

Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request

Attachment # 1
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Agenda Item for: March 28, 1995
Date: March 23, 1995
TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Howard Pardue, Director, Growth and Environmental Management
SUBJECT: Tallahassee-Leon County Area Science Advisory Committee

Statement of Issue:

Creation of a Science Advisory Committee to review recent scientific research on Lakes in Leon County.

Background:

Pursuant to policies 2.2.6, 2.2.7, and 2.2.11 of the Conservation Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan and citizen concern about the conditions of lakes in Leon County, the Board of County Commissioners established a water quality monitoring program. It was implemented through a contract between the County and FSU. Research is conducted under the direction of Dr. Robert J. Livingston, Professor, Biology Department.

Based on reports produced under the first three years of research, the County and FSU co-hosted a Symposium on Leon's Lakes in December 1994. Media coverage of the research reports, current drinking water and flooding issues, and the Symposium resulted in public and Commission concern about the condition of lakes and groundwater. At the urging of Commissioner Host (Attachment 1), the Commission directed staff to develop an agenda request for the establishment of a Science Advisory Committee charged to review scientific and technical information developed to date and for the Chairman to inquire as to City interest in participation in a Mayor-Chair meeting.

Analysis:

In keeping with Commissioner Host's suggestion, the purpose of the Science Advisory Committee would be to:

1. Review and synthesize scientific findings and conclusions of county sponsored and other published research and determine adequacy and soundness of methods and results from the research.

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2. Prepare statements of consensus on conclusions, findings, and implications, as appropriate, from this review as to the ecological condition of lakes, groundwater, and environmental resources and on the impact of urbanization on natural features.
3. Recommend directions for future research by county agencies and through the water quality monitoring program.
4. Suggest policy changes, management strategies, and needed programs to better address current environmental problems related to the water quality monitoring program.

Given the scientific nature of the research, a list of likely candidates who have some knowledge of the water quality program and established credentials in the scientific community is included in Attachment 2. Individuals were identified based on their having a Ph.D. degree in a relevant field, having conducted and published creditable research, and currently serving in a scientific capacity. These individuals have not been contacted to determine their interest in participation in such a Committee.

Options:

1. Approve the concept for establishing a seven member committee. Review and, as appropriate, give staff direction on the above stated purposes of the Committee.
2.
 - a. Review names of suggested Committee participants (Attachment 2) and select possible participants. Direct staff to contact participants to determine the possibility of their participation.
 - b. Provide staff additional direction as to names of possible Committee participants.
3. Do not approve the concept of a Science Advisory Committee to review existing research on water quality monitoring in Leon County's lakes.

Recommendation:

Implement Options 1. and 2. a.

PA/HP/HS/sc

- Attachments: 1. February 16, 1995, Memorandum from Commissioner Host
2. Possible Participants on Science Advisory Committee