

TO: Alachua County Commissioners
FROM: Bob Palmer, Chairman
Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC)
DATE: January 31, 2012

Thanks for filling several vacant EPAC slots at the January 24 Commission meeting. The new members come with very impressive credentials.

I am also writing to inform you of a new EPAC project that was not listed in our September, 2011 Workplan. We have decided to conduct 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 faithfully carry out the Commission's policy guidance?
- 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.

We would, of course, welcome any comments or input from any Commissioner on these matters. Input will also be sought from local businesses and others that interact with EPD on a regular basis.