

MEETING M I N U T E S  
Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee  
May 7, 2013  
Marathon Government Center, BOCC Chambers,  
Marathon, FL

Members Present

Vicki Boguszewski  
Cooperative  
Bill Hunter  
Don Riggs  
Bob Glazer

Members Not Present

Annalise Mannix (Chair)  
Chris Bergh (Vice Chair)  
Manager  
Harry Appel  
John Forrer  
Kelly McKinnon  
Chuck Sherman  
David Tuttle

Advisory Agency Representatives:

TJ Patterson, FL Keys Electric

BOCC

Sylvia Murphy, Liaison

Staff Present

Rhonda Haag, Sustainable Program

Public Guests

Dr. Janvier Gasana

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Annalise and Chris were unable to make the meeting. Therefore, Rhonda Haag called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

1. The **March 2013 Minutes** was unable to be approved, since there was no quorum present. They will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

2. **The Relationship between Climate Change and Public Health.** Dr. Janvier Gasana provide a presentation on the relationship between climate change and asthma. Dr. Gasana is a health professional from the South Florida Asthma Consortium.

**3. CAP Update, Timeline for implementation Guide- Monroe County Community Climate Change Action Plan**

Rhonda Haag presented a timeline for the next stages of the *Monroe County Community Climate Change Action Plan*. The County Commission approved the draft CAP at their March 2013 BOCC meeting. The CAP contains 72 action items, which will need to be inserted into an implementation guide. The CAP was distributed to County Staff last week. Comments from staff are due by the end of May to Rhonda. The interns hired by IFAS and the County will assist in the preparation of the Implementation Guide.

**4. Yard Waste Mulching Update**

Rhonda presented an overview of the Yard Waste and Composting Pilot Project along with the possible options, such as incineration, grinding, and composting.

Bill Hunter expressed interest in the different compost options, and also inquired what the different benefits and disadvantages would be for each system. Rhonda replied by giving a brief explanation of the

different methods, starting with incineration within the County. Incineration would be considered for use after storm events and also to process excess volumes of yard waste on a regular basis. The method is regulated by the DEP and a permit is possible in Monroe County. The method uses an iron box and air curtain, which reduces the amount of smoke that gets into the air. Vicky voiced concern for the greenhouse gas emission release from burning. Commissioner Murphy stated that there would be far fewer trucks on the road to Broward and this would save on GHG emissions. It would also be cheaper to burn the yard waste within the county. The County would receive recycle credits for the ash produced at the end. Turning yard waste into compost was another option, using sludge and food products from grocery stores as a mix with mulch.

Don Riggs brought up the idea of a new technology for palm frond composting along with its advantages. It uses portable units and the end product could be sold, though it is quite expensive.

Rhonda mentioned that currently staff is negotiating with the waste vendors. She is also planning a tour of different compost sites in order to see operations of other methods, hopefully within the next 60 days. The end goal of this project is to move forward with the compost program, possibly by using sludge and food products as compost additives.

Commissioner Murphy informed everyone that composting palm fronds is a very slow process and incredibly messy, since palm fronds do not chip.

Bob Glazer stated that there is no separate yard waste pickup for either Marathon or the Lower Keys. Yard waste goes in with the trash. Rhonda mentioned that it is currently not a problem since trash and yard waste all get burned at the waste to energy plant in Broward. However, if we want to start a separate yard waste program in the County, then we will need to have separate yard waste pickup, which the vendors have already said they would do. Bob proposed the County set up an outreach campaign to create a separate pickup for both sites effective immediately, and host public meetings for residents to attend and express their thoughts.

Rhonda mentioned that finding land for compost might be an issue, especially in the Lower Keys since land is not easy to come by anymore. Rhonda also presented the idea of a partnership with Key West for the compost and waste management project.

Vicki Boguszewski inquired as to whether we could add food waste from residents and restaurants to our yard waste pickup for compost. Rhonda replied that there are many regulations, but that they would look into it

Commissioner Murphy inquired as to what would happen if we do not meet our recycling standard for the year. Rhonda replied that it is unknown but will be looked into for further information.

Rhonda informed everyone that this project would be going to the commission for a vote hopefully in June or July. Bill Hunter then inquired as to whether there would be public input meetings before the commission. Rhonda replied that there may be three, one for Lower Keys, one for Middle Keys, and one for Upper Keys.

Rhonda stated the waste contracts for collection terminate in 2 years. It was suggested to issue a solicitation by different zones, meaning vendors can bid on different geographic areas within the County.

Commissioner Murphy mentioned that Marathon and the Upper Keys have family owned companies and have been around for many years. It was mentioned that the waste collectors agreed to buy the recycling bins for all residents, which saves \$1.5 million for the County.

## **5. Canal Restoration Project, Sustainability Summer Projects/Interns**

Rhonda Haag gave an overview on the different projects the new interns would be working on, such as creating an implementation guide for the Monroe County Community Climate Change Action Plan, inputting the organization's energy bills into a database such as facility dude and energy star, creating a sustainability website, etc.

Rhonda presented an overview of the Canal Restoration Project, which is currently in phase 2. First Rhonda gave background on Phase 1, which was the surveying of 23 different canals within a span of 90 days. Under Phase 2 all 502 canals in the County are being surveyed. The canals that have 2 feet or more of muck will be eligible for one of the 10 soil borings allowed under the contract. The most impaired canals will be selected for further inspection and research using different methods of restoration such as culvert installation, weed wrack gates, air bubbler curtains, muck removal, microbes/sea squirts, and backfilling. A list of 15 potential demonstration projects will be selected by the consultant, which will then be narrowed to 5 by the Canal Committee and possibly the BOCC.

There also will be a public Canal Restoration meeting in order to inform the public on Friday May 9 at 9 am in Marathon.

Commissioner Murphy informed everyone about the Funding match by homeowners, which would "help those who help themselves."

## **6. Resolution to BOCC on adaptation action areas**

Rhonda gave a brief overview of the discussion on AAA's from the March meeting, and mentioned that the State legislature authorized Adaptation Action Areas, but did not define what they were.

Vicki Boguszewski suggested that until the State defines what an actual Adaptation Action Area means, the committee can't actually do anything, so there should be no vote on this until further information is provided.

Bill Hunter expressed a desire to actually start this process and to leave out specific labels or places until a clear definition is known.

Rhonda mentioned that if specific grants for Adaptation Action Areas appear, there is not enough information to accurately fill out a grant request.

Commissioner Murphy asked how long you have to respond to a grant once it is made available. Rhonda replied that it is usually a month unless we aren't made aware until late in the process. Commissioner Murphy then suggested there should be a vote to grant someone the authority to designate key areas as Adaptation Action Areas.

## **7. Recommendations for Harry Appel's membership spot**

Rhonda Haag brought to the committee's attention that current member Harry Appel recently resigned, which means a replacement member may be needed.

Vicki Boguszewski nominated Jody Smith Williams and Jill Miranda Baker. Commissioner Murphy nominated Allison Higgins from Key West.

## **8. Direction for CCAC and New Business.**

Commissioner Murphy mentioned the importance of continuing the CCAC, which ends in September. There was then discussion as to where the BOCC voting meeting should take place, and everyone agreed on having the vote at the BOCC meeting to be held in Marathon in September.

## **9. Other Business**

Rhonda Haag set the deadline for nominees at the end of next week. The next meeting will be held July 16, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Marathon BOCC room.

Topics include the direction for the CCAC.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.