



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Chair Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 6 - Chair Tom Jones, Jane Morgan, Donna Pachota, Nick Flerlage, Ronald Courtney and David M. Stone

Absent 1 - George Davis

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Fred Fraize, Stormwater Engineer James Clinch, and Recording Secretary Adrian Jimenez.

III. Approval of Minutes

[18-3537](#) Minutes of the June 27, 2018 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Pachota, seconded by Ms. Morgan, that the Minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. New Business - Red Tide Forum

[18-3546](#) Dr. Ron Musselman, PhD Chemist

Dr. Ron Musselman, PH D Chemist, provided a presentation to include factors affecting Red Tide, brief survey of various plankton, history of *Karenia Brevis*, sources of nutrients, fertilizer regulations, anomalous years, plankton organizational chart, *Brevis* concentrations 1995-2018, growth rate of *Brevis* cells, fertilizer retention, summary of land-based nutrients, temperature of *Brevis* blooms, conclusion of Red Tide, and resources, answered board questions on propel, ocean currents and winds, baffle layouts, toxins, diatoms, nutrients, pesticides, Gulf of Mexico, prediction, Science Daily article, excess fertilizer, septic tanks, data from previous years, and downside to feeding diatoms.

The board congratulated James Clinch on his promotion to director of

public works.

[18-3547](#)

Alan Jones, Jones Potato Farm, 2016 Agricultural Environmental Leadership Award Recipient

Alan Jones, Jones Potato Farm, provided a presentation to include implementing best management plans (BMP) for offsite nutrient reduction, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), carbon footprint, harmful algae blooms (HAB), nutrients, excessive nutrient growth, watersheds, northern and southern everglades, retention areas, Lake Okeechobee inflow chart, agricultural proactive roles, water management districts, Facilitating Agriculture Resource Management System (FARMS), agricultural land enrolled in BMP programs, community outreach, water storage project, habitual nutrients loading focal points, implementing a BMP plan for all communities, takeaways, answered board questions regarding identifying percentage of commercial to residential effects, concerns of industries, and safety of drinking water.

[18-3548](#)

Dr. Randy Edwards, PhD Marine Science

Dr. Randy Edwards, PhD Marine Science, spoke on fertilization bans, scientific basis, nutrient effects, BMP, false promises, nutrient levels, effects on marine life, coastal nutrients, Red Tide blooms, Gulf of Mexico promises, MOTE Marine, research grants, private organizations, and political funding.

[18-3549](#)

Mac Carraway, Green Business Consultant

Mac Carraway, Green Business Consultant, provided a presentation to include environmental research and education foundation (EREF), history of EREF, positive assessment of current water quality, evidence based on nutrients, overview of fertilizer regulation, nutrient management success stories, Clean Water Act, blackouts in Southwest Florida (SWF), science and the evidence, Pinellas and Sarasota Red Tide, phosphorus, nitrogen, fertilizer bans, independent testing on specific sources, Green Industry, increased funding, and increased educational efforts.

Mr. Stone requested copies of all presentations be provided to board members.

Mr. Carraway answered board questions on testing, nutrient controls, natural phosphorus, nitrogen, blackouts on grass clippings, water contribution, St. Augustine grass, and alternative grass.

The meeting was in recess from 2:39 p.m. until 2:43 p.m.

V. Unfinished Business

[18-3377](#) Discussion on "Skip the Straw" Program

Ms. Pachota provided an update on Skip the Straw program, plastic straws, metal straws, steel straws, paper straws, requesting straws only, Venice and Nokomis on paper straws, and damage of marine life.

Discussion took place on awareness, cost, effects on marine life, inviting the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce to include an educational program, and volunteers.

VI. Audience Participation

Susan Eckler, Hands Along the Water, spoke on gulf inhabitation, safe and healthy waters, pollution, bans on use of Roundup, history of Roundup, phosphonate, algae blooms, gloeosporia, food supply to Red Tide, and home remedies.

Joe Kehoe, Hands Along the Water and Sierra Club, spoke on Gulf of Mexico, nutrient dumping, ban for residential fertilizer, mandatory septic testing, 100 foot buffers, and food scraps.

Tim Saltonstall, Hands Along the Water, provided a photo of Gulf of Mexico, spoke on Mississippi River, corn farms, nitrogen, nutrient pollution, fishing, Red Tide, irrigation, St. Augustine lawns, alternatives, and lawn clippings.

Rob Merlino, Hands Along the Water, spoke on fertilizer ban, implementation and enforcement, Best Management Plan (BMP), state level, reducing the carbon footprint, and Green Science.

Ms. Pachota left the meeting at 3:04 p.m. and did not return.

VII. Unfinished Business

[18-3247](#) Discussion Regarding Recommending that the City of Venice Waive All Permit and Inspection Fees for Developers, Commercial Construction and Individual Homeowners and to Request Permission to Use Solar Panels or Solar Tiles in their Construction or Remodeling. (Courtney)

There was board consensus to discuss this item at the December 19, 2018 meeting, to include the Sunshine/Public Records Training.

VIII. New Business - Continued

[18-3538](#) Proposal for City Letter to State on Approval of 2010 State Water Management Project

Mr. Courtney spoke on letter to the state on stormwater quality.

Mr. Clinch spoke on recommendations on specific items, incorporation in the Land Development Regulations (LDR), and opportunity on regulations.

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve letter as written.

Discussion took place on 2010 study going into effect as soon as possible, current water quality standards, stormwater testing standards, update to state stormwater design standards article by Jon Thaxton, recommending city council send letter to state legislature requesting the state actively move on and implement the 2010 project, potentially increasing the water management standards for new builds, time lapse since 2010 document, research prior to next meeting comparison of 2010 draft and current standards, recommending letter to go to city council for action, and use of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) as a resource for additional information.

Mr. Fraize spoke on delay due to election, providing a comparison, and level of allowable toxins.

Discussion followed on standard comparisons, establishing credibility prior to recommendation, who would be responsible for providing the comparison, and requesting input from Jon Thaxton.

Mr. Jones stated he would contact SWFWMD for standard comparison and report back to the board at the December meeting.

Mr. Courtney withdrew his motion.

[18-3539](#)

Proposal for City Letter to State on Reinstating State Requirements for Inspection of all Septic Tanks

Discussion took place on council not taking action on sending a letter to the Governor regarding reinstatement of inspections procedures, and board support of reinstating inspection requirements and 5-year inspection program.

Mr. Fraize spoke on council's desire to work with the county and addressing septic tanks currently in the city.

Discussion continued on monitoring and maintaining septic tanks, and septic tank vs. septic system.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones to approve Item Nos. 18-3539 and 18-3542 recommending city council send letters in support of reinstating state requirements for inspections and establishing a 5-year inspection with the amendment of changing the verbiage in the letter from septic tanks to septic systems.

Discussion took place regarding what would be inspected, inspection process during home sales, state repeal of statewide requirements, clarifying the number of septic tanks at 6,000 instead of 8,000, whether to present specific recommendations to city council, and licensed contractors conducting inspections.

Mr. Jones restated his motion to approve Item Nos. 18-3539 and 18-3542 recommending city council send letters for county inspection and state requirement of inspections of all septic tanks. Mr. Stone seconded the motion with the provision that the number of tanks be amended from over 8,000 to approximately 6,000. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[18-3542](#)

Proposal for City Letter to County on Establishing a Five Year Inspection of all Septic Tanks

This item was discussed under Item No. 18-3539.

[18-3540](#)

Proposal that the Planning Commission place Florida Friendly Landscaping for all New Developments for Open Space and Resident Yards

Mr. Courtney spoke on land development codes, homeowner association (HOA) recommendations, Sawgrass, alternative grass, and Florida Friendly Landscaping as an option.

Discussion took place on what is Florida Friendly landscaping, St. Augustine grass, curb appeal, suggested topic for December meeting, native background connection, educating new homeowners, and irrigation use.

Dick Longo, 295 Marsh Creek Road, spoke on BMP, medical lighting equipment, UV Water, water treatment, concern on Red Tide, HOA, Central Venice Coalition, answered board questions regarding waivers, education of individuals, and education of rules and regulations.

Discussion followed on attending a Central Venice Coalition meeting, HOAs, Architectural Review Board (ARB), Sawgrass, and landscaping seminar.

There was consensus that Item Nos. 18-3540 and 18-3541 be postponed to study and review for the December 19, 2018 meeting.

[18-3541](#)

Proposal that the city send a invitation for all existing HOA's to work jointly with the Environmental Board in developing an educational program for new residents to promote Florida Friendly Landscaping and Water Management. Also to encourage existing HOA's to adjust their community wide standards for Florida Friendly Landscape

This item was discussed under Item No. 18-3540.

[18-3543](#)

Consider Enforcement of Section 54-5, Hauling Solid Waste, Code of Ordinances (Stone)

There was consensus to discuss this item at the December 19, 2018 meeting.

IX. Updates

There were none.

X. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

XI. Board Discussion

There was none.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary