

Orange County Commission for the Environment

Meeting Summary April 11, 2022; 7:30 pm *Virtual Zoom Meeting*

Present: Kim Piracci, Kim Livingston, Bill Ward, Kristie Mather, Veronica Penn Beattie, Jessie Birckhead, Jaya Nair, Ian Morse, Reade Oakley

Absent: Frank Binkowski, Carrie Fletcher, Jane Harris, Elizabeth McWhorter

Staff: Wesley Poole, Chris Hirni, Amy Eckberg, Kalani Allen

I. Call to Order

Kim Piracci called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

II. Additions or Changes to Agenda

None.

III. Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – March 14th, 2022

Motion by Kristie Mather; seconded by Jessie L. Birckhead; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

IV. Introduction of New and Current Members

The BOCC recently appointed two new members to the CFE and tonight is their first meeting. Ian Morse and Reade Oakley each introduced themselves to the group and current CFE members / County staff did the same.

V. CFE Meeting Location and Time

The next meeting date of the CFE (May 9, 2022) will be the first in-person meeting held since the Covid-19 Pandemic. The CFE discussed the location and times of meetings going forward. Chris Hirni notified the CFE that the only currently available location with Zoom Room capabilities is the Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agricultural Center in Hillsborough. The meeting facility at the Southern Human Services Center will not be available until later this year. CFE members expressed interest in having a longer meeting in order to get more done during Committee Breakouts and proposed extending to a 2 hour meeting. This would be accomplished by starting at 7:00PM instead of 7:30PM and keeping the end time at 9:00PM. Veronica Penn Beattie motioned that, for the time being, the CFE elects to hold meetings from 7:00-9:00PM at the Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agricultural Center from 7:00-9:00PM using their Zoom Room until the CFE votes on a location in the future; seconded by Jessie L. Birckhead; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

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VI. CFE Earth Day / Evening Event Planning – Discussion

CFE members and County staff discussed the potential display / activities for tabling at the upcoming Carrboro Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2022 from 5:00-7:00PM and Hillsborough's Earth Evening on April 29, 2022 from 6:00-8:00PM. A signup sheet was provided and CFE members volunteered which events they could participate in. Each event will have Bill Ward's Flip the Switch table, along with a CFE outreach table and an educational table for children.

VII. Committee Breakouts

The CFE broke out into committee assignments to discuss goals / projects for the year.

VIII. Updates and Information Items

- Kim Piracci discussed the CFE Policy and Procedure updates that are in progress. Once County staff comments have been incorporated, a DRAFT will be sent to CFE members to review for the next meeting.
- Kyra Levau with Orange County Solid Waste Management is a tentative speaker for the next CFE meeting in May. County staff will verify her attendance in light of going back to in-person meetings.
- Veronica Penn Beattie proposed that CFE members each create a "Bio-sheet" so that other members are aware of each other's background, knowledge and expertise. The idea was welcomed by the group so Veronica Penn Beattie will reach out to members by email to help facilitate.
- Chris Hirni informed the CFE that, as an item on the April 5th Business Meeting, the BOCC proclaimed April as Native Plant Month. During the comments and questions thereafter, commissioners requested information and/or updates to the CFE's actions regarding how utility services and the State DOT handle treatments of nonnative species within their Rights of Way. County staff informed the BOCC that the CFE has taken previous initiatives on such, and Chris Hirni discussed the opportunity to "re-awaken" the Orange County Right of Way Task Force, from the January 2020 meeting schedule.

IX. Adjournment

Kristie Mather motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm; seconded by Ian Morse; all in favor: none opposed; motion passed.