

**Email sent by EPAC member Nam Henderson to Mr. Brandon Kutner**

Good afternoon Mr. Kutner,

As I have already mentioned when we meet I will be seeking to get your thoughts on the Alachua County BoCC's EPD (Environmental Protection Dept). Specifically at our next monthly meeting (this Tues) I will be facilitating a review session on their natural resources division. The stated mission of this division is to "To protect the natural and historic resources of Alachua County and reduce environmental impacts of land development through environmental planning, environmental review, compliance and enforcement, and technical assistance services."

From a reading of your website one gets the impression that you feel, with regards to the development review (planning, compliance) process, that Alachua County is hindering economic development and growth. Do you have specific regulations or types of policies and regulations in mind when you say "cumbersome regulations and permitting processes, stunt economic and residential growth and implement land use policies" which EPAC could focus our review on?

Is your concern specific to their development review involvement or does it extend to efforts of EPD's other divisions, for instance their assistance to the city and other sister agencies in trying to resolve the long standing issues surround the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site? Or their highly successful role (in partnership with other agencies) to address leaking fuel tanks and other hazardous materials?

More Generally EPAC would like to know your feelings on whether

EPD is effective and efficient?

Any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?

EPD acts appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations and in other areas?

EPD's roles should be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)?

What should EPD's future priorities be?

Additionally, what about issues surrounding water pumping diversion from our water districts to Jacksonville or other more urban areas? Would you be supportive of Alachua County joining current Tri-County efforts to protect North Florida water resources? Particularly given recent decisions both administrative and budgetary, at the state level which hamper their involvement in such efforts? Thinking also about issues ranging from historically lower water levels at many area springs to quality concerns re: excess nutrient (fertilizer etc) runoff.

What about the Natural Resource divisions efforts at water conservation education (rain gardens, barrels etc) outreach to schools or ag users re: BMP (Best Management Practices)? More generally with what if at all should EPD consider as it's main area of focus?

Finally, how would you respond to a range of data from last years Alachua County Community Conversations events wherein for instance; 38% (the largest single majority) of respondents

answered "Protecting future water supplies" when asked "Which of the following environmental issues are most important for Alachua County to address?" or for the question "Which core areas do you believe are the most important to the future quality of life?" those who at 21% responded with environmental protection (the second highest response) or those whom to the question, asked during the small conversations breakout sessions "What do you love/Don't want to lose?" (about Alachua County), answered at 4 out of 5 meetings "green spaces", "Natural Environment" and "Environment" as the top result.