



Orange County Sustainability & Resilience Committee Trees & Lands Sub-Committee MEETING MINUTES

WebEx Virtual Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alex Pressier	<u>Additional Board Members</u>
Jenifer Rupert	Byron Knibbs
John Guziejka	Chris Castro
Melvin Pittman	Kris Stenger
Monica Socarras	
Nicole Kennedy	
Kenneth Peach	

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides
Lori Forsman
Jennifer Cummings
Jim Ward
Jane Gregory
Ed Thralls
John Roberts
Kevin Camm
Alicia Baxter
Jean Werleigh

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Tommy Boroughs

Digital Archive complete with presentation materials, handouts, and meeting audio/visual recording are posted at this website: <https://ocfl.app.box.com/folder/118865147784>

Call to Order

At 9:36 AM Jeff Benavides called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Byron Knibbs, Ana Pepper, Engineer at DRMP, Passionate about the Environment and on the board for the Florida Native Plant Society.

Introduction/Meeting Expectations

Jeff Benavides reviewed the agenda and overall intent of the meeting.

Community Activity & Discussion

Jeff Benavides and all Committee Members were asked to review the 5 focus areas from the Our Home For Life Plan and 2 Members were asked to provide feedback on the presented hand out. SEE LINK ABOVE. The group worked through the community activity to strategically align and update several of the related strategies in the Our Home For Life Sustainability Plan.

EDUCATION

Alicia - Natural areas management piece, prescribed burns. Educating the public on natural connections. Irrigation and care for trees should be consistent and clear. We should lean on IFAS for all guidance and messaging.

Alex - Utilize volunteers to create immersive learning experiences around parks and public lands

Jenifer - We should consider tree tagging and QR Codes to help with our inventory.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Ken Peach - Stress reduction and impact of nature on health should be front and center in the various training programs. Ross Chapin - Pocket Neighborhoods

Melvin - outreach to youth and equitable access to parks and nature areas need to be in dense and urban areas. Activate county land that is not being utilized for pocket parks.

LOCAL FOOD

Melvin - Partner with Seniors first and other senior organizations to activate county land to help with urban gardens. make it a user-friendly process for someone to start a garden. Byron Knibbs agreed, most people do not understand the value. we need to do a lot of work in community gardening.

IFAS needs to be the leader to provide training and certification

Community Wide Goal Refresh

Jeff Benavides presented a summary of goals and strategies in the Mayor Demings Transition Team Report and the Our Home For Life Sustainability Plan that were previously developed.

Reviewed Meeting Schedule and Next Steps

Meeting adjourned 11:50 am – Jeff Benavides

Committee Chair: Sustainability & Resilience Committee

Date:

Prepared by Jeff Benavides

VIRTUAL CHAT NOTES:

from Jacques Werleigh to everyone: 9:42 AM

as it relates to EPCOT...I think highlighting solutions for the Future. Example, the wetland parks out in Christmas. Highlighting innovative urban stormwater features that keeps protects our communities and natural resources

from Jeff Benavides to everyone: 9:45 AM

Feel free to drop in the chat!

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 9:49 AM

In terms of public health, sensors that allow for online testing and rapid response

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 9:53 AM

I wanted to add also that we need to look at what happens with the water once it's above the water table (even as water varpo), within the water, and under the wter.

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 9:53 AM

vapor

from Jane Gregory to all panelists: 9:55 AM

MIT article on turning desalination brine into useful chemicals such as sodium hydroxide:

<http://news.mit.edu/2019/brine-desalination-waste-sodium-hydroxide-0213>

from Marc Cannata to everyone: 9:55 AM

Environmentally conscientious use of water through leveraging technology while preserving resources for future generations!

from James Ward (privately): 9:57 AM

Instead of pushing [captured / managed / stored] storm water . . . to the remote corner of the project (within a square chainlinked pond) - planners seek to INTEGRATE that surface storm water within the site plan of the Project. Make surface storm water a project beautifying amenity. think Baldwin Park's beautiful center storm drainage spine / park.

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 9:57 AM

I like the idea of an ongoing conversation about water with the community

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 10:01 AM

I have to jump off the call, but I wanted to give quick input on this, I would craft short and detailed messages, calls for action,, instead of bid documents and guides so it's easy to follow and grasps ideas

from Madeline Almodovar to everyone: 10:02 AM

big documents

from Aimee Krivan to everyone: 10:04 AM

Cumulative impacts from human activities can weaken a lake, river or streams "immune system"

from Denise Cochran to all panelists: 10:04 AM

With the education community: Volunteering for water quality for school community service credit – expand current volunteer efforts on cleaning around water bodies, labeling storm drains, disseminating content on social media, etc.

from Chris Castro to host (privately): 10:06 AM

Just joined. Please add me to panelist.

from Nicole Kennedy - City of Apopka to everyone: 10:08 AM

Wekiva High School in Apopka has an AgriScience Academy. In 2017, students were awarded by the County for their Aquaponics STEM Learning Project.

from Jane Gregory to everyone: 10:08 AM

Our residents need to be charged with becoming partners with local government as inhabitants of the ecosystem.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:08 AM

JEff, Please add me to panelist when you can.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:11 AM

65% of water use in Orlando is irrigation of our lawns...the best way to reduce water use is to change our landscaping standards to focus on Florida-friendly landscaping and natives.

from Rachel Allen to everyone: 10:11 AM

That's a great idea to have a newcomer welcome event! It could be on an app and in social media. This is a great idea. It helps people feel they are a part of something happening that is meaningful and makes our home a great place to live.

from Rachel Allen to everyone: 10:12 AM

Our high school students have this requirement.

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:13 AM

Smart irrigation is important for food production...Need to minimize wasteful irrigation.

from Alexis Clark to host (privately): 10:14 AM

agree, chris. good points

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:14 AM

Encouraging hydroponic food production, which has substantial reduction of overall water use.

from Resham Shirsat to everyone: 10:17 AM

incentivize the agriculture industry to use the most water efficient strategies and technologies when growing food

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:20 AM

>>>> <http://resilience-hub.org>

from Denise Cochran to all panelists: 10:21 AM

Water infrastructure question: Are there any feasible alternative sources of power to wastewater lift stations that fail when power goes out?

from Chris Castro to all panelists: 10:30 AM

>>>> <https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2019/09/23/new-100m-innovation-hub-to-accelerate-rd-for-a-secure-water-future/#:~:text=The%20National%20Alliance%20for%20Water,issues%20in%20the%20United%20States.>

from Resham Shirsat to everyone: 10:43 AM

set a date to "require" LID for new development by 2025 for example

from Matt Blowers to host (privately): 10:47 AM

am I the only one struggling to hear Chris?

from Jeff Benavides to Chris Castro (privately): 10:48 AM

Check your audio. it's very bad.

from susy to all panelists: 10:54 AM

Need to drop off and get ready for my next call. Thanks for the opportunity to participate

from James Ward (privately): 10:55 AM

right now . . . we require a minimum % of each project's plant pallet - must be chosen from the established list of florida friendly plant material.

from Byron Knibbs (privately): 11:15 AM

Great meeting Jeff.

from Denise Cochran to host & presenter: 11:15 AM

Be sure to keep Communications looped in so they can be thinking about messaging and tell them to watch the upcoming BCC presentation. Lori and I can reinforce this in our biweekly calls. Would be good if you are invited to a Communications call in October. They invite a guest for every call.

DRAFT