

**MINUTES OF THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY
ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018, 2:45 p.m.

ECUA BOARD ROOM

**9255 STURDEVANT STREET, ELLYSON INDUSTRIAL PARK
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**

Members Present: Lois Benson, Chairman
Dale Perkins, Vice Chairman
Vicki Campbell
Elvin McCorvey
Larry Walker

Members Absent: None

Counsel Present: Bradley S. Odom

Staff Present: Stephen E. Sorrell, Executive Director

ITEM 1 - INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prior to the organizational meeting of the Board being called to order, Mr. McCorvey provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2 - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Benson called the organizational meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board to order at 2:47 p.m.

Chairman Benson informed Ms. Pueschel Schneier that she would recognize her to speak regarding a Citizens' Advisory Committee appointment before the at-large nominations.

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion and Vote:

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Dr. Walker, to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM 4 - SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Odom administered the Oath of Office to the following members:

- (a) Lois Benson, District Two
- (b) Dale Perkins, District Four

Chairman Benson and Mr. Perkins thanked their constituents for re-electing them, and commented on campaign issues. Dr. Walker and Ms. Campbell congratulated Chairman Benson and Mr. Perkins, and Dr. Walker suggested a group photograph of the Board members.

ITEM 5 - ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Chairman Benson relinquished the chair to Executive Director Sorrell to proceed with conducting the meeting through the election of Board Chairman. Once the election of Board Chairman concluded, Mr. Sorrell returned the chair to the Chairman.

(a) Election of Board Chairman

Mr. McCorvey nominated Ms. Benson for the Board Chairmanship. There were no further nominations and Ms. Benson was unanimously elected as Board Chairman.

(b) Election of Board Vice Chairman

Mr. McCorvey nominated himself for the Board Vice Chairmanship. There were no further nominations and Mr. McCorvey was unanimously elected as Board Vice Chairman.

(c) Election of Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairman

Mr. Perkins nominated Ms. Campbell for the Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairmanship. There were no further nominations and Ms. Campbell was unanimously elected as Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairman.

(d) Election of Citizens' Advisory Committee Vice Chairman

Mr. Perkins nominated Dr. Walker for the Citizens' Advisory Committee Vice Chairmanship.

Dr. Walker nominated Mr. Perkins for the Citizens' Advisory Committee Vice Chairmanship.

The voting ballots were distributed to members and the votes tallied. Dr. Walker was elected as the Citizens' Advisory Committee Vice Chairman with three votes.

(e) Appointment and Approval of Members to the Citizens' Advisory Committee

Ms. Campbell, District One, reappointed Ms. Debra Benn and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Chairman Benson, District Two, reappointed Mr. Randy Ponson and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Mr. McCorvey, District Three, reappointed Ms. Catherine Booker and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Perkins, District Four, reappointed Ms. Louise Ritz and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Dr. Walker, District Five, appointed Mr. Kevin Hammer and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Ms. Pueschel Schneier, 414 North Guillemard Street, Pensacola, Florida, addressed the Board to express her interest and enthusiasm for consideration of appointment for an at-large position to the Citizens' Advisory Committee, summarizing her background and experience.

Dr. Walker nominated Ms. Pueschel Schneier for appointment as an at-large member.

Mr. Perkins nominated Mr. Chuck Kimball for appointment as an at-large member.

Ms. Campbell nominated Dr. Mike Steltenkamp for appointment as an at-large member.

Chairman Benson informed the Board that Mr. Kafahni Nkrumah submitted an application for consideration of appointment to the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

The voting ballots were distributed to members and the votes tallied. Ms. Schneier was appointed as an at-large member with four votes confirmed.

A run-off was held for the second at-large position between Mr. Kimball and Dr. Steltenkamp. The voting ballots were distributed and tallied. Mr. Kimball was reappointed as an at-large member with three votes.

Chairman Benson expressed gratitude for Dr. Steltenkamp's service to the ECUA and said he contributed a great deal to the Committee.

(f) Approval of Staff Advisor to the Citizens' Advisory Committee

The Board unanimously reappointed Mr. Stephen E. Sorrell, Executive Director, as the staff advisor to the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

(g) Approval of Parliamentarian

The Board reappointed Mr. Bradley S. Odom, ECUA Counsel, to serve as the Parliamentarian and the vote was 4-1, with Ms. Campbell voting against the reappointment.

(h) Adoption of Schedule – Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2019 (Proposed)

Recommendation:

That the Board establish a meeting day and time for the ECUA Board meetings. No action was taken on this item.

(i) Adoption of Schedule - Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Dates for 2019 (Consideration of Change)

Recommendation:

That the Board establish a meeting day and time for the ECUA Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings.

Comments:

Mr. Perkins said 2:00 p.m. was difficult due to his other commitments. He thought 3:00 p.m. could work, but 4:00 p.m. would be ideal. Ms. Campbell agreed that 4:00 p.m. was acceptable and suggested the Board and Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings occur on the same day of the week, with the Board meeting during the week following the Committee meeting. Mr. McCorvey supported the idea for both meetings to take place on the same day, a week apart, and suggested 3:00 p.m. due to concerns for individuals driving after dark.

Chairman Benson suggested the Board initially vote on the time and she echoed Mr. McCorvey's statements on safety concerns; she also supported 3:00 p.m. as the time of the meetings. Chairman Benson noted that 4:00 p.m. had merit during daylight savings time. Mr. Perkins reiterated his preference for 4:00 p.m., but agreed about the safety concerns and agreed to 3:00 p.m.

Motion and Vote:

A motion was made by Ms. Campbell to establish the meeting time for both the ECUA Board meetings and Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings at 3:00 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0.

Comments:

Chairman Benson said she introduced the topic of changing the ECUA Board meeting day because those meetings currently occur on the same day as the Board of County Commissioners and the Pensacola City Council meeting day. She relayed that the local press expressed their difficulty with trying to cover all three governmental meetings on the same day.

Chairman Benson said that in an effort to promote transparency and make the ECUA meetings accessible to the press, she suggests both the ECUA Board and Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings be held on a Tuesday.

Mr. McCorvey concurred with the Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings occurring on a Tuesday and the Board meetings occurring on the following Tuesday.

Mr. Odom clarified that for the 2019 calendar year, the Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings would meet on the Tuesday, a week prior to the Board meetings.

Motion and Vote:

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Ms. Campbell, to set the meeting day for the ECUA Board and Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings to Tuesdays.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM 6 - INFORMATION ITEM

This item did not require any action.

ITEM 7 - OPEN FORUM

Ms. Pueschel Schneier addressed the Board to express her gratitude for being appointed as one of the at-large members to the Citizens' Advisory Committee and she acknowledged Dr. Walker for the nomination.

Dr. Gloria Horning, 310 South Devilliers Street, Pensacola, Florida, addressed the Board to discuss the publication for the appointment and approval of members to the Citizens' Advisory Committee. She also stated that it was a good idea for the Board to move the time of both meetings to 3:00 p.m. Dr. Horning said she hopes Facebook is

implemented soon. She commented on the timeline for boil water notices and said the ECUA staff is knowledgeable and the people were great.

Chairman Benson adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m., however, she reconvened the organizational Board meeting at 3:34 p.m. to recognize the last speaker, Ms. Laura Merritt.

Ms. Laura Merritt, Pensacola, Florida, addressed the Board to request an update on the Forrest Creek Apartments, especially if there was a plan to repair the drainage system due to frequent flooding.

Chairman Benson stated she believed the County had jurisdiction over stormwater projects and Mr. Sorrell verified the information. Mr. Sorrell introduced Ms. Merritt to Mr. Stacy Hayden, Director of Engineering for ECUA, for assistance in contacting the appropriate personnel within the County.

ITEM 8 - ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the organizational meeting of the ECUA Board, Chairman Benson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen E. Sorrell
Executive Director and Secretary

APPROVED BY THE ECUA BOARD
IN REGULAR SESSION ON: 12-13-18
(X) Without corrections/amendments
() With corrections/amendments being: