

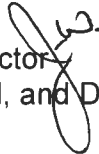


Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

November 11, 2021

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
—AND—
County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development
Services Department 

CONTACT PERSON: David D. Jones, P.E., CEP, Manager
Environmental Protection Division
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SUBJECT: December 14, 2021 – Work Session
Wetland Conservation Areas Ordinance

Orange County's Wetland Conservation Areas Ordinance (Chapter 15, Article X) was last updated in 2008, but has fundamentally remained the same since 1989. Input received during an environmental charrette and other feedback received from stakeholders during the Mayor's Customer First Development Services initiative indicated that updating the ordinance should be a high priority. In addition, some Commissioners have expressed concerns regarding current processes during Board discussions concerning proposed development impacts to wetlands and surface waters. Wetland protections are a very complex issue, and a comprehensive ordinance update will require a series of technical and policy discussions with the Board.

At this work session, staff will present a brief overview of the value of wetland systems, the regulatory framework at the federal, state and local levels that provide for their protection, and an overview of the current development review process and standards for approval of wetland impacts in Orange County. Staff will also provide context on prior direction from the Board regarding impact approvals and how to balance property rights and regulatory takings issues. Finally, staff will present the proposed work plan for the wetland conservation area ordinance update, including goals, stakeholders, process, and schedule.

Staff have engaged a consultant to support this effort with research, data collection, and analysis. It is anticipated that staff will return to the Board in the summer of 2022 for additional work sessions to present a more detailed summary of the state of wetlands in Orange County, summarize the best practices from other local government's regulatory wetland protections, and seek Board policy direction regarding goals for a comprehensive ordinance update.

This item is for informational purposes only; no action is required.

DDJ/JVW: jk