

Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2009

Members in attendance

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

Members absent

Danny Alberdi, Vicki Kenyon, Sharon Terrill-Elfers

Guests

Jim Spangler, Egmont Key Alliance; Peter Krulder, Florida Park Service

EPC Staff in attendance

Richard Garrity, Executive Director, Andrew Zodrow, Assistant Counsel; Hooshang Boostani, Waste Management Director; Tom Ash, ERM Division; Jeannette Figari, CEAC Liaison.

I. Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

a) Public Comment

No one addressed the Committee at this time.

b) Approval of the October 6, 2008 Minutes

The minutes were approved with one correction. The word “update” needs to be inserted on page two, under item (e) in the fourth bullet point: “Mary Yeargan, Waste Management Division, will provide a Brownfields *update*.”

c) Introduction of New Members

Three newly appointed members; Dr. Ann Hodgson, appointed by Commissioner Sharpe, Kim Koleos, appointed by Commissioner Beckner, and Joy Ingram, appointed by Commissioner Hagan, attended the meeting. Each of the CEAC members including the new appointees and staff took a moment to introduce themselves.

d) Review –December 18, 2008 Board Meeting

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

- Bob Hunter, Planning Commission Director, spoke to the Board regarding the interaction between the EPC and the Planning Commission. EPC staff and Planning Commission staff will provide a report on the policies of the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) and the EPC rules.
- An overview of the recent Legislative Delegation Eco-Tour was provided.
- The status of Egmont Key was discussed and the Board voted to send a letter to Governor Crist with a coy to Michael Sole, Director of DEP, regarding the funding for Egmont Key.
- Dr. Garrity informed the Board of the information on the EPC website regarding special collections and recycling. Use TV recycling was specifically addressed.
- Holly Greening, Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), presented the proposed Model Fertilizer Ordinance that was developed through a series of workshops conducted by the

TBEP. *Dr. Garrity explained that one of the big issues under consideration was the proposed provision to restrict the application of nitrogen based fertilizer during the rainy season. Dr. Garrity mentioned that there are some summer blends of fertilizer which have reduced nitrogen content. A consensus on this particular issue was not reached. The CEAC members engaged in a discussion concerning the reduction of the nitrogen load in Tampa Bay.*

- EPC Waste Management and Hillsborough County Waste Management Department staff presented a joint report to the Commissioners on how the County manages and disposes of solid waste materials and what is being done regarding the recycling of materials, specifically focusing on yard waste.
- Mary Yeagan, Waste Management Division, provide an update on the Brownfields program.

e) Preview – January 15, 2009 Board Meeting

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

- A discussion of the proposed Model Fertilizer Ordinance is scheduled.
- ERM staff will provide an overview of the Morris Bridge Sink issue. There is citizen concern regarding the pumping of the sink.
- The Air Division staff will provide an update on the new ozone standard and how it will affect Hillsborough County.
- The Administration staff will report on the recent vehicle economization efforts that have been made by EPC.
- ERM staff will report on the Egmont Key issue
- The Information Systems Staff (ISYS) will report on the development of the new EPC website. *Committee members commented upon the new website and were encouraged to submit any suggestions and comments to EPC staff regarding the website. One suggestion made was to include a search feature (box).*
- The new agricultural brochure and the wetlands rack card would be presented. *Dr. Garrity provided CEAC members with a copy of each.*

II. Items for Discussion, Action or Presentation

a) In accordance with the CEAC Bylaws, nominations were taken for Chairman and Vice Chairman. A nomination was made to have David Jellerson remain as Chairman. Mr. Jellerson accepted the nomination. No other nominations for Chairman were submitted and Mr. Jellerson, who abstained from voting, was elected unanimously. A nomination was made to have Dr. Wayne Echelberger remain as Vice Chairman. Dr. Echelberger accepted the nomination. No other nominations for Vice Chairman were submitted and Dr. Echelberger, who abstained from voting, was elected unanimously.

b) Mr. Pete Krulder, Florida Park Service and Mr. Jim Spangler, Egmont Key Alliance, were invited to speak to the Committee regarding the possible rescinding of state funding for Egmont Key State Park that was being proposed in the current legislative session.

Mr. Krudler provided the background for the proposed elimination of funding for Egmont Key. He provided an overview of what actions have already been taken by various entities; he identified the possible changes that would likely occur in ownership and management for Egmont Key if funding is eliminated; and he spoke about the significant wildlife habitat on the island and the island's historic value. Mr. Krudler answered questions that were posed by CEAC members.

Dr. Ann Hodgson, CEAC, indicated that she would make available, if CEAC was interested, a presentation she gave in December to the Agency on Bay Management regarding the seabird population on the Island. She provided a summary of the different bird species that use Egmont Key.

Hallie Calig asked the guests what the Committee could do to help. It was suggested that contacting the legislature expressing concern over the elimination of the funding would be helpful, especially since the legislative session is currently underway.

Mr. Spangler informed the Committee that the Egmont Key Alliance was a chartered citizens' support organization to the State Park. They are strongly opposed to the recommendation to cut the funding and they sent a strong letter expressing their concerns and urging the legislature not to cut the funding. *A copy of this letter was distributed to all CEAC members.*

The Committee decided that they would like to send a letter endorsing the letter that was sent to Governor Crist from the EPC. A procedural discussion ensued and it was determined that the Committee could not take any action without Board approval. Chairman Jellerson offered to draft the letter. Due to the urgency of the matter, Dr. Garrity will request that the BOCC convene as the EPC at the regular BOCC meeting so that CEAC's request can be considered.

A motion was made to draft a letter to Governor Crist and copy the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation, the State and Federal Legislators, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, the Secretary of DEP, Michael Sole, Congressman Bill Young, and J.D. Alexander; and, to ask the BOCC to send a letter similar to the one they sent as the EPC and expand the distribution list. The motion passed unanimously.

c) David Jellerson, Chairman, initiated discussion regarding the Tampa Shoreline Restoration Master Plan. The research for and production of this document was one of the previously approved Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) projects. Mr. Jellerson acknowledged that the document had no regulatory authority but could be used by CEAC members as a guide or tool when reviewing future Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) applications. Questions were raised as to the benefit and implementation of this plan and it was noted that for future PRF applications the public purpose be clearly identified.

Mr. Ash provided an update and answered questions regarding information that will be available online for review regarding the approved PRF projects.

d) Tom Ash, ERM Division, spoke to the Committee about the establishment of the Tom Koulianos Citizens Conservation Efficiency Award, its purpose and the evaluation criteria for selecting a recipient. He indicated that the ERM staff would be making some changes to the information that was forwarded to the CEAC members prior to the meeting. The majority of the changes would be administrative in nature with a few modifications to the evaluation criteria. The finalized information will be forwarded to the Committee Members in March and this item will be scheduled for discussion in April.

Some issues identified for consideration in April were: how prestigious the award would be, would there be a scoring mechanism and should there be a minimum scoring for consideration, would there be only one recipient or multiple recipients, how it would be publicized? Roy Davis suggested that it be left as one recipient.

e) Tom Ash also provided an update on the tree planting issue. Mr. Ash indicated that he spoke with the County Landscape Dept. and they indicated that they would be removing a dead tree on the property located in the parking area. After removing the tree, the County agreed to grind the stump and leave the hole for planting a new tree. Roy Davis opined that this would not be acceptable since stump grinding does not remove enough of the material to plant a new tree. In response to Mr. Davis, Mr. Ash indicated that the tree was approximately 3" DBH. Mr. Davis said he would take a look at it and see if "balling" and removing the root would be feasible. Mr. Ash did remind the Committee that the

irrigation would be problematic because the County has not irrigated the property in two years and would not be irrigating in the future due to the water restrictions. Ms. Oberting offered to purchase a small gem magnolia and plant it when the site was ready for planting. M. Ash will contact Ms. Oberting when the tree has been removed.

Other Business

None was raised.

Agenda Items for January 5, 2009 CEAC Meeting

Since time was short, Ms. Hodgson suggested that each of the members send suggested future agenda topics and possible subcommittees to the Chairman. The CEAC Liaison recommended that the suggestions be forwarded to her and she would compile them and distribute the list prior to the February meeting. A motion was made to forward the suggestions to the CEAC Liaison. The motion passed unanimously. The CEAC Liaison will send out a reminder to the members to submit their proposed topics and subcommittees.

Chairman Jellerson requested that staff provide a review of the Sunshine Law and the Bylaws for the new members.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.