

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX**

**May 3, 2011
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, Cheryl Sanders – Vice Chairman, Joseph Parrish, Pinki Jackel, Bevin Putnal

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

Call to Order (9:05 AM)

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:05 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Leslie Palmer – Division of Aquaculture – Update on Bay Closure (9:07 AM)

Leslie Palmer, Director of Division of Aquaculture with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, updated the Board on the problems with Vibrio Cholera with seafood from the Bay, especially area 1642. She explained that the type of cholera that is being experienced causes gastrointestinal issues and is very different from the type of cholera in foreign countries. Ms. Palmer said the reason the FDA asked for a recall is because there were numerous cases reported within the area, which is considered an outbreak. She discussed what is being done to try and get the area opened again. Ms. Palmer discussed possible causes for the cholera, including the Corps dredging project that was recently done and a main sewage break in Eastpoint, which flowed directly into the Bay. She said these occurrences would be reported to the FDA.

The Board was unaware of the sewage leak in Eastpoint and asked about receiving notification of this type of issue.

Ms. Palmer explained the efforts that are taking place to re-open area 1642 as soon as possible.

The Board and Ms. Palmer discussed the incubation period, daily sampling and taking meat samples. Ms. Palmer explained that the Dept. of Agriculture is following the model requirements for this type of incident. She said the Army Corps was asked to notify the Dept. of Agriculture whenever they have a dredging project.

Ms. Palmer discussed how the affected people were documented. She also said that the Franklin County Health Dept. reported no cases of Vibrio Cholera.

Commissioner Parrish and Ms. Palmer discussed the rare case of Vibrio Cholera reports in Apalachicola Bay and thought that should be included in the report to the FDA.

Byron Blan commented on a link on the DEP website called "Oculus", which will provide all information for permits within all counties and cities.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there is a date in mind to re-open the Bay and Ms. Palmer explained that it is more important to complete all necessary reports before opening the Bay, but maybe within a week or two.

Commissioner Jackel explained the economic problems of having this area closed.

Commissioner Sanders and Ms. Palmer discussed the recall process and length. Commissioner Sanders stated that Eastpoint Water & Sewer had this same problem during a hurricane in 2005 and she believed they need to be more vigilant with protecting the Bay from sewage leaks.

Commissioner Putnal and Ms. Palmer discussed the cholera existing in other seafood. They discussed low salinity because of the rising water from upstream and also freezing seafood not stopping the cholera according to the FDA.

Chairman Lockley and Ms. Palmer discussed the immune systems of those affected.

Commissioner Jackel and Ms. Palmer discussed what the Board can do to help move the process along. They also discussed the unlikelihood of determining what caused this situation.

Commissioner Putnal and Ms. Palmer discussed changing the way in which the Bay is worked.

Chairman Lockley stated the need for the oystermen to follow the rules so the process is moved along quicker.

Ms. Palmer stated that the FDA now has the authority to close the Bay and recall seafood.

Commissioner Putnal and Ms. Palmer discussed the possibility of harvesting in closed areas which can contribute to this type of problem.

Chairman Lockley thanked Ms. Palmer for attending the meeting and updating the Board on this matter.

Commissioner Jackel asked Ms. Palmer to be available to talk to any of the seafood dealers in attendance at the meeting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to send letters to Eastpoint Water & Sewer and North West Florida Water Management District regarding their sewage leak and asked them to inform the Board of any future leaks and to also be more diligent about avoiding these types of leaks in order to protect the Bay; Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes: April 19, 2011 Regular Meeting (9:42 AM)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2011 regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:43 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the payment of the County's Bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.

Doris Pendleton- Property Appraiser- Property Tax Valuation (9:43 AM)

Mrs. Pendleton will be in attendance at the June 7, 2011 Meeting.

Department Supervisor Report

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director (9:43 AM)

Mrs. Brownell discussed the "tarballs" that were discovered on St. George Island. She said that it is a strong possibility that this isn't from the BP Oil Spill but the Coast Guard took two samples and should have the results back within two weeks. She said the Coast Guard is the lead agency and are out there cleaning up the oil.

Commissioner Jackel explained where the oil was sighted and that it is on one spot on St. George Island based on her investigations and trips walking the beaches there.

Commissioner Sanders and Mrs. Brownell discussed that there were no oil sightings on Dog Island or Alligator Point.

Chairman Lockley asked that the Board and the media be notified of the results.

Mrs. Brownell and Mr. Pierce discussed the need to leave the seaweed that is not contaminated by the oil.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Mrs. Brownell for her actions and communication with this problem.

Mrs. Brownell submitted her report to the Board.

Action Items: None

Information Items:

- 1. Emergency Management, along with Weems Hospital, EMS, Franklin Sheriff's Office and the Franklin K-12 School, conducted a second planning session on April 21, 2011 for an overturned school bus exercise to be held on June 3, 2011.*
- 2. Emergency Management attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on April 27, 2011 in Tallahassee.*
- 3. Emergency Management attended a National Weather Service workshop in Thomasville Ga. on April 28, 2011.*

4. *Emergency Management attended a workshop for Emergency Response conducted by Tyndall Air force Base on April 29, 2011.*
5. *We are still waiting to hear from Liberty County on locations in the Sumatra area that might be donated to the Florida Regional Broadband Alliance in order to construct a new cell tower and increase cellular phone coverage in the central and northern portions of our county.*

Commissioner Parrish and Mrs. Brownell discussed what is being done about the cell phone coverage.

The Board and Mrs. Brownell discussed this same problem on Highway 67. Mrs. Brownell said the main problem was acquiring land in order to construct a tower.

Commissioner Sanders stated that as the liaison for the Tate's Hell area, she will discuss this matter at the next liaison meeting.

Chairman Lockley and Mrs. Brownell discussed the County's storm readiness. Mrs. Brownell said the County is in compliance and they are just waiting to receive their certificate.

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:55 AM)

Mr. Chipman had no items for Board action.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:56 AM)

Mr. Johnson had no items for Board action.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the Lighthouse Estates area had some garbage on the side of the road that needed curbside pickup.

Commissioner Sanders stated that in order to meet grant requirements, funding is needed to complete the football field at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct Mr. Pierce and Mrs. Johnson to find funds, in the amount of \$12,000, to complete the football field at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle;
Motion carried 5-0.**

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:58 AM)

Mr. Mahan was not in attendance.

Dave McClain – ACF Riparian County Update (9:58 AM)

Mr. McClain updated the Board on the ACF water issue and his recent efforts on this matter. He said he was also at the meeting to ask for \$5,000 in funding from the upcoming budget. Mr.

McClain distributed a handout to the commissioners with updated information and touched on a few subjects included in the handout, such as the updated water control manual. He said the water control manual, which tells the dam operators when, how often and how much water is to be released, has not been updated in years.

Mr. McClain said Don Tonsmeire, of ABARK, is President of the overall ACFS and other local members of the caucus are Betty Webb and Bill McCartney. He said at the regional meeting this caucus forced the governing board to devise and finalize an action plan for 2011.

Mr. McClain said he requests funding from each of the six counties in this effort.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. McClain discussed the new government administration's view of the importance of the Apalachicola Bay seafood and the ACF issue, and what has been done to inform the new government officials. Mr. McClain said the caucus members had met with many members of the legislative delegation and couldn't get a sense of what they will be doing.

Recess (10:14 AM)

Chairman Lockley called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:35 AM)

Chairman Lockley reconvened the meeting.

Open RFQ's – Architects or Engineers for Energy Grant (10:35 AM)

Mr. Pierce read the names of the companies that submitted RFQs. He said these are not bids, just qualifications and he recommended that the RFQ's be forwarded to the committee for a recommendation.

The following firms turned in RFQ's:

Johnson-Peterson Architects of Tallahassee, Florida

4M Design Group of Tallahassee, Florida

CRA of Tallahassee, Florida

JRA of Tallahassee, Florida

EMO of Tallahassee, Florida

JWM Engineering of Gainesville, Florida

Mr. Pierce said this is a Federal Government Grant and this will be a lengthier process than usual.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to forward to committee (Alan Pierce, Mark Curenton and Clay Kennedy) for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Chuck Culvert – Weems Update (10:39 AM)

Mr. Culvert updated the Board on the Emergency Room physicians, the search for a new CEO, and the Carrabelle Urgent Care Center.

Mr. Culvert explained that the hospital has asked the current group to replace some of the emergency room physicians and the hospital is in the process of trying to form their own group. He stated that additional staff has been hired at the Urgent Care Center in Carrabelle including someone in Radiology. He discussed renewing the contract for the current physician and adding more staff. He stated that OB/GYN and Urology services have also started. Mr. Culvert stated that there are plans to expand hours to make a better Urgent Care status.

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Culvert discussed recruiting students from the FSU Medical Program to work at the Urgent Care Facility in Carrabelle. Mr. Culvert said that very few students go through the rural rotation process.

Mr. Culvert stated that two of the final four applicants for the Hospital's CEO position were no longer being considered.

Chairman Lockley stated that he was uncomfortable with TMH's definition of local and would like for candidates from Franklin County to be included.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Culvert discussed adding two more applicants to the selection process.

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Culvert discussed the importance of the new CEO living in the County.

The Board, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Culvert discussed his final day, which is next week Friday, and then the interim CEO that will be in place until a permanent candidate is selected.

Commissioner Parrish discussed the importance of selecting a qualified CEO candidate who can guide the County through the Federal and State Regulations to be sure the hospital remains economically viable, especially with the budget issues that the County is experiencing.

Mr. Culvert said TMH understands the fragility of all rural hospitals.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Culvert discussed the operations and funding for the Urgent Care Center in Carrabelle. Mr. Culvert mentioned that Dr. Chumney, from Franklin County has expressed an interest in working part time at the Urgent Care Center.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services Report - Item #7 (10:54 AM)

7- Inform Board that Weems Hospital has spent \$6,279 of Sales Tax Capital Outlay for plumbing improvements at the Hospital. King's Plumbing did the work.

Mr. Culvert and Mr. Pierce discussed this matter.

Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Culvert to have the newly selected Architectural firm to come to the next meeting and meet the Board.

Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Culvert for all of his efforts as CEO of Weems Hospital.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts Report (10:56 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no items for Board action.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services Report (10:56 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1- Inform Board and public that Ms. Doris Pendleton, Property Appraiser, will not be here this morning. She re-scheduled for June 7, and she assures the Board she will be ready then.

2- Provide Board with copy of NACO grant application for community health survey. NACO will announce recipients in May.

3- Ms. Leslie Cox has requested the Board consider adopting a Resolution naming SR65, CR67, and US 98 as ideal candidates to establish pilot project corridors for management of native wildflowers. The state, through Visit Florida, is pushing wildflower tourism and North Florida is a prime area as we actually have a spring flower bloom unlike south Florida. Board action.

Commissioner Sanders asked if this was a result of complaints of mowing some of the flowers when doing road maintenance. Pierce discussed this item further.

Commissioner Parrish stated his hesitation to approve this item until more information is known. He said without regular maintenance the grass gets so high on the sides of the road that travelers have no time to react to animals darting out in front of them.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to table this item until more information is received regarding the plan and also more information on how it would affect roadside maintenance; Motion carried 5-0.

4- Inform Board that FDOT has announced the county has until June 15, 2011 to submit one road for consideration of funding under the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). I have reviewed the grant requirements with Mr. Clay Kennedy. A project must show that it relieves congestion on the state highway system. In our opinion the best project that meets that criterion would be the widening and resurfacing of South Bayshore Drive in Eastpoint and then carrying over and widening and resurfacing of Patton Drive. These two road segments together form a by-pass for US 98 through Eastpoint.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve South Bayshore Drive and Patton Drive in Eastpoint as road segment recommendations for the County Incentive Grant Program; Motion carried 5-0.

5- Board action to rescind the 8 county Resolution where the split of money was based on 1/3 for Gulf Coast exposure, 1/3 for length of shoreline and 1/3 for population and replace it with a split based upon 60% of the funds based on length of shoreline, and 40% of funds based upon population. Evidently this is the way the formula now reads in the federal legislation and this Resolution is attempting to mirror the federal legislation. Neither Commissioner Parrish nor I have great comfort that this most recent draft Resolution will be the last. So long as the Resolution is in keeping with the intent of current draft does the Board want to consider authorizing Commissioner Parrish to approve the Resolution if a final draft comes in before the next Board meeting? Commissioner Washington, Escambia County, is trying to get a final Resolution approved so that he can present it in Washington when he goes on May 10th.

Commissioner Parrish and the Board discussed a few of the problems with the current Resolution.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to rescind the Chairman's signature on the previous Resolution and to authorize Chairman Lockley to sign the final draft of the Resolution after it is approved by Commissioner Parrish; Motion carried 5-0.

6- Airport update. I attended the Airport Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, April 25, to discuss directly with the Committee the following items.

A) Hanger Update- The hanger that is under construction is slowly coming to completion. Upon advice from the Airport Consultant, AVCON, the Committee will re-advertise the availability of the 10,000 square foot hanger and 1600 square feet of office space.

Commissioner Jackel asked if AVCON would still be involved with the renting of the hangar and Mr. Pierce stated that they will.

Commissioner Jackel asked to have the advisory committee check into advertising the available space in the hangar in Florida's Great Northwest Magazine.

B) Advertise for the lease for the Fixed Base Operator (FBO). The current FBO's 20 year lease expires in February 2012. The Committee will advertise for an FBO. The current FBO is welcome to apply but the Committee feels that after 20 years there needs to be an opportunity to review new offers for the airport.

The advertisement for the Hanger and the FBO will be done locally but will also be sent to industry outlets to get a wide announcement. At this time the Airport Manager, Ted Mosteller, and I are looking at the Board opening RFPs for these two items at a June Board meeting. Both items may take some time to review and negotiate so that will provide six months before the current FBO lease expires.

Commissioner Sanders suggested checking that the current FBO is meeting all of the requirements of the current contract.

Commissioner Jackel confirmed that the current FBO would have to present a new plan and Mr. Pierce confirmed that he would be required to have one.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the Airport should be more than it is at this time.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to ask Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler to review the existing FBO contract to ensure that all requirements are being adhered to; Motion carried 5-0.

7- Inform Board that Weems Hospital has spent \$6,279 of Sales Tax Capital Outlay for plumbing improvements at the Hospital. King's Plumbing did the work.

This item was discussed earlier during the meeting.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to discuss what the State told him about Mr. Bill Parker using ramps for deadhead logging. Mr. Pierce stated that the State restricted it because it was destroying the State's boat ramps.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to restrict deadhead logging at Pine Log Boat Ramp; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Parrish stated that issues had occurred at other County ramps and the Board might have to take further action if it continues to be a problem. Commissioner Sanders discussed this problem further.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney Report (11:19 AM)

Attorney Shuler had no report for the Board.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:19 AM)

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

Shannon Hartsfield, newly appointed President of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, addressed the Board on what he is doing to help the association get re-organized. Mr. Hartsfield discussed possible new dates for an election and organizational meeting. The Board told Mr. Hartsfield that they would assist him in any way they can.

Aaron Boyette, of Pro-Steel Buildings, Inc., stated that he has recently been awarded a project with the Franklin County School Board and will be looking for local contactors and labor to

complete these projects. Mr. Boyette discussed the projects with the Board and distributed a copy of the Invitation to Bid regarding the School Board project. He stated that Mrs. Andrea Duval will be the local participation coordinator and can be reached at 850-879-2512. He said he would like to have as much local participation as possible and asked the Board to spread the word.

Chairman Lockley thanked Mr. Boyette for attending the Meeting and said the Board would assist however possible.

Lisa Spooner, of Carrabelle, thanked the Board, especially Commissioner Jackel for her informational emails regarding the 'tarballs' on St. George Island.

Adjourn (11:33 AM)

There being no further business, Chairman Lockley adjourned the meeting.

Noah Lockley, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts