

## **Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes –September 13, 2010**

### **Members in attendance**

Daniel Alberdi, Hallie Calig, Deborah Cope, Roy Davis, Wayne Echelberger, Ph.D., Harold Falls, Melanie Higgins, Ann Hodgson, Ph.D., Joy Ingram, Kim Koleos, Cam Oberting

### **Members absent**

Jeremy Burris, David Jellerson, Vicki Kenyon, Dale Meryman, Ph.D., George Parker, Jr., James Harris, Sr.

### **Guests**

Stephen Gran, Hillsborough County Economic Development, Jeff Whealton, SWFWMD

### **EPC Staff in attendance**

Deborah Sinko, Wetlands Management Division; Mike Thompson, Wetlands Management Division; Chris Cooley, Wetlands Management Division; Christina Bryant, Wetlands Management Division; Tom Ash, Water Management Division; Laura Thorne, Water Management Division; Andrew Zodrow, Assistant Counsel; and Jeannette Figari, CEAC Liaison.

## **I. Regular Business**

The Chairman, Danny Alberdi, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Mr. Alberdi thanked Vice Chairman, Dr. Wayne Echelberger, for conducting the August CEAC meeting in his absence.

### **a) Public Comment**

The Chairman called for public comment. No one spoke at this time.

### **b) Approval of the June 7, 2010 CEAC Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the August 2, 2010 CEAC meeting minutes, the motion passed and the minutes were approved, 8-0-1. Mr. Alberdi abstained from the vote since he was not in attendance at the August meeting.

### **c) Review of the August 19, 2010 EPC Meeting**

The August EPC meeting had been cancelled.

### **d) Preview of the September 16, 2010 EPC Meeting**

The Executive Director, Richard Garrity, and the General Counsel, Rick Tschantz, were unable to attend the September CEAC meeting. No preview of the agenda for the upcoming October meeting was presented at this time.

## **II. Items for Discussion, Action or Presentation**

### **a) Continued Status Report on Approved PRF Projects**

Laura Thorne, Water Management Division, provided a status update on all the open PRF projects and responded to questions raised by CEAC members regarding these projects.

**b) Discussion on Farm and Ranch News Article** (requested by CEAC member, Roy Davis)

Mr. Davis provided his viewpoint on the creation of water conservation (irrigation) ponds within grassy wetland areas. In response to an inquiry as to what the intended goal of the discussion was, Mr. Davis' stated it was to develop a more realistic approach to use grassy wetlands to create water conservation ponds; to develop ideas to change the existing concepts and regulations to aid farmers in the creation of conservation ponds ; and to see CEAC be the lead group in this discussion.

EPC staff, Mr. Whealton, SWFWMD , Mr. Gran, Hillsborough County, and several CEAC members engaged in the discussion of this issue. A large portion of the discussion addressed the Statutory definition of a wetland and the current regulations and mitigation requirements pertaining to wetland impacts. In response to a suggestion to amend the definition of a wetland, Mr. Zodrow pointed out that any proposed amendment to the definition of a wetland and the UMAM calculation would have to occur at the state level. EPC could not change the definition of a wetland for their review nor could they alter the application of the UMAM calculation, to do so would result in EPC being less restrictive than the state and that would be prohibited.

At the end of the discussion, Chairman Alberdi inquired if there was a motion to consider, Mr. Davis did not make a motion at this time indicating that he might consider a motion at a later date.

**III. Other Business**

No other business was brought forth for discussion.

**IV. Agenda Items for the October 4, 2010 CEAC Meeting**

CEAC members discussed possible agenda items for the October, November and December meetings.

Mr. Falls suggested a couple of topics pertaining to nitrogen impacts; nitrogen recovery from stormwater and algae farms. He agreed to contact potential speakers on each issue to see if they would be willing and able to give a presentation to the Committee in October or November.

Dr. Hodgson suggested inviting Roger Johansson, City of Tampa Bay Study Group, to inform the group of the accomplishments of the Bay Study Group. Danny Alberdi then suggested inviting Dr. Brandt Henningsen, Chief Environmental Scientist SWIM Program, since he felt a discussion about his work would complement Mr. Johansson's presentation.

A motion was made to adjourn, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.