



2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Committee Summary Report

Rights of the Wekiva River and Econlockhatchee River Committee

August 21, 2019
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Eugene Stoccardo, Chair
James R. Auffant
John E. Fauth
Nikki Mims
Clifford Shepard, CRC Attorney
Katie Smith, Assisting CRC as Staff
Jessica Vaupel, Assisting CRC as Staff

Absent Member:

Anthony (Tony) Suarez

Invited Guests:

Steve Meyers
Chuck O'Neal
Nicole Wilson

The Rights of the Wekiva River and Econlockhatchee River Committee meeting was held to further identify related issues and to address any member questions.

Public Comment

The following persons addressed the committee:

- Camille Evans
- Trini Quiroz

Committee Chair Comments

Chair Stoccardo reminded attendees to provide comments during the appropriate time at the committee meetings and advised the public that CRC staff and legal counsel direction is provided by the Chair and committee members. Chair Stoccardo thanked the members and the public for their attendance.

Rights of Nature Presentation and Members Open Discussion

Based upon member input from the committee meeting held on August 8, 2019, Mr. O'Neal presented a revised Charter amendment draft which he explained contained more concise language and broader scope. Mr. O'Neal noted the revised Charter amendment now includes

other aquatic ecosystems such as lakes. Mr. O'Neal provided remarks regarding the Clean Water Act and the costs associated with the proposal as well as the costs associated with inaction.

Member Mims raised concerns regarding the safety of tourists and/or residents who may be unaware of contaminated waterways. Member Fauth provided remarks regarding the four key elements defined in the New York State Constitution regarding the Adirondacks: criteria, boundary, government responsibility and standing, and further, offered textual changes to Mr. O'Neal's revised Charter amendment language. Member Auffant provided remarks regarding costs associated with cleaning waterways. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Meyers addressed member comments regarding standing and referenced three Florida court cases concerning standing and single-subject rule in his letter to the committee and legal counsel dated August 20, 2019. Discussion ensued. Member Mims suggested that the committee look to protect the waterways from future pollution as opposed to try and fix issues from past pollution.

Member Auffant questioned whether he needs to submit a new proposal for Split Oaks. Chair Stoccardo and Ms. Smith advised the new topic would need to follow the written submittal process.

Future Action Plan

After the discussion, Chair Stoccardo suggested that the committee use Mr. O'Neal's revised Charter amendment language, redline the document and bring it to the next committee meeting. Ms. Smith recommended that the committee seek the input of the CRC Attorney regarding the topic.

The members agreed the next committee meeting will be to review the language and make the necessary textual changes. Ms. Smith offered that the members may submit their individual textual changes to CRC staff to be included as back up to the next agenda.

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>.