KEEPLAKE BEAUTIFUL MEETING
June 29, 2017

The Keep Lake Beautiful Committee met on Tuesday, June 29, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioner’s Meeting Room, Lake County Administration Building, Tavares, Florida. Vice Chairman Brent McCallister were present. The Civic Organization member in attendance was Melissa Simmes. The Citizen Representatives in attendance were Lavon Silvernell and Jim Miller. The Business Representative in attendance was Earl Hammond. The Commissioner in attendance was Leslie Campione. The School Board member in attendance with Dr. Kristi Burns. The Staff Representatives in attendance were Mary Hamiton, Environmental Services Manager; Nicholas Mcray, Stormwater Project Manager; Will Dawson, Keep Lake Beautiful Coordinator; Jamie Davis, Public Hearing Coordinator; Glen Guzman, Code Enforcement Manager.

PUBLIC WORKS PRESENTATION – LAKE COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

Mary Hamilton addressed the committee and advised that the Keep Lake Beautiful program has been transferred to the Public Works Department and that she will be the liaison for the program. Mary Hamilton and Nicholas Mcray provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee explaining the background and state requirements for the Lake County Fertilizer Ordinance, including model ordinance development, county comparisons, commercial applicator certification program, and Lake County outreach efforts.

Commissioner Campione asked about the opt-out with the cities and asked which cities were on board with the ordinance. Mary Hamilton responded that none of the cities that she is aware of are on board at this time. Commissioner Campione asked if anyone had reached out to the cities to see if they would be willing to adopt our ordinance. Mary Hamilton responded that DEP has reached out to some cities but they are making sure the counties are on board first and then will get back to the cities.

Commissioner Campione stated that the county and the public are working on trying to fine tune the fertilizer ordinance and that this meeting would assist in getting recommendations to the board of county commissioners. Commissioner Campione stated again the importance of getting the cities involved and adopting the ordinance. Commissioner Campione stated she spoke with the owner of the Ace Hardware stores and that he stated he will fully cooperate and support the ordinance and assist in any way possible.

Jim Miller stated that going directly to the stores is the best way to educate the public on the rules of fertilizing.
Brent McCallister suggested providing educational handouts to the stores to provide to customers who are purchasing fertilizer, and to also hand them out at keep lake beautiful events or projects.

Earl Hammond asked about the Montverde Ordinance requirements. Nicholas Mcray responded that their ordinance has a higher setback requirement as well as a black out time period. Earl Hammond asked if the committee could go directly to the stores that are in the city limits and solicit them into complying with the ordinance. Nicholas Mcray responded that the stores are pretty accepting with the ordinance but that their customer base is mixed due to some residents are county and some residents are city. Commissioner Campione suggested contacting the county attorney’s office to see if they would be willing to reach out to the cities and see if they would be on board with adopting our ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Susan Fetter was present on behalf of Lake Soil and Water Conversation District and stated the board is requesting a stricter fertilizer ordinance similar to neighboring counties. Susan Fetter requested that ordinance be amended to prohibit fertilizers containing phosphorous and nitrogen from being applied during June 1 through September 30th, and if using a fertilizer that does contain nitrogen during the non-restricted season that it should contain at least 50% or more slow released nitrogen, and to increase the setback requirement to 15 feet.

Sharon Chester was present as a member of the public who lives on Lake Harris. She stated she is very concerned with the quality of water in the Lakes and requested a stricter ordinance that includes a greater setback with a minimum of 15 feet, also the need of a landscape buffer, a rainy season ban of nitrogen and phosphorous, and also a need for a slow release fertilizer requirement.

Nancy Hurlbert was present as a member of the public who lives on Lake Eustis and provided a list to the committee that lists the counties that have adopted strict summer rainy season application ban and requested that the ordinance be revised to adopt similar stricter requirements.

Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson was present on behalf of the Sierra Club and provided a power point hand out to the committee regarding stopping fertilizer pollution, and stated that other counties have very good educational brochures that they provide to their community. She cited Pinellas County as an example. Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson also stated that Marion County has a setback requirement of 15 feet up to 100 feet depending on the area and discussed the ways to research the science other counties have used to adopt their ordinance. Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson discussed the ordinary high water line and suggested writing that into the ordinance.
Russ Melling was present on behalf of the Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Society and stated he agrees with increasing the setbacks and adopting a stricter ordinance and also gave a brief history on the B-Map. Russ Melling also stated the importance of educating the homeowners.

Commissioner Campione spoke about the handout she received from Volusia County called “How to fertilize like a Floridian” and stated it is very informational and suggested putting something like that together for Lake County. The committee could ask the commission to have IT create the brochure. Earl Hammond stated he was in agreement.

Jim Miller stated he is more focused on the retail ban because if it is not available for purchase the homeowners can’t use it.

Earl Hammond stated he likes the idea of contacting the local businesses to see if they would voluntarily comply with the fertilizer ordinance.

Jim Miller made a motion that the committee adopt the recommendations of the Lake Soil and Water Conservation and add something in regards to the ordinary high water line. Commissioner Campione stated the motion should include the educational component as well as the retail ban. The Motion was amended and seconded by Dr. Kristi Burns. Committee approved the motion unanimously.

Lavon Silvernell stated she wants a summer ban and stated the importance of educating the public. Lavon Silvernell stated she wants something in the ordinance regarding the no-maintenance zone requiring a landscaping/vegetation buffer.

Brooke Moffis was present on behalf of the University of Florida IFAS and provided additional information to the committee regarding research that was done by Dr. Laurie Trenholm regarding growing healthy turf grass during the summer.

Russ Melling responded that the public should be encouraged to not use fertilizer and that healthy green grass can be grown without fertilizer.

Lavon Silvernell requested that the landscape ordinance be readdressed after the fertilizer ordinance is finalized.

Earl Hammond made a motion to invite Pinellas County and Dr. Laurie Trenholm to come speak at the next keep lake beautiful meeting regarding their thoughts on the fertilizer ordinance. Committee approved the motion unanimously.
ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

[Signature]
DARLA SCOLES, CHAIRMAN