

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 13, 2007

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Bill Williams, Vice Chairman Jerry W. Barnes, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Billy E. Traylor (entered at 5:09 p.m.), and Nathan Peters, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, E.D.C. Director Alan McNair, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, and Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood.

Chairman Williams called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., E.T.

WILLIAMS ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE/SLUDGE DUMPING

Commissioner McLemore discussed that he requested a representative from D.E.P. and Williams Environmental Waste attend this meeting because he feels that Gulf County has become a sludge dump site for surrounding counties.

Commissioner McLemore discussed the old dump site on Highway 22 and the new dump site that is across from Kemp Cemetery road on Wetappo Creek. He discussed that there have been major violations against Williams Environmental Waste. He also discussed that this land is listed as agricultural, but should be commercial. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Commissioner McLemore discussed that the 200 acres is owned by Dr. Manor in Panama City, and Williams Environmental Waste is the contractor that hauls the sludge to the site (the contractor does not hold the permit). County Attorney McFarland discussed that the Waste Water Plant where the residual sludge is created holds the permit.

<Commissioner Traylor entered the meeting at 5:09 p.m.> He also discussed that the only land you can perform this technique on is agricultural land, and the failure in this system is at the inspection level. Commissioner McLemore discussed that the owner is collecting funds for dumping of the sludge and is also leasing it for hunting. Commissioner Traylor discussed that Williams Environmental Waste stated that they are only inspected once every five years, and that he will be receiving some sludge from Georgia. County Attorney McFarland discussed that this is a big issue about bringing sludge across state lines, and that it cannot be prohibited.

Commissioner Traylor discussed that it may fall under the rule of University of Florida (I.F.A.S.), and if it does, the testing will be on a regular basis. After further discussion by members of the Board, Chairman Williams requested that County Attorney McFarland research the land use in that area. Commissioner McLemore motioned for the Board to send a letter to Representative Patronis requesting his assistance on this issue. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. County Attorney McFarland discussed that the Board can

impose strict regulations.

The meeting did then recess at 5:25 p.m., E.T.

The meeting did then reconvene at 5:31 p.m., E.T.

Greg Smith, D.E.P. Manager of Compliance Enforcement for Water Facility Program, appeared before the Board and discussed that he received a records request for information regarding Gulf County Farms and Gulf Correctional Institution. Commissioner McLemore requested information from everyone that is using these dump sites. Mr. Smith discussed that Wetappo Farms has been a permitted site for a number of years. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding who holds the permits, Mr. Smith stated that the WasteWater facilities hold the permits, not the contractors hauling the sludge. Mr. Smith discussed that the only residual applied at the Gulf Correctional site is residual from that facility. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding a permitted Company from Georgia, Mr. Smith discussed that there is not a permit from out-of-state (that takes special permission). Commissioner Traylor discussed his concern about out-of-state-commerce dumping waste into Gulf County. David Morris, D.E.P. Program Administrator for Water Facility Program, appeared before the Board and discussed that they are not aware of this happening, and stated that it is not allowed. Commissioner McLemore discussed that there are 29 sites that are used for dumping sludge in Gulf County. Mr. Morris discussed that the facilities are permitted (not the site), and that D.E.P. cannot permit an out-of-state facility. Mr. Smith discussed the permit process for the dump sites, stating that the permit lists the site where the residual can be dumped. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding the location of the Wetappo Farms and the inspections, Mr. Smith discussed that the fields are tested once every year. He also discussed that warning letters were sent to Williams Environmental Waste for violations that occurred at his facility. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding how many violations they received, Mr. Smith discussed that there were 28 warnings for Williams Environmental Waste. Mr. Morris discussed that in order to use a site, the facility has to develop an agricultural use plan. He reported that part of the agricultural use plan information required to be submitted is the signature of the owner of the property, which might be part of the problem. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding the violations, Mr. Morris stated if the hauler has a contract with the facility, then the hauler can be held responsible. Mr. Smith discussed that 28 warning letters were mailed out to the individuals that had applied to these sites, as well as the Cities and Counties for the facilities. Mr. Morris discussed that the facility is responsible for the residuals from their facility. Mr. Morris discussed that a crop is supposed to be planted on the residual (failure to do this was one of the violations), stating that the cover crops they were required to have would uptake the nutrients. Upon inquiry by County Attorney McFarland regarding the 1000' set-back from creeks, Mr. Morris discussed that this is being revised, and should be out within the next year. Commissioner McLemore requested a copy of the first permit for the Wetappo Farms site from D.E.P.

SPECIAL PROJECT PAYMENTS

There were no Special Project Payments request at this time.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the special meeting did then adjourn at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**