

EnviroShare EvMS External Steering Committee

Minutes from EvMS Steering Committee May 6, 2011

The second meeting of Hall County's Environmental Management System (EvMS) was held in the conference facility of Lanier Charter Career Academy from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Attending:

Horace Gee, City of Gainesville
Marilyn Hutchings, City of Gainesville
Shelley Davis, Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Carroll Griffin, ZF
Paul Cowart, ZF
Andrea Timpone, Elachee Nature Science Center
Margaret Rasmussen, The Redbud Project
Rick Foote, Hall County

Introductions

There were self-introductions.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Moved by Shelley Davis for approval as presented. Seconded by Carroll Griffin. Approval was unanimous.

Before delving further into the agenda, Rick was asked if he could provide a roster of the representatives to the steering committee with contact information. Rick will work to provide this.

Old Business

A. Hall County Environmental Management System—Update

Rick reported one meeting of the steering committee to date, featuring information presented by Bartow County. There are 14 partners at this point, with Gainesville State College being the most recent to pledge support. The Commissioners approved formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee.

B. Earth Day Report

Rick reported on a successful community Earth day event sponsored by the EvMS as well as individual organizations. There were approximately 75 attendees at the event held at Featherbone Community April 20. The program featured a reception with exhibitors and four great panelists with Q and A following their presentations. The theme was "Sustainability in Business." Rick stated the TV-18 video can be viewed on enviroshare.org and the TV-18 websites.

New Business

A. Committee Structure

Rick stated that this committee has no by-laws and that Bartow does not either. He explained he was asked to write by-laws for the Citizen Advisory Committee, and they were approved by the Commission. He asked for thoughts from the committee.

Shelley Davis (I think) suggested it would be helpful to have a roster of committee members with contact information. Rick will develop this.

B. Next Steps

Discussion here concerning Comm. Bell as Champion and his time availability to serve in this capacity. Perhaps another "title" for him? Ruth Bruner and Frank Armstrong were mentioned.

C. Facilitated Session: Development of Mission and Vision

Rick explained that there was a desire expressed at the last meeting to have strong water/lake focus to our mission and vision. Shelley Davis expressed some concern about this becoming politicized and bogging down the committee. We need not to duplicate existing efforts, especially regarding water. Rick felt what we need to do is identify groups, etc. already doing this type of work. He displayed an example of an environmental resource directory developed by the Chamber a number of years ago as an example of something that could be developed as a tool to identify and utilize available local resources.

Andrea Timpone suggested Dale Jaeger be invited to be involved in this effort. Rick stated that he and Marilyn Hutchings had a conference call with Dr. Carol Couch as a follow up to a discussion with her after the Earth Day program. Dr. Couch had suggested involving such resource people as Ms. Jaeger.

Carroll Griffin explained from his perspective to get businesses on board to push this effort forward, you need to find ways that environmental efforts will result in money savings. Recycling needs to be a focus because it is something we can impact locally. It needs to be made easier and cheaper.

Rick explained that he had been in touch with the facilitator, Leigh Askew Elkins, from the Fanning Institute at UGA recommended by Dr. Couch. With the information Rick provided, she was able to get approval to offer facilitation gratis. As to a target timeframe for our facilitated session, Rick stated that Ms. Elkins is available either the last week of June or first two weeks of August. The preference seemed to be for June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Shelley Davis; second by Andrea Timpone.