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PROPOSED COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

June 25, 2003

Here is a proposed list of committees to carry out the work of the Rural Lands Stewardship Council. Committee responsibilities are listed on the next page.

Proposed Committee Assignments

Guidelines Committee.

Committee Members:

Ernie Cox
Mark Glisson
Denver Stutler

Outside Resources:

Cari Roth (DCA)
Walker Banning (DCA)

Pilot Programs Committee

Committee Members:

Allison DeFoor
Chris Doolin
Pam Mac'Kie
Alan Shelby

Outside Resources:

Chuck Hungerford (FL Legislature)

Education & Promotion Materials/ Fund Raising Committee

Committee Members:

Craig Evans
Dave Fisk
Sue Mullins
Don Ross

Presentations, Workshop & Symposium Committee

Committee Members:

Michael Busha – chair

Craig Evans

Val Hubbard

Charles Pattison

Jonathan Steverson

Outside Resources:

Walker Banning (DCA)

Sheri Covin (FAPA)

Tim Jackson (1000 Friends)

Agriculture & Rural Landowner Committee

Committee Members:

Chuck Aller

Eric Draper

Phil Leary

Tom Jones

Peter Spyke

Outside Resources:

Ed Kuester (DOACS)

Concept Refinement/Mission/ Guiding Principles Committee

Committee Members:

Chuck Littlejohn – co-chair

Colleen Castille – co-chair

Rick Drummond

Al Reynolds

Committee Responsibilities

The responsibilities for each committee correspond to the 19 follow up possibilities and 4 next steps identified at the November 2002 meeting of the Rural Land Stewardship Council. For details on this meeting go to <http://privatelands.org/RLSP/RLSP.htm>:

Guidelines Committee

- Determine what actions/elements/components/approaches led up to and made the Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship plan successful.
- Create outline of steps for other counties to follow that will help them achieve their own unique results and develop their own rural planning tools.
- Develop sample guidelines for counties.
- Set up interlocal agreements.

Pilot Program Committee

- Develop pilot program(s) – in cooperation with DCA, DOACS, DEP, DOS, FWCC and the water management districts – to use existing sources of funding to pay for the services necessary to implement this concept in small rural counties.
- There is a good argument in favor of using existing funding sources for this purpose since the funds spent in Collier County to establish the RLSA (which will permanently protect 90,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and result in the retention of another 85,000 acres of open space uses) represent an investment of \$800,000 that, in turn, have an environmental protection value (compared with traditional land protection tools) of \$280 million. Thus, this provides a way of leveraging each public dollar by 350:1!

Education & Promotion Materials/Fund Raising Committee

- The PowerPoint presentation on the Web is good but we need help in explaining the details on what is happening in Collier County. Collier got private agriculture landowners involved from the beginning and moved to a value-added approach rather than just a regulatory approach.
- Several county representatives agreed with Assistant County Manager Gregg Welstead from Lake County and Planning Director Dennis Murphy from St. Lucie County that "This is by far the best concept we've ever seen to address rural growth issues." However, they also agreed with planners Mariah Hutchinson from Highlands County and Clyde Dulin from Martin County who both said, "I can see this is an innovative, imaginative and exciting concept. But I do not have any idea how I can even begin to explain this to my commissioners."
- It is clear that a succinct presentation is needed to describe this concept to county commissioners and planners in a very simple, understandable way.
- A PowerPoint presentation would be a better choice for this purpose than a video.
- Determine how educational materials/information on the Rural Lands Stewardship Program should be distributed.
- Develop strategies for attracting ongoing funding for the RLSC and its work.

Presentations, Workshop and Symposium Committee

- Personal presentations by one or more council members, in concert with Walker Banning from DCA, who are able to meet with county planners and take part in county commission workshops, and countywide symposiums, will be important in cultivating interest in the concept, and explaining how individual counties can adapt the Rural Lands Stewardship concept to address local needs and issues.
- Take RLSA to communities and maximize tie-ins for people who actually live in these communities.

Agriculture & Rural Landowner Committee

- We need help in explaining the details of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and how to deal with it; how do we help urbanites understand what is really at stake?
- Urban agriculture will only become possible if “urbanites” become genuine stakeholders.
- We need a “walking around” list of consequences if agriculture is displaced in Florida.
- We need to articulate the positive roles that agriculture can play in the long-term urban landscape, thereby showing the non-agricultural public that they have a stake in the outcome.
- We need to sell the Rural Lands Stewardship concept to the landowners first, then apply the principles to the government.

Concept Refinement/Mission/Guiding Principles Committee

- Collier is a good start and we need to add other pieces to it.
- We need to move toward a model that has statewide implications.
- We need to develop leadership at the state level with help from this group and then tie in all stakeholders.
- We should not restrict ourselves to only working with state agencies; there are other possibilities -- e.g. Florida Chamber, Farm Bureau, etc.
- What is the mission of the RLSC?
- What are its guiding principles?