

MINUTES OF THE COLLIER COUNTY COASTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, December 3, 2019

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee Water Quality Subcommittee, in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Administrative Building “F”, 5th Floor, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Dave Trecker
VICE CHAIRMAN: Sam Young
Terry Hutchinson

ALSO PRESENT: Gail Hambright, Accountant
Danette Kinaszczuk, Pollution Control
Rhonda Watkins, Principal Environmental Specialist
Katie Laakkonen, City of Naples

Any persons in need of the verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the video recording from the Collier County Communications and Customer Relations Department or view online.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Trecker called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

IV. Changes and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hutchinson moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Chairman Trecker. Carried unanimously 2 – 0.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Approval of CAC Minutes

October 1, 2019

Mr. Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting as presented. Second by Chairman Trecker. Carried unanimously 2 – 0.

VII. Staff Reports

None

Mr. Young arrived at 1:07 p.m.

VIII. New Business

1. Revised Approach

The Committee reviewed the “CAC Proposals to BCC on Water Quality Issues” which outlined 4 new avenues for the subcommittee’s approach.

Chairman Trecker noted the subcommittee should ensure their review of issues does not become too detailed given the complexity of many of the issues involved with water quality. It would be beneficial to keep any recommendations holistic and not pursue detailed studies nor duplicate any efforts by other parties.

Mr. Hutchinson moved to adopt the following revised approach for the Subcommittee:

- *Limit recommendations to those relevant to Collier County.*
- *No duplications: Recommendations should not compete with or duplicate state projects or studies underway elsewhere.*
- *CAC should not conduct or request lengthy studies to gather bullet proof support for the recommendations.*
- *Recommendations should be made periodically in outline form, with the understanding that County resources may be needed to flesh out the proposals if the BCC decides to pursue them.*

Second by Chairman Trecker. Carried unanimously 3 – 0.

2. Specific Recommendations.

The subcommittee reviewed the following recommendations identified in the handout “*Specific Steps Collier County Could Take at this Time to Deal with Coastal Algae and Red Tide Problems.*”

1. *Provide adequate resources for timely removal of dead fish and other dead marine life from beaches, inlets, canals and estuaries.*

The subcommittee noted the County does have a program to cleanup the beaches however it would be beneficial to discuss the issue with Gary McAlpin when he is present at the next meeting.

Mr. Young reported:

- Dead fish accumulate in the canals of Marco Island at times and the City recognizes it is their responsibility to address the issue and is reviewing the measures necessary to institute a program.
- It is a concern there are no standards or protocols for testing the water quality of canals as related to recreational activity given the public uses many of these waterways on a daily basis for boating, swimming, etc. – *Staff noted water quality testing for recreational areas occurs for those sites frequented by a large number of users.*
- The City has awarded a contract based on a Request for Proposal to study the avenues available for water quality testing in the City’s waters.

The Subcommittee chose not to make any recommendations at this time and tabled the item.

2. *Provide adequate resources to ensure compliance with fertilizer ordinance.*

The Subcommittee discussed enforcement of the Ordinance and noted any recommendations should apply to unincorporated Collier County as the municipal jurisdictions have their own mechanisms for regulating fertilizer applications. Consideration could be given to developing an interlocal agreement between the County and the City’s at some point in time, if necessary.

Mr. Hutchinson moved to forward the recommendation to the Coastal Advisory Committee for consideration. Second by Mr. Young. Carried unanimously 3 – 0.

3. *Determine cost for installing Advanced Wastewater Treatment to substantially reduce nutrient levels in recycled water used for irrigation.*

The Subcommittee noted before any major study is undertaken, it may be beneficial to determine any information available on the subject including previous studies which may have been conducted by or for the County, or other jurisdictions which may be applicable to the County.

Mr. Hutchinson moved forward the following recommendation to the Coastal Advisory Committee for consideration: The County determine if any data or studies exist on the costs for installing Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT), if not, a consultant be engaged to determine the cost for the installing the AWT for the purposes of achieving substantial nutrient reduction in Collier County wastewater treatment. Any study should include a cost/benefit analysis for the treatment. Second by Mr. Young. Carried unanimously 3 – 0.

IX. Old Business

None

X. Announcements

None

XI. Committee Member Discussion

December 3, 2019

Mr. Hutchinson recommended the subcommittee consider the following initiatives for the County:

1. Identify the scope of work required to review the drainage swales in unincorporated Collier County to ensure they are in suitable condition and what, if any work may be required to bring those found to be substandard to an acceptable level of operation. Also, provide an analysis on the benefits of ensuring they function as intended - *Staff noted although there is some water quality aspects associated with swales, their primary function is to convey stormwater to discharge points.*
2. Investigate the benefits of developing a rain gardening program.
3. Pursue a goal of increasing the use of pervious surfaces where development exists or is proposed.
4. Investigate developing a plan to promote landscaping plans which utilize naturally occurring plants reducing the need for application of fertilizer and irrigation water.

The other subcommittee members expressed concerns, Items 2, 3 and 4 may be more “inland” related issues and not in the purview of the subcommittee.

Chairman Trecker noted the items could be taken up at a later date when staff has had a chance to review the requests and provide input to the subcommittee.

XII. Next Meeting Date/Location

TBD

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 2:25 P.M.

Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee Water Quality Subcommittee

Dave Trecker, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.