

Gus Olmos

Subject: FW: EPD Review for BOCC

From: Dean R Cheshire [<mailto:deancheshire@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:35 PM

To: Bret Whiteley

Subject: Re: EPD Review for BOCC

Bret,

Thank you for your questions; I appreciate you reaching out to touch base.

It is important to emphasize that I have been an avid outdoor enthusiast my entire life. As such, I deeply appreciate Alachua County's unique natural environment, and strongly believe our County's natural resources are treasures we must protect.

That said, I believe environmental concerns should be thoughtfully balanced with economic considerations. We must strive to protect our environment, but we must also remain mindful of how important it is to not create unnecessary barriers for common sense economic opportunity.

In this politically charged environment, I must admit that I am concerned about the nature and timing of this inquiry. I believe the wise decision for me is to continue being a strong advocate for a common sense balance in environmental and economic considerations, while also striving to prevent the conversation from being derailed by specific EPD issues that have recently become so politically charged.

Sincerely,

Dean R. Cheshire

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On Mar 27, 2012, at 9:36 AM, "Bret Whiteley" <bret@westconsultant.com> wrote:

Dean,

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) is currently conducting an oversight review of the County's Environmental Protection Department (EPD), with a particular focus on these questions:

- Is EPD effective and efficient?
- Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?
- Does EPD act appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations and in other areas?
- Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)?
- What should EPD's future priorities be?

A review of EPD was conducted by the Commission about 10 years ago. Given the policy and budgetary changes that have taken place since then, a new review would seem to be timely. We plan to finish our review within the next six months.

As a running candidate would you please respond to each of these points? A number of other candidates have already provided a response. Their responses and other documents are available online @ <http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pages/epac.aspx>.

Please note that I am happy to sit down with you or discuss this on the phone if you prefer.

Yours sincerely,

Bret Whiteley

President

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