

MINUTES
LAKE COUNTY MINING COMMITTEE
January 26, 2012

The Lake County Mining Committee met on Thursday, January 26, 2012 in the Commission Chambers on the second floor of the County Administration Building.

Members Present:

Nancy H. Fullerton
Kraig McLane
J. Michael O'Berry
Tracy Mouncey
Steve Adams

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Brian T. Sheahan, AICP, Planning Manager, Planning and Community Design Division
Scott Catusus, Code Compliance Officer, Code Enforcement
Aziza Bryson, Public Hearing Associate, Planning and Community Design Division
Erin Hartigan, Assistant County Attorney

Brian T. Sheahan, Planning Manager, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present. Mr. Sheahan introduced himself and invited each member to introduce themselves to the group.

After member introductions, Erin Hartigan, Assistant County Attorney, gave a presentation about the Sunshine Law.

Kraig McLane, Committee member, arrived at 9:20 a.m.

Mr. Sheahan discussed the primary materials used by staff, referring to the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the Lake County Codification, and the Lake County Land Development Regulations, and explained the purpose of each document. He passed out a CD/DVD to each member containing electronic versions of those documents. He also explained the purpose for the committee and went over the Comprehensive Plan and Policy I-4.4.10 Evaluation of Existing Protections from Mining in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern. He stated that part of the tasks of the committee would be to review the policies and regulations, make recommendations on any changes, and make sure that the changes are understandable to the public while also making sure that any existing regulations are consistent with the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Sheahan pointed out that there had been many amendments to the Lake County Mining Regulations in the past ten years.

Mr. Sheahan advised the committee that they would need to vote on a Chairman.

Steve Adams nominated Tracy Mouncey. J. Michael O'Berry nominated Nancy H. Fullerton. Ms. Fullerton declined the nomination. The members all voted in favor of Tracy Mouncey for Chairman.

Mr. Sheahan passed out and discussed the Land Development Regulations and Chapter VI

Resource Protection. After some questions from the committee members, Mr. Sheahan clarified that the Chapter VI regulations apply to the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern as well as all other mining that may be permitted within Lake County. There were not currently any specific regulations pertaining to the actual permitting of mines for just the Green Swamp. There were however, policies and regulations that related to mining uses that limited mining in the Green Swamp to Sand Mining only. Mr. Sheahan discussed the stated purpose in the policy was to determine if there were additional protections needed to protect the Green Swamp from new or expanded mining. He also indicated that the County no longer has a hydrologist on staff and the County ability to adopt hydrologic standards would be limited with current staff. Currently the County relies on the expertise of the DEP and water management districts. When necessary the County has hired consultants.

Mr. Sheahan asked each member to individually share what areas were of specific concern and what areas they would like for this committee to cover. Each committee member shared their main concerns and possible issues to consider at future meetings.

Mr. O'Berry stated that any areas of confusion in the mining regulations needed to be clarified. He also wanted to ensure that Sand Mining would not be prohibited.

Ms. Fullerton stated that water quality and quantity were important, mining's effects on wildlife, and restoration when mining is completed. She stated that she would bring in letters that addressed reclamation versus restoration.

Mr. Adams stated that water quantity affects the adequacy of habitat. Habitat reclamation standards should be reviewed to see if they mirror 62C, F.A.C.

Ms. Mouncey agreed with the concerns of previous committee members.

Mr. McLane stated that at the next meeting, he could coordinate an overview of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Mining and Materials Regulation Program and inform the committee about what they do and what requirements are currently in place. He also stated that he could contribute insights and any known changes that are currently in the works but may not be fully in place as of yet. He noted that he would also work with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in regards to some of the information that he would present at the next meeting.

Mr. Sheahan discussed the future meeting schedule, asking if meeting once a month would be sufficient. The committee members agreed that for now once a month meetings should be fine. Mr. McLane asked if the meetings could start a little later than 9:00 a.m. The committee members agreed that all future meetings will start at 9:30 a.m.

Steve Adams, committee member, stated that he would not be in attendance at the next meeting on February 23, 2012. Tracy Mouncey, Chairman, asked if the committee could meet on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. The committee agreed that February 22, 2012, would be a good date to meet. She also asked if staff could look into holding the March meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

Mr. Sheahan stated that he would confirm all schedule changes and reminded the committee that public comment should be taken.

Charles Lee, Florida Audubon, was present in the audience. Mr. Lee advised that this committee

should look into the Area of Critical State Concern Program as a way to help guide the process. He also mentioned that it would be pivotal to have the participation of DEP and other related agencies that would be impacted by the committee's actions. Mr. Lee expressed several concerns with mining in the Green Swamp and concerns with the property after it has been mined. Mr. Lee suggested that the agenda state that mining regulations in areas outside of the Green Swamp may be discussed at these meetings.

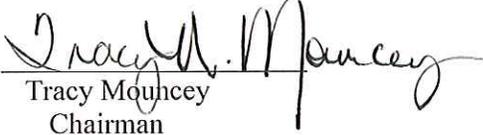
Mr. Sheahan assured the committee that any changes of the Land Development Regulations recommended by the committee must go through the public hearing process and would receive public comment. He mentioned that some of the recommendations may be more practically implemented as a County-wide land development regulation and not just a Green Swamp regulation. He added that staff will go through the proper noticing process and stated that he agreed with Mr. Lee that it is a good idea to add to the agenda that topics involving mining as a whole may be discussed at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aziza Bryson
Public Hearing Associate



Tracy Mouchey
Chairman