

CITY OF PENSACOLA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 2, 2019 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Bob Bennett, Vice Chair, Kyle Kopytchak, Blase Butts, Katie Fox, Michael Lynch, Dr. Gloria Horning

Members Absent: Steve Elliott, Calvin Avant

Others Present: See attached sign in sheet

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—April 4, 2019

Motion made by Member Butts to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Bennett and was unanimously carried.

3. Board Member Comments/Updates:
 - a) 12th Avenue Tree Replacement and No Parking Enforcement—Kyle Kopytchak
No update.
 - b) Review of tree and landscaping regulations—Michael Lynch
Member Lynch indicated that he was going to provide updates moving forward on the Perdido Pensacola Bay Estuary Program. City Council Member Myers has been providing updates to the Board on the landscaping regulations and Tree ordinance. Updates so far on the Estuary Program, they selected Lindsay Cross to be the Executive Director; however she declined. The staff is seeking direction from the Board on how to proceed. There is going to be a meeting on May 8 to see what direction they decide to go. The education committee met. Matt Posner with Escambia County is the acting liaison at the moment and is providing updates on the Estuary Program. His email address is mjposner@myescambia.com.

There was a \$2 million grant to establish the Perdido Pensacola Bay Estuary Program and the work that they will be doing will impact the City and Pensacola Bay and as it affects the Pensacola Bay Estuary and the City, he is interested in keeping up with it.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

May 2, 2019

Page 2

Member Horning also pointed out there were other City issues that could use a board member focusing on. We have a whole county focusing on the estuary program. We should be concerned with the landfills. Talk about the landfills in Wedgewood and how they affect the watershed.

Further discussion occurred on water quality issues from Wedgewood and the Rolling Hills landfill and how it affects the watershed going into Bayou Marcus and Crescent Lake with uncleanable methols. There is no remediation.

(Member Kopytchak arrived)

c) Criteria for Tree Fund Grant Proposals

No update.

d) DEP and EPA Assessments in Area—Steve Elliott

No update.

e) Environmental Justice/Injustice—Calvin Avant

No update.

f) Water Quality of Bay/Gulf—Blaise Butts, Katie Fox

Member Butts reported there was not an update from Florida Sea Grant. He reported in the last month the Emerald Coast Clean Water Alliance started, based on the Tampa Alliance, where they have made a big impact on the quality of water. He presented the Mission and Goals of the Emerald Coast Clean Water Alliance (attached) and the collaborative efforts of the organizations involved to make sure one group is aware of what another group is doing.

He provided an update on Ocean Hour's monthly cleanup. This month, 1,088 pounds were picked up from Bay Bluff, Chimney, Wayside and Bartram parks. Further discussion occurred on sources of trash at the various locations, stormwater vaults, the clean out frequency of the vaults, and other contributing factors. The need for water bottle filling stations at various locations could help alleviate the use of plastic water bottles. The challenge is how to change people's habits. It is easy to change the habits of people who are very environmentally aware; it is harder to change the mindset of those who are not.

g) Sanders Beach and Bruce Beach Stormwater Drainage, Flooding/Toxin Issues in Tanyard—Gloria Horning

Member Horning commented on the Government Street project. The dewatering at that project site was nasty. Three months of drainage going into the stormwater drained out at Bruce Beach. No testing took place at Bruce Beach. They did test at Sanders Beach and every week for the last three months there has been a caution health sign at the Sanders Beach location. Bayou Texar for the month of April had 20,000 gallons of raw sewage; 45,000 gallons went into 8 mile creek. There was 2,000 gallons from the Government Street project.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

May 2, 2019

Page 3

Further discussion occurred on lack of public notification by agencies involved. DEP bows to ECUA and ECUA bows to the Health Department.

h) Environmental Impacts on Disenfranchised Communities—Gloria Horning

Member Horning reported that the environmental impacts start at Wedgewood and move on down. This county is one big environmental impact on disenfranchised communities and it is becoming bigger and bigger.

Member Bennett indicated that the County had just hired someone to do sampling at Wedgewood because it wasn't being done.

Member Horning stated that the property was worth \$3 million plus, as is. South Palafox Properties is getting to keep it and are being fined \$200 per day. They were to test quarterly. The last test was three years ago, this month. Those tests showed that the toxins and metals were uncleanable from Bayou Marcus to just short of Crescent Lake because they are so ingrained in the mud and everything else. Rolling Hills was supposed to be closed 2 years ago and capped. It is still not capped and there are no safety valves on the runoff from the top of the hill going into Bayou Marcus. There are eleven unlined landfills out there. They are all in the county; but City trash goes there.

Mr. Robert M. Wilson expressed interest in what is going on. He's spent over 30 years working on hazmat issues, cleaning out landfills and dealing with industrial waste and noted the federal law known as CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) that is available to help with landfill clean-up. He relayed his experience assisting with landfill clean-ups.

Member Horning further commented on the effects of climate change and sea level rising and the impact of all the building that is being proposed along the waterfront. The Environmental Advisory Board has a responsibility to talk about the impact that will have with sea level rise. All that debris has to go somewhere.

Chair Richards mentioned the possibility of having a presentation from the Building department on the Flood Zone and the hardening of the building code

i) Renewable Energy Sources—Neil Richards, Robert Bennett

Member Bennett indicated the Florida Senate did introduce a bill to allow large scale commercial buildings to produce solar energy; it is in discussion on one committee and pending on the rest. The probability of success is zero.

j) Stormwater management—Katie Fox

Member Fox had no additional information on stormwater. She did voice her interests and concerns with poly fluorinated, basically chlorine compounds. EPA is currently going to move forward with establishing guidelines. Some individual states are taking it upon themselves to develop some interim thresholds and holding individuals accountable because it will take the Federal government so long. There are PFAS, PFOA, and PFS compounds in our drinking water that were detected in four of ECUA's wells. There is a lot of sampling being done around military installations. One of the wells was off of Spanish Trail. These compounds will become an issue in landfills.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

May 2, 2019

Page 4

4. Discussion Items:

a) Current Council/Mayor Action Items

Chair Richards made a presentation at the Agenda Conference concerning the recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Board on renewable energy. It was well taken. Apparently everyone is waiting for the strategic plan to come out. The facilitator conducted one on one interviews with the Council Members and the Mayor. He is assembling that information and on May 9, there will be a public meeting between the Mayor and City Council Members to develop the Strategic Plan for the City. He hopes that the recommendations made by the Environmental Advisory Board will be of importance and will be included. The meeting is open to the public and will be held in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

b) Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report

Chair Richards indicated he put that on the agenda to see if there were other issues that needed to be addressed. No one brought up further issues. Chair Richards stated that there would probably be environmental issues that will come from the Strategic Plan.

5. New Business

Member Butts inquired from Member Bennett if there had been any further developments with solar in the State. Member Bennett stated that he has not followed up with the PUC. Member Butts indicated there were two projects, one at the junction of I-75 and I-10 and another facility on the turnpike, north of Orlando that are huge solar projects and asked if they were part of it. Member Bennett indicated that they weren't part of that. They have requested to do 10 more sites and make it available to community subscription. That is in addition to what they are doing. Further discussion occurred on power purchase agreements.

Member Kopytchak commented on mosquito spraying franchise business and the loss of the bee population. Member Horning commented that if the spray contains Lindane, it is a known carcinogen and could be very harmful on children, pets, and the environment.

No progress on 12th Avenue Tree tunnel signs.

6. Reports and Announcements

Science Hour will be May 16, 2019, topic on DEP's Aquatic Preserves

Member Lynch reported that yesterday and today DEP conducted their Fourth Annual Coastal Management Program at the Grand Hotel. He'd be glad to share some information, if anyone was interested. He also mentioned the following:

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

May 2, 2019

Page 5

Lion Fish Removal Awareness Day in Destin
Santa Rosa County Bay Day
Update on Grant Opportunities

Chair Richards mentioned on June 6 & 7 the Coastal Plains Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association Conference at Gulf Power. The theme of the conference is "Winds of Opportunity". One of the presenters is Dave Robau who is proposing a very unique waste stream recycling, to create clean burnable fuel out of the waste stream.

On May 17, Chair Richards will be meeting with an agricultural person from Tallahassee about the wildflowers on roadsides, planting more pollinating plants that will be self sustainable. He will also be looking at Adopt a Roadway projects and Adopt a Stream programs. The EAB could possibly look at making a recommendation to adopt such programs in the City.

7. Public Comments—Open Forum
Mr. Robert M. Wilson suggested involving youth in park clean-up efforts. Also, he mentioned a kayaking group who is interested in Bruce Beach and clean-up efforts there.
8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

PLEASE SIGN IN

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Emerald Coast Clean Water Alliance

Mission

The Emerald Coast is blessed with a number of environmentally engaged citizens groups or associations with particular and often parallel interests. The Alliance brings together like-minded active, committed civic and other groups, businesses and environmentally engaged institutions to support concerted grass root actions to achieve a healthier environment and plastics free waters along the Emerald Coast through environmental stewardship, education/outreach, business engagement, and broad community involvement.

Goals

The Alliance seeks to enhance the prospects for the success of participants' own programs while bringing people and groups together to ensure a better environment for all.

Participants are pursuing collaborative efforts with regard to:

- reducing marine debris,
- promoting environmentally friendly business practices,
- heightening public awareness through education and outreach,
- sharing information on legislative and regulatory developments, and
- undertaking joint projects where interests coincide.

The Alliance will work in parallel and partnership with established government programs and efforts.

Alliance Participants:

Coast Watch Alliance (www.coastwatchalliance.org)

Earth Ethics, Inc (<http://earthethics.us/>)

Emerald Coast Keeper (www.emeraldcoastkeeper.org).

Gulf Coast Environmental Defense

Keep Pensacola Beautiful (<https://keeppensacolabeautiful.org>)

Keep Santa Rosa Beautiful (<http://www.srclean.org/about-us22.html>)

Ocean Hour Florida (www.oceanhourfl.com)

Pensacola Beach Advocates (www.pbadvocates.org/)

Trees of Escambia County Florida

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/385816005519288/>)

Organizations and Programs Supporting the Alliance:

City of Pensacola, Department of Parks and Volunteer Organizations:

www.cityofpensacola.com/directory.aspx?EID=256

Navarre Marine Science Center (www.navarresciencestation.org)

Sea Grant Florida (www.flseagrant.org)

University of West Florida Earth and Environmental Sciences Department

(uwf.edu/hmcse/departments/earth-and-environmental-sciences/)

Bay
Bluffs 265
Chimney 208
Wayside 429
Bartram 186

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