

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 04, 2014

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd, John Nelson and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

1. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, and the Minutes of the January 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Session—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input**

2. Citizen Troy Avera congratulated Commissioner Nelson, the Road Department and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick on a job well done on the paving of West Lake and Fanlew Roads. He said this was a good example of heritage and progress at the same time. Chairperson Barfield stated that she attended the Tourist Development Council and there was a lot of buzz about the heritage roads. She also thanked Mr. Avera for his volunteer work.
3. Julie Conley, with the EDC, stated that the Vision action project was moving along nicely. She also stated that the next webinar would be held at 2 pm on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ITEM 5a: Wacissa River Park Committee Report & Recommendation**

4. Teresa Tinker, with the Wacissa River Park Committee, thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and introduced the other members of the committee. She also thanked County Engineer Alan Wise and Dr. George Cole for all of their help. She gave a brief presentation with a visual aid of the headwaters with proposed recommendations. Ms. Tinker stated that the first phase was restoration of the springs which was not a very divisive issue. The recommendations included removing non-native vegetation, putting a short fence around the spring to direct traffic, stabilizing the bank, dredging and cleaning up the boat slip and creating a separate launch for kayaks and canoes. Ms. Tinker said the committee was also considering a boardwalk for safety as a way to separate boaters and swimmers and also to give a place for boats to tie up instead of going into the bank. She stated also that the rules and regulations would be well posted. Commissioner Walker stated that everyone that uses the river was given consideration in this plan and he was very pleased. Commissioner Boyd inquired as to whether or not the Boardwalk would be floating, to which Ms. Tinker stated there were several different designs in mind at this point but it would likely be fixed. Commissioner Nelson recommended that a copy of the committee's recommendations be provided to two local church leaders in the area. Chairperson Barfield stated that she liked that the spring stabilization went from the spring to the steps and also mentioned a possible buoy line to separate the areas. Ms. Tinker requested that the Board approve recommendations today and that she would revise and re-submit the application to the Suwannee River Water Management District to review at their next meeting in order to secure funding. **A motion to approve the recommendations of the committee was made by Commissioner Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Walker for discussion.** Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he was hesitant to join the committee because this issue had been polarizing but he was pleasantly surprised at how productive the process had been and how much positive input

he had received from the citizens, County Engineer Alan Wise and the Suwannee River Water Management District. He also stated that the SRWMD had stated that there was nearly \$140,000 in funding available through current appropriations but that there were other programs and funding sources that the County may be eligible for/able to utilize in the future since they now had a plan. For the initial expenses, Mr. Reams recommended paying for the grant match from the professional services line item. County Engineer Alan Wise echoed the sentiments of previous speakers about how well the committee had worked together. He stated that the boardwalk would need additional discussion. Ms. Tinker requested that the Board approve the idea conceptually today with more vetting and specifics to be discussed at a future meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the revised motion of approving the recommendations as well as the concept of the boardwalk and parking.** Clerk of Court Reams noted that he visited similar parks in the recent weeks and stated he felt the county would be able to have something that would please everyone. County Engineer Alan Wise stated that more progress had been made in the last 4 weeks than the previous 4 years. Dr. George Cole stated he could not say enough about the help from the committee, Alan Wise and especially Clerk Reams and noted that there was great communication between everyone involved. Merry Ann Frisby, Chairman of the TDC, thanked the committee for everything and stated she was looking forward to their next report.

**ITEM 5b: Malloy Landing Attorney Services RFP**

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that three proposals had been received but that he was unsure how to proceed in selecting a firm. He stated that staff could make a recommendation if the Board desired but that he felt a committee to select counsel might be a better option. Commissioner Walker stated there was not enough information at this time and stated that just a list of the names willing to represent the county would suffice at this time. Commissioner Boyd stated that the last thing we want to do is spend scare resources on a legal battle. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to indefinitely postpone the pursuit of legal action related to this issue. The motion died for lack of a second. On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried unanimously, the Board voted to postpone this item until Commissioner Walker was able to bring more information back before the Board.**

**ITEM 6: County Coordinator's Report**

6. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he had nothing to discuss and that he was continuing with business as usual. He did state that he had tried to reach out to the citizen that had issues with her house and that Mr. Paul Henry, and Building Official Wallace Bullock were willing to go to the house.

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

7. County Attorney Buck Bird briefly discussed the jail refinancing and stated this issue would be placed on a future agenda.
8. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he had received many inquiries about Harrell Nut Company and felt inadequate and frustrated he did not know what to tell the citizens. Commissioner Boyd stated that the building had not been completed in time for harvest season, but after this season is complete, equipment would be moved from Camilla. He also noted that some local residents had been hired. He estimated that by next pecan season, roughly the fall of 2014, Harrell Nut Company would be in full swing in Jefferson County.

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9. Commissioner Nelson stated he was confused about the DOT 5-year plan and the draft transportation plan and wanted to make sure everything was in place. Commissioner Barfield stated that there had been joint meetings to prioritize all projects (bike, sidewalks, etc.). Clerk Reams explained that the 5 year work plan was a list given to the City and County and would only change in respect to funding from the legislature. He further explained that the CRTPA was separate and was a comprehensive plan from each county to help lobby for funding.
10. Commissioner Boyd requested any questions regarding Harrell Nut Company could always be sent to him or County Coordinator Barwick.
11. Commissioner Bishop stated he had met with the Building Inspector and Planner about lowering some fees and simplifying the process. He stated there may not be much wiggle room with regards to the fees because most are state mandated. He also noted that the holding pond at the Industrial Park looked more like a lake. County Engineer Alan Wise said this was necessary not only because of the 40 acres but also because of the geography of the land in relation to other private property owners.
12. Commissioner Nelson stated that Aucilla Area Regional Solid Waste had brought an issue to the table to make a \$1 reduction to the tipping fees that would likely be brought to the Board in the future. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams noted that the regional landfill has a sizeable reserve and that it would be prudent to inquire about their future plans. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that about 4 years ago, the reserve was around \$18 million. He said it would be good to see six years of audited financial reports. Chairperson Barfield requested County Coordinator Parrish Barwick to set up a future agenda item for the Aucilla Area Regional Solid Waste and have the Board prepare questions to have answered and also request financial reports in advance to discuss at a future meeting with a representative from Aucilla Area. County Coordinator Barwick stated he would compile questions from Commissioners to discuss at the next meeting and aim to have the Regional Landfill Director at the first March meeting.
13. Chairperson Barfield stated she would like to move forward with the Jefferson County draft transportation plan and requested everyone send suggestions to County Coordinator Barwick so a date could be set. She also noted that Mr. Calandra had volunteered to massage the document with rankings, a narrative and bullet points for easier reading. She also stated there was a citizen interested in purchasing county-owned land on Gamble Road and that item would be brought at a future meeting.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

14. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
15. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

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Chairman