

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor England
Vice Mayor Kostka
Commissioner George
Commissioner Samora
Commissioner Rumrell

FROM: Max Royle, City Manager 

DATE: March 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Addition to the Agenda: Discussion of Communications Media Technology for Meetings

At your March 20th emergency meeting you voted "to approve conducting meetings electronically or in accordance with Executive Order 20-69 as deemed to be in the interest of public health by the City Manager or his designee" (from the minutes of the meeting).

Since that meeting, the City's IT Manager, Mr. Anthony Johns, and his assistant Mr. Russell Adams, have investigated the types of Communication Media Technology that is available. Attached is Mr. Johns report.

In his report, please note the issues he raises beginning on page 1 and continuing to page 2. He describes the first issue in the second paragraph on page 1. It concerns how to allow public comments when your meetings are held by means of teleconferencing. He describes the second issue in the first paragraph on page 2. It concerns possible staff shortages that would make the teleconferencing of meetings difficult or impossible.

In the last paragraph on page 2, he lists his recommendations:

- That the City purchase a Zoom plan for remote meetings.
- That options for public participation be discussed with the City Attorney.
- That you limit Commission meetings because of possible changes to the pandemic situation or the staff becomes unavailable due to illness or mandatory stay-in-place orders.

Mr. Johns has provided additional information (pages 3-16) for your review.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is that you add Mr. Johns' report to the agenda, and that he present it and answer your questions. After your discussion, you can provide direction to the staff as to the next steps you want taken.

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAX ROYLE, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ANTHONY JOHNS, IT MANAGER
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FOR MEETINGS
DATE: MARCH 29, 2020

Per your direction, IT staff has been investigating Communication Media Technology (CMT) that would enable City meetings to continue without endangering our community during the current situation. After evaluating several products, suggested by the Florida League of Cities or in use by other Cities, IT staff was able to identify a product that would functionally allow the City to continue holding Commission meetings remotely. At present, the product I would recommend is Zoom. It was both one of the more user-friendly programs and one of the more economically priced options.

Public participation was a big issue that other Cities struggled with. The answers varied wildly from allowing emailed comments until 24 hours prior to the meeting start, all the way to opening up everything - email, text, voicemail, pre-recorded video, phone-in, and video conference comments. I would suggest we continue providing public comment in-person as long as we are able to safely provide a physical access point. However, out of concern for the health and safety of our residents, we should offer, advertise for, and encourage the use of additional avenues for comments prior to the start of a meeting such as email or voicemail. I would like to bring the capability to comment through one of the conferencing products to the attention of the Commission. It's a good use of technology for the purpose. Staff also has the capability of opening a phone line, able to handle multiple calls, specifically for dial-in public comment during the live meetings. Both options would require a staff member to attempt to manage. I fall just short of recommending these options due to the issues

with manageability. Instead, I feel very neutral to the idea and think we should present the option to the City Commission and allow them to decide. Although these may prove to be unmanageable, if our Commission would like to try them IT staff is up for the challenge.

Another major issue that our search revealed, was our use of and really dependence on infrastructure in-place at City Hall. Staff would highly recommend that if/when the current situation worsens, that the City should exercise caution about holding regular meetings remotely. Specifically, if we begin to experience shortages in staff or staff is unable to travel to City Hall, it may be difficult to capture meetings. Zoom does allow the recording of meetings, but in my experience, we have often relied on a backup copy or we would have had no recording for the City Clerk to create minutes from. I would strongly suggest that if we experience issues accessing our existing infrastructure, the Commission consider limiting meetings until we are again able to access the physical infrastructure.

I have attached a document from the Florida League of Cities that provided some guidance to aid in decisions related to the executive order 20-69. I do want to bring your attention to the section that states that under the current state of emergency, providing a physical access point may not be possible. I want to point this out not to suggest that we don't allow a physical access point, but instead to highlight that even in the worst case the City Commission is still able to meet and conduct critical business. City buildings could be closed, and emergency meetings would still occur.

IT staff recommendation are: That we purchase a Zoom plan to facilitate remote meetings during the current public health emergency. That we present options for public participation to the City Commission and allow the Commission, with advice from our attorney, to decide which options work for the City and best serve our residents. That plans may need to be modified as the situation changes and if staff becomes unavailable due to illness or movement restrictions that we should limit meetings to necessary business only.



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

Memorandum

TO: Municipal Attorneys & Key Officials

FROM: Kraig Conn, General Counsel
Rebecca O'Hara, Deputy General Counsel

SUBJ: COVID-19 - Local Government Public Meetings

DATE: March 24, 2020

On March 20, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69 relating to Local Government Public Meetings (Attachment 1). The Order suspends current laws requiring that a quorum be present in-person and that a local government body meet in a specific public place. It authorizes local government bodies to use communications media technology (CMT) such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes. The Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and Florida's "Government in the Sunshine" laws, including chapter 286, Florida Statutes. The Order is effective until the expiration of Executive Order 20-52 (May 8, 2020), including any extension.

The Florida League of Cities offers this guidance for municipal attorneys whose municipalities are considering the use of CMT pursuant to Executive Order 20-69 for the conduct of public meetings. Attached are some "suggested practices" relating to available technologies for CMT compiled by the League's Information Technology Department (Attachment 2). In addition to these practical considerations, there are legal aspects that municipal attorneys should bear in mind.

Note that your municipality may have a charter provision or ordinance containing a quorum or other meeting requirements. Executive Order 20-69 does not specifically address charters or ordinances and your municipality may need to address such local requirements by further local action.

If CMT is used, the meeting must satisfy requirements of Chapter 286, including the provision of reasonable notice, being open to the public, and prompt recording of minutes. Executive Order 20-69 specifically notes that CMT meetings must be as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2, F.S. (Attachment 3) This statute addresses procedural matters governing the use of CMT for administrative agency public meetings. Also, while the Executive Order does not require compliance with any state administrative rule provisions, section 120.54(5)(b)2. refers to "uniform rules of procedure", which are found in rule 28-109, Florida Administrative Code. (Attachment 4) Rule 28-109 may provide limited guidance but note that several of its provisions may conflict with section 120.54(5)(b)2. and the emergency circumstances under which Executive Order 20-69 was promulgated.

For example, section 120.54(5)(b)2. provides the notice of a meeting utilizing CMT is to state how persons interested in attending may do so (presumably using CMT – such as a telephone number to hear

the meeting) and is to "name locations, if any," where CMT facilities are available (inferring that no such locations may exist under the circumstances). On the other hand, rule 28-109 appears to suggest that a "physical" address of an "access point" be provided. However, under the current emergency circumstances, there may not be a physical address to attend a CMT meeting. Therefore, because the Executive Order requires compliance only with section 120.54(5)(b)2. and not specifically with rule 28-109, it is reasonable to conclude that strict compliance with rule 28-109 is not contemplated under the Executive Order.

Municipal attorneys should review section 120.54(5)(b)2. and consider the limited guidance in rule 28-109, along with the technology under consideration, in determining how to construe and apply these requirements and provide fair procedures under the circumstances. Also note the attached meeting notices, issued after Executive Order 20-69 was signed, provide for electronic or telephonic open meetings without providing for a physical location or "access point." (Please see Attachment 5)

Please note that Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, relating to Emergency Management, may offer some further guidance. Specifically, section 252.46 provides additional authority for political subdivisions to adopt rules and orders that may deviate from existing statutes and rules.

At a minimum, a municipality planning to use CMT for public meetings should:

- Adopt written uniform CMT-meeting procedures (possibly by emergency order or resolution);
- Include findings or "whereas clauses" that detail the circumstances of the emergency that requires the use of CMT, reference any authorities relied upon for use of the procedure in lieu of usual in-person quorum procedures (e.g., Executive Order, statutes, rules);
- Include procedures for the manner of providing notice of and for the conduct of the meeting, including the manner of and instructions for the meeting to be open to the public;
- Include in the meeting notice an offer of ADA accommodation upon request to the municipality in advance of the meeting; and
- File the procedures with your municipal clerk and make them available to members of the public and news media (post/publish through available channels).

ATTACHMENT 1

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-69

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Local Government Public Meetings)

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued the “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Ashley Moody seeking an advisory opinion regarding concerns raised by local government bodies about their ability to hold meetings through teleconferencing and other technological means in order to protect the public and follow the CDC guidance regarding social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Attorney General Ashley Moody delivered an opinion to me indicating that certain provisions of Florida law require a physical quorum be present for local government bodies to conduct official business, and that local government bodies may only conduct meetings by teleconferencing or other technological means if either a statute permits a quorum to be present by means other than in person, or that the in person requirement for constituting a quorum is lawfully suspended during the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that residents and visitors in Florida remain safe and secure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **RON DESANTIS**, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet at a specific public place.

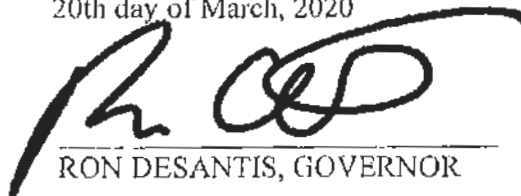
Section 2. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

Section 3. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and "Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws," including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall expire at the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extension.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 20th day of March, 2020


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

2020 MAR 20 AM 9:38

ATTACHMENT 2

Virtual Public Meetings

Suggested Practices

Selecting the Platform

- GotoWebinar, Zoom, Google Meet and Webex are some of the remote conferencing/presentation software packages that are capable of handling meetings. Each municipality should test the capabilities of these packages for itself before making a final selection.
- Required minimum equipment for the municipality: a stable phone/internet connection for each participating official or employee, a physical phone set (or webcam) for each participating official or employee, and a method to merge this virtual conference into any existing TV Channel/Cable TV/web streaming package the municipality may be using (ie. Granicus).
- Required minimum equipment for the public: phone or internet access.

Holding the Meeting:

- The participating officials and employees should all be registered as panelist speakers, where each is given their own unique pin when dialing in, to ensure the software can keep track of who is speaking.
- Before the meeting, plan the mechanics of how you will manage it, such as how officials or staff who wish to speak will be recognized and how to call for a vote (these issues may vary with the type of platform used).
- Members of the public will dial in as a non-participating guest in listen-only mode.
- Provide a means for an official to communicate any technical difficulties that may arise during the meeting.

Public Participation:

Please note: Municipalities have varying policies for public participation. These processes may be impacted by the virtual meeting platform that is selected. Indicate in the meeting notice any ADA accommodations that will be available to those requesting assistance in advance and provide contact information for ADA accommodation requests. Here are some options for addressing public participation:

- Include in the meeting notice a means for the public to provide comments or questions in advance of the meeting. Ensure reasonable time under the circumstances to receive input from the public prior to the meeting. Consider designating a timeframe within which public comment may be received. Incorporate public comment or questions into the meeting record, along with any answers or responses.
- Provide a dial-in number for the public and assign an employee to monitor the number during the public comment portion of the agenda. Make sure the employee is logged into the meeting as a panelist speaker. When a member of the public calls in, the employee can conference the caller in a controlled manner into the virtual meeting, disconnect the caller when his or her time is up, and take the next call.
- Unmute the entire audience all at once during the public comment portion of the agenda. Please be aware this option may be unmanageable.
- In addition to provisions for public comment, consider allowing a live feed of the meeting through available television stations, Skype, or available social media platforms.

Sharing the meeting after adjournment:

- Each software package has the capability of exporting the meeting into a video or audio file that can be shared on your website.
- Since video files may be several hundred megabytes, even gigabytes, it would be advisable to share files like this on Youtube and sharing links to that platform from your website.

- In order to provide closed-captioning to your virtual meeting, placing the audio or video file on Youtube will also allow you to automatically incorporate closed captioning, or use existing methods and processes in place to provide captioning as you would for TV Channel/Cable Broadcast purposes. Please know that this service is unfortunately not perfect and would need to be edited should errors be present.

Challenges:

- This method of meeting is still relatively new. It presents various challenges and requires a lot of coordination. Please start the meeting with setting expectations for the audience, that there may be some kinks, but hope to get better at holding virtual meetings as time goes on.
- Adequate testing needs to be done to ensure audio quality is uniform for everyone participating on the call. This can be challenging if multiple speaker phones are in use, along with others participating from headsets plugged into their laptops or calling in from cellphones.
- Meeting participants should be aware of the noise in their immediate surroundings and mute themselves if there is a large amount of noise present or move to a quieter location. There is nothing more disruptive than excessive noise coming from someone on the call who has not muted themselves.
- Internet connection speed/reliability is a must for any kind of quality audio or video. If internet connectivity is spotty, consider switching over to audio only, or dialing in from a phone.
- Audience members cannot be easily identified in order to unmute them for public comments, and people calling in on the phone are typically not visible at all within the interface. Thus, special care needs to be taken for how public comments are to be made in order to ensure that public participation is reasonable under the circumstances.
- Closed captioning "on-the-fly" while the meeting is session is not currently possible with any of these platforms.

ATTACHMENT 3

Section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes

(b) The uniform rules of procedure adopted by the commission pursuant to this subsection shall include, but are not limited to:

2. Uniform rules for use by each state agency that provide procedures for conducting public meetings, hearings, and workshops, and for taking evidence, testimony, and argument at such public meetings, hearings, and workshops, in person and by means of communications media technology. The rules shall provide that all evidence, testimony, and argument presented shall be afforded equal consideration, regardless of the method of communication. If a public meeting, hearing, or workshop is to be conducted by means of communications media technology, or if attendance may be provided by such means, the notice shall so state. The notice for public meetings, hearings, and workshops utilizing communications media technology shall state how persons interested in attending may do so and shall name locations, if any, where communications media technology facilities will be available. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to diminish the right to inspect public records under chapter 119. Limiting points of access to public meetings, hearings, and workshops subject to the provisions of s. 286.011 to places not normally open to the public shall be presumed to violate the right of access of the public, and any official action taken under such circumstances is void and of no effect. Other laws relating to public meetings, hearings, and workshops, including penal and remedial provisions, shall apply to public meetings, hearings, and workshops conducted by means of communications media technology, and shall be liberally construed in their application to such public meetings, hearings, and workshops. As used in this subparagraph, "communications media technology" means the electronic transmission of printed matter, audio, full-motion video, freeze-frame video, compressed video, and digital video by any method available.

ATTACHMENT 4

CHAPTER 28-109 CONDUCTING PROCEEDINGS BY COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

28-109.001	Purpose
28-109.002	Definitions as Used in this Rule Chapter
28-109.003	Application and Construction
28-109.004	Government in the Sunshine
28-109.005	Notice
28-109.006	Evidence, Testimony, and Argument

28-109.001 Purpose.

This chapter provides the procedures to be followed when an agency desires to conduct a proceeding by means of communications media technology (CMT) or to provide public access to a proceeding by the use of CMT.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97, Amended 1-15-07.

28-109.002 Definitions as Used in this Rule Chapter.

(1) "Access point" means a designated place where a person interested in attending a communications media technology proceeding may go for the purpose of attending the proceeding.

(2) "Attend" means having access to the communications media technology network being used to conduct a proceeding, or being used to take evidence, testimony, or argument relative to issues being considered at a proceeding.

(3) "Communications media technology" (CMT) means the electronic transmission of printed matter, audio, full-motion video, freeze frame video, compressed video, and digital video by any method available.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97.

28-109.003 Application and Construction.

(1) The agency may conduct a proceeding by using CMT and may provide CMT access to a proceeding for purposes of taking evidence, testimony, or argument.

(2) A proceeding is not a CMT proceeding merely because it is broadcast over a communications network.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97.

28-109.004 Government in the Sunshine.

(1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit the agency to conduct any proceeding otherwise subject to the provisions of Section 286.011, F.S., exclusively by means of CMT without making provision for the attendance of any member of the public who desires to attend.

(2) No proceeding otherwise subject to Section 286.011, F.S., shall be conducted exclusively by means of CMT if the available technology is insufficient to permit all interested persons to attend. If during the course of a CMT proceeding technical problems develop with the communications network that prevent interested persons from attending, the agency shall terminate the proceeding until the problems have been corrected.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97, Amended 1-15-07.

28-109.005 Notice.

When the agency chooses to conduct a CMT proceeding, it shall provide notice in the same manner as required for a non-CMT proceeding, and shall plainly state that such proceeding is to be conducted utilizing CMT and identify the specific type of CMT to be used. The notice shall describe how interested persons may attend and shall include:

(1) The address or addresses of all access points, specifically designating those which are in locations normally open to the public.

(2) The address of each access point where an interested person may go for the purpose of attending the proceeding.

(3) An address, e-mail address, and telephone number where an interested person may write or call for additional information.

(4) An address, e-mail address, and designated person to whom a person may submit written or other physical evidence which

he or she intends to offer into evidence during the CMT proceedings.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97, Amended 1-15-07, 6-26-13.

28-109.006 Evidence, Testimony, and Argument.

(1) Any evidence, testimony, and argument which is offered utilizing CMT shall be afforded equal consideration as if it were offered in person, and shall be subject to the same objections.

(2) In situations where sworn testimony is required by the agency, persons offering such testimony shall be responsible for making appropriate arrangements for offering sworn testimony.

Rulemaking Authority 14.202, 120.54(5) FS. Law Implemented 120.54(5) FS. History—New 4-1-97, Amended 1-15-07.

ATTACHMENT 5

Notice of meeting/Workshop Hearing

OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

South Florida Community Care Network

The South Florida Community Care Network, LLC d/b/a Community Care Plan announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: March 26, 2020, 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Webex Meeting Number: (415)655-0003, Access Code: 739 325 830

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: NOTE: Change of meeting location from in-person to telephonic conference pursuant to Executive Order Number 20-69 issued on March 20, 2020. The meeting of the Members is to discuss general matters.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Mary Cronje at mcronje@ccpcare.org or (954)622-3224.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 3 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Susan Mansolillo at SMansolillo@ccpcare.org or (954)622-3232. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

For more information, you may contact: Justin Marshall, Esq., General Counsel, South Florida Community Care Network, LLC d/b/a Community Care Plan, at jmarshall@ccpcare.org or (954)622-3462.

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida Water Management District

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATES AND TIMES: Northern Region: Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m.; Southern Region: Wednesday, April 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m.; Tampa Bay Region: Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 10:00 a.m.; Heartland Region: Thursday, April 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: SWFWMD, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604 (District staff only as currently District offices are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic), Members of the public may view the meeting online at WaterMatters.org and may listen and provide comments via phone at 1(888)585-9008 conference code 551-666-434.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: SWFWMD Regional Cooperative Funding Initiative Public Meetings: Governing Board members will discuss, evaluate and prioritize fiscal year 2021 requests. SWFWMD offices are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public can view the meeting through our livestream at WaterMatters.org. Anyone who wishes to provide public input will be able to do so by calling toll-free at 1(888)585-9008 and entering a conference room number of 551-666-434. This number will allow the public to listen to the meeting and/or provide comments. Additional instructions regarding viewing of and participation in the meeting are available on the District's website at WaterMatters.org or by calling 1(800)423-1476 and requesting assistance.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: WaterMatters.org – Boards, Meetings & Event Calendar; 1(800)423-1476 (FL only) or (352)796-7211.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: SWFWMD Human Resources Office Chief at 1(800)423-1476 (FL only) or (352)796-7211, x4703; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or email to ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

For more information, you may contact: Lori.manuel@watermatters.org; 1(800)423-1476 (FL only) or (352)796-7211, x4606 (Ad OrderEXE073!).

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RULE NOS.: RULE TITLES:

<u>62-330.010</u>	Purpose and Implementation
<u>62-330.050</u>	Procedures for Review and Agency Action on Exemption Requests
<u>62-330.060</u>	Content of Applications for Individual and Conceptual Approval Permits
<u>62-330.090</u>	Processing of Individual and Conceptual Approval Permit Applications
<u>62-330.201</u>	Formal Determinations of the Landward Extent of Wetlands and Other Surface Waters
<u>62-330.340</u>	Transfer of Permit Upon Change in Ownership or Control
<u>62-330.402</u>	Submittal and Processing of General Permits

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection announces a hearing to which all persons are invited.

DATES AND TIMES: April 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m.; April 6, 2020, 9:00 a.m.; April 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: THIS NOTICE SUPERCEDES THE PREVIOUS NOTICE PUBLISHED ON MARCH 11, 2020. Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the Department will hold the hearing by webinar only. Three webinars will be held to allow maximum public participation. Parties can register to attend the webinar via their personal computers with audio by telephone (regular long distance telephone charges will apply) or by speakers connected to their computer (no telephone charges will apply). Parties may register for the webinar(s) at the following links:

April 2, 2020 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1772606663095311884>;

April 6, 2020 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8648322363657568268>; or

April 10, 2020 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6306465950587781388>.

The public comment period is extended until midnight on April 17, 2020. Public comments and any pertinent materials may be submitted until the end of the comment period as follows: by email to Heather.Mason@FloridaDEP.gov; during the webinars by voice or in writing by typing into the chat box; or by mail to FDEP, attn: Heather Mason; 2600 Blair Stone Rd, Mail Station 2500, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has proposed to amend Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., Environmental Resource Permitting. These amendments streamline and clarify language for regulated entities that would require a State 404 Program Permit after assumption of the State 404 Program. Amendments include incorporating updated version of water management district handbooks, revising incorporated forms to include a State 404 Program Permit section, incorporating a new form, and clarifying that applicants may waive Environmental Resource Permit timelines so that Agency actions can be issued concurrently. Amendments to Applicant's Handbook Volume I include updating form titles, clarifying the process for the landward delineation of wetlands, adding unincorporated appendices for use when delineating the landward extent of wetlands, and providing for the use of state or local authorizations for construction activities in right of ways as evidence of real property interest.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Heather Mason, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Mail Station 2500, Florida 32399, (850)245-8480, Heather.Mason@FloridaDEP.gov.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Heather Mason, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Mail Station 2500, Florida 32399, (850)245-8480, Heather.Mason@FloridaDEP.gov. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: Heather Mason, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Mail Station 2500, Florida 32399, (850)245-8480, Heather.Mason@FloridaDEP.gov.

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

St. Johns River Water Management District

The St. Johns River Water Management District announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: March 27, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Open Voice conference call on Friday, March 27, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. The Open Voice phone number is 1(888)585-9008, Conference Room ID No. 864005056#.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: Submittals for the above referenced solicitation were received on March 12, 2020. Pursuant to Executive Order 20-52 regarding COVID-19 and social distancing,

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: For questions or to receive further information concerning the above referenced solicitation, contact Wendy Cox at wcox@sjrwmd.com or at (386)329-4118.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: Wendy Cox at wcox@sjrwmd.com or at (386)329-4118.

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Gulf Consortium

The Gulf Consortium Executive Committee announces a telephone conference call to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: March 26, 2020, 4:00 p.m. ET

PLACE: This meeting will be conducted via communications media technology (teleconference). Interested persons may participate by telephone via the following: Dial in Number (669)224-3217, Participant Passcode: 865-760-109

Interested persons who wish to participate may also contact the Consortium Manager at Gulf.Consortium@balmoralgroup.us, or (407)629-2185 at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting to arrange for access to be provided to communications media technology at the following location:

The Balmoral Group, 165 Lincoln Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

Please note that in light of the current situation surrounding the COVID-19 virus and to limit public gatherings in accordance with Federal and State directives, interested persons who wish to participate are encouraged to do so remotely via telephone, utilizing the contact information described above.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The Executive Committee of the Gulf Consortium will meet to discuss the status of grant applications and conduct other business at the discretion of the committee. The location of the conference call is The Balmoral Group, 165 Lincoln Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: General Manager at (407)629-2185 or Gulf.Consortium@balmoralgroup.us.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 3 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: General Manager at (407)629-2185 or Gulf.Consortium@balmoralgroup.us. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

For more information, you may contact: General Manager at (407)629-2185 or Gulf.Consortium@balmoralgroup.us.