

St Johns County Roundtable Minutes October 12, 2009

ATTENDANCE: 17

GUEST: Jan Brewer, Director of Environmental Division, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

The Board decided to have our guest speaker go first and then we will continue with our meeting after her presentation.

Jan spoke on Growth Management, Wetland Mitigation. It was created in October of 2008 and named Jan the Director in January 2009. She has 20 years experience in this field. Her staff in the Environmental Division are all county employees who are cross trained for better collaboration of staff.

Wetland Mitigation has changed over time. At first they tried to get rid of swamps, bugs, etc. For not productive land, the goal was to drain and build on it. In 1972, the Clean Water Act was passed with the goal to protect the wetlands. Recognizing the value of wetlands, they decided to allow mitigation in the 70's. One on One mitigation allowed for creation of wetlands. The goal was to buy and develop wetlands. In 1984 the Army Corps of engineers created a No Net Loss Rule. If you bought 10 acres to develop you had to maintain at least that much wetlands. The key was to monitor wetlands. The State and Feds passed guidelines to create roads over wetlands. In 2002, St Johns County decided to purchase larger parcels so we can restore and preserve our wetlands. With budget issues the county depends on fed funds to help with purchases. Retention ponds are not wetlands. A question was asked if islands can be developed for birds in retention ponds. That is done thru the developer but they do not like to do it since it means developing more land for the retention ponds.

They are trying to get more trees and plants surrounding the retention ponds so grass clippings and fertilizers do not get into the ponds. Ken Bryan addressed that concern since he is an advisor at University of Florida and that they are coming up with new ideas for retention ponds. He indicated a lot more emphasis is being placed on developers as to wildlife and environmental issues.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES: Motion to approve and carried

TREASURERS REPORT: Our membership lists 46 Homeowners and Condo Associations with 27 showing as not paid. Invoices were passed out to Associations who have not paid to date. Balance is \$2,659.84.

OLD BUSINESS: Membership. We discussed the Board splitting up the list that Mare provided us and contact Associations for membership. Linda Oakley volunteered to help us.

We also again discussed that we will not tolerate rude or inappropriate behavior to our guest speakers or any members.

We also discussed the Constitution and By-Laws of the Organization and decided to discuss more at the November meeting.

We adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is November 9, 2009.