired as to what CEAC's role would be with regard to the ordinance. It was stated that CEAC would ultimately make a recommendation to the Board either in support of or against the final version of the proposed Ordinance but, as a group, had no role in the development or drafting of the Ordinance.

Dr. Garrity explained to the Committee that it was originally intended to be a County Ordinance, implemented by County staff; however, there has been some discussion about it becoming an EPC Rule. There has been no decision regarding this issue.

Mr. D'Aquila presented a strategy and planning outline which included a mission statement, a task list, the organization of four regulation drafting teams and the initial scope for the regulation. One of the drafting teams, the permanent participants (Sunshine Group) would include representatives from CEAC. Mr. Roy Davis and Ms. Hallie Calig offered to serve as the CEAC representatives on the team.

A draft schedule of events was presented with a target date of May 20th as the BOCC regular meeting at which time the Board would consider adoption of the proposed Ordinance.

d) At the previous CEAC meeting in January, members were asked to submit suggestions for future agenda items to the CEAC Liaison. The suggestions were compiled by the Liaison and distributed to members prior to this meeting. Chairman Jellerson went through the list of suggested topics and with the other members and with the consensus of the Committee determined what month items would be included on the agenda and which members of the Committee would be responsible for coordinating speakers and/or gathering information on the specific topics.

Other Business

Tom Ash, ERM Division, informed the Committee members that applications for the 2009 PRF cycle were being accepted as of February 1st and that the information regarding application submittal was available on the EPC website. Mr. Ash indicated that there was \$178,000 currently available for project allocation.

Laura Thorne, ERM Division, took this time to update the members on the PRF newsletter and website. Ms. Thorne designed the PRF web page and manages the data. She demonstrated how to access the site and what information was available to the CEAC members and the general public regarding the PRF program.

Mr. Falls informed the Committee that the Coronet site had been taken over by the EPA and that the Knights Preserve dedication ceremony was scheduled for May 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Richard Tschantz, EPC General Counsel, informed the Committee of the change in the BOCC recognition ceremony policy. Due to recent budgetary cuts and anticipated future cuts, the BOCC has decided not to schedule special recognition ceremonies and has determined that recognition of volunteer service be done by the Committee or Board on which the individual has served.

Agenda Items for March 2, 2009 CEAC Meeting

The agenda items scheduled for the March 2 meeting are: (1) a preliminary legislative update; (2) a Cockroach Bay Cockroach Bay Poll & Troll presentation; and (3) a Tampa Port Authority (TPA) Master Plan informational presentation and update on TPA PRF.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.