

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(3)


TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 5, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution appointing Barney
Rutzke, Jr. to the Agricultural
Practices Advisory Board

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor County Infrastructure, Operations and Innovations Committee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney


GBK/uw

Memorandum



Date: April 5, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Appointment of At-Large Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Member

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) appoint Barney Rutzke, Jr. as the At-Large representative to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board as recommended by the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB). Pursuant to Section 2-934 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), members of the APAB serve four-year terms commencing upon appointment by the Board.

Scope

The recommendations and actions of the APAB have a countywide impact.

Delegation of Authority

The proposed resolution does not delegate authority to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County.

Track Record/Monitor

Jerry Bell, Assistant Director for Planning within the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, monitors the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Background

The APAB consists of 13 members representing a variety of agricultural industries:

- Two representatives from the Tropical Fruit Crops Industry of Miami-Dade County, one recommended by the Florida Avocado Committee, and one recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.;
- Two representatives from the nursery industry, recommended by the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association;
- Two representatives from the vegetable industry, recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;
- One representative of the aquaculture industry, recommended by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida;

- One representative of a citizens' association supportive of agriculture, recommended by the Redland Citizens' Association;
- One representative of allied agribusiness recommended by the Dade AgriCouncil;
- One representative of agri-banking, agri-financial consulting, or agri-lending recommended by the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce;
- One representative of Farm Labor, recommended by Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Organizations;
- One representative of the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, recommended by the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District; and
- One at large representative recommended by the Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Section 2-935 of the Code requires that the Board fill vacancies occurring on the APAB. Pursuant to Section 2-933 of the Code, each designated organization shall submit, for Board review, at least one nominee for their vacant position(s), including the nominee’s resume and the minutes of the organization’s meeting at which the nominee was selected. The required documentation for Mr. Rutzke is attached as Exhibit A.

At-Large Representative

Mr. Barney Rutzke, Jr. is a farmer with over 30 years of experience in various aspects of agriculture. He is the owner/manager of the Railroad Nursery, Inc., Caloosa Plant Farms and the Everglades Swamp Tours Airboat Experience. Mr. Rutzke is also the owner of Florida Brand, Inc., a tropical fruit packing and shipping house, and has several years of experience with a family-owned commercial cattle ranch operation, row crops (tomatoes and squash), and tropical fruits (avocados and limes). He is currently the Vice President of the Dade County Farm Bureau (DCFB), the Chairman of the DCFB Environmental Policy Concerns Committee, the Vice President of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), a board member of the Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), and the Chairman of the Hibiscus Bud Weevil Task Force. Mr. Rutzke has also served as Past President of the Miami-Dade Chapter of FNGLA (2018), the Lime & Avocado Committee Board, and the Tropical Fruit Committee Board. He was recognized as the DCFB Family of the Year (2013). The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board recommended his appointment at their November 3, 2021, meeting. Mr. Rutzke’s resume and the minutes of the meeting at which he was selected are attached as Exhibit A.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operations Officer

Barney Rutzke, Jr.

23550 SW 182 Avenue - Homestead, FL 33031
305-245-4595 x 1000 or 305-986-8483 cell

Objective

To serve on Agricultural Practices Advisory Board for the betterment of the Agricultural Industry in So. Dade

Work Experience

- 10+ Years Family-owned, Commercial Cattle Ranching Operation
- 3+ Years Owner, Florida Brand, Inc.– Shipping & Packing House for Tropical Fruit, Avocado and Limes
- 20+ Years Owner, Grove Industry- Avocado and Lime, Tropical Fruit Production
- 30+ Years Owner, Row Crop Farming- specializing in Tomatoes and Squash Production
- 20+ Years Owner/Manager, Railroad Nursery, Inc. – Tropical Foliage and Ornamental Plant Nursery
- 5+ Years Owner/Manager, Everglades Swamp Tours Airboat Experience- Eco Tourism Industry
- 3+ Years Owner/Manager of Caloosa Plant Farms- Plant and Foliage Nursery

Volunteer Experience

Currently Serving on the following Boards/Committees:

- Vice President Dade County Farm Bureau
- Chairman Environmental Policy Concerns Committee, Dade County Farm Bureau
(Overseeing DERM Interim Guidance)
- Vice-President Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA)
- Board Member Advisory Board- University of Fl. Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC)
- Chairman Hibiscus Bud Weevil Task Force

Award Recognitions/Past Volunteer Experience:

- Dade County Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year, 2013
- Past President, Miami-Dade Chapter FNGLA, 2018
- Lime and Avocado Committee Board
- Tropical Fruit Committee Board

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

November 3, 2021

Board Members Present

Sam Accursio (Chair), Erik Tietig (V. Chair), Larry Caudle, Marc Ellenby, Martin Motes, Matthew Porter and Tommy Vick; **Via ZOOM:** Ivonne Alexander, Arturo Lopez

Board Members Absent

Arie de Zwart (EA)

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) staff

Mark Dorsey: Planning Division; Charles LaPradd: Consumer Services Division; Felix Acosta, Steve Cobb, and Cleveland Thompson: Development Services Division; **Via ZOOM:** Kim Brown: Planning Division; Edwin Rivera: Code Compliance Division

Other Miami-Dade County and Government Staff

Jorge Abreu: Commission District 9 (Comm. McGhee); Sgt. Frank Fariñas: Miami-Dade Police Department/Agricultural Patrol; Kevin MacEwan: Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services/Florida Forest Service; Teresa Olczyk: University of Florida/ Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/Cooperative Extension; **Via ZOOM:** Raul Nillo: Office of the Property Appraiser

Public Attendance

Gary Dufek; James Pierce and Jocelyn Raso (Dade County Farm Bureau); Laura Reynolds (Conservation Concepts, LLC); Sidney Robinson; Barney Rutzke, Jr.; Dewey Steele (Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida); Michael Wanek (Redland Homes & Farms); Mary Waters

Call to Order

Having recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Accursio called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the October 6, 2021, Meeting Summary.

Reports

Agricultural Patrol Report

Sgt. Frank Fariñas, Miami-Dade Police Department, Agricultural Patrol Section (Ag Patrol) reported crime statistics. For the October 2021 period, Ag Patrol officers responded to 148 cases which resulted in: 13 arrests (10 for illegal dumping), 10 burglaries, 6 thefts, 23 civil citations, 2 animal-related incidents and 14 miscellaneous cases. Three arrests were for equipment thefts, and the Ag Patrol is trying to determine where the stolen equipment is being taken to; they have found equipment stolen from the south transferred to the north and vice versa. He reported one avocado theft by an individual with 75 bushels of avocados, but the suspect escaped and there have been no additional thefts. Sgt. Fariñas recommended that all farmers, nurseries, and grove owners secure their gates, keep equipment out of site, and inspect their property daily. Board Member Motes commented on illegal truck parking and said illegal activities are also taking place on these sites, and it is not a zoning matter but a criminal act. Sgt. Fariñas replied that the illegal dumping unit will address his concerns and can be reached at 305-471-TIPS (305-471-8477). Chair Accursio described a pile of dumped material and said he has called the Ag Patrol and 3-1-1, and had not received a response, but the pile keeps growing. Sgt. Fariñas replied that he would follow up with the investigator.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the November 3, 2021, Agricultural Practices Advisory Board meeting was held both "in-person" and "virtually" via Zoom.

Chair's Report

Chair Accursio reported that a county commissioner had said it would be more beneficial to develop the 800-acre "South Dade Logistics & Technology District" (CDMP20210003) because of the pollution farmers are doing to the property and Biscayne Bay. It was hard for him to believe a commissioner would make such a statement, and he asked Ms. Mary Waters to speak on the subject. He said DERM is claiming that all farmland is polluted, and developers' attorneys are also stating that farmers are polluting the property when presenting to the BCC. Ms. Waters, attendee, replied that Chair Accursio's comments were true. She replied that Nick Diaz (son of Manny Diaz) has been stating that marl soil is terrible and unable to farm, and that Commissioner Sosa is very much in favor of this project because she believes what she is being told given that Manny Diaz is powerful. She said the Ag Board has to get involved if they want to make a change; the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and others have already commented and have concerns. She recommended that the Board write a letter to the BCC. Dr. Steven Green, virtual attendee, commented that (attorney) Pedro Gassant of Holland & Knight made numerous inaccurate statements regarding agriculture, such as paving the property would save Biscayne Bay from all the pollution caused by agriculture. He said there has been no counter to this argument, the BCC has no knowledge of, nor have expressed any interest in learning, agriculture.

Ms. Laura Reynolds, attendee, represents the "Hold the Line" coalition and encouraged the Board to correct the record that marl soil is unproductive, that agriculture is dead in the basin, and that an industrial facility is somehow better than agriculture for Biscayne Bay. She said she sits on the Project Delivery Team for Everglades restoration, and they are trying to balance the health of the bay with agriculture. She said the plan for this area has been ongoing for 10 years and this industrial facility is not part of the restoration plan. She said agriculture has been in this basin for over 100 years and the BCC believes farmers want to sell and no longer farm, but that is not true.

Board Member Motes moved that the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board inform the Board of County Commissioners that the Commissioners have been misinformed about the nature of marl soils and their usefulness to agriculture, they have been misinformed about agriculture's contribution to the pollution of Biscayne Bay through fertilizers and pesticides, and industrial development on agricultural land will do exactly the opposite and will contribute to the pollution of Biscayne Bay and will destroy the viability of two national parks, Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park. Board Member Porter seconded the motion; upon being put to a vote, the vote was 7 to 0 as follows:

Ivonne Alexander	N/A	Martin Motes	Yes
Larry Caudle	Yes	Matthew Porter	Yes
Marc Ellenby	Yes	Tommy Vick	Yes
Arturo Lopez	N/A	Arie de Zwart	N/A
	Sam Accursio, Chair	Yes	
	Erik Tietig, Vice Chair	Yes	

Mr. Charles LaPradd commented that one of the arguments in favor of the industrial project is that agriculture uses a tremendous amount of water for irrigation. However, a consumptive water use permit for a large volume of water does not mean the farmer/grower would utilize that amount of water. He added that irrigated water also percolates back into the aquifer rather than being diverted to ocean outfall, etc.

Board Member Motes amended his motion to include the fact that the agricultural use of water in terms of the majority of water loss to the aquifer, as opposed to industrial uses with putting it into the sewer system where it is processed and perhaps is lost in the process, does not contribute to pollution. Board member Porter seconded the motion. After further clarification, Board Member

Motes restated the motion and moved that the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board inform the Board of County Commissioners that they have been subject to a large amount of misinformation, in part to agricultural practices and agricultural use of land in South Dade, including the lack of viability of marl soils, including the use of pesticides within agricultural land are carefully monitored and applied in a safe and judicious manner, and the use of water which is returned to the aquifer in large part except for what is utilized by the crop, and that it does not contribute to the depletion of the aquifer, and that conversely, industrial use creates runoff to Biscayne Bay, and is potentially filled with all sorts of contaminants, and waste from the industrial site down into the storm sewer system at great cost to the public, which an agricultural use is of no cost to the public, the creation of an industrial site on this agricultural land will in many ways reduce the viability of Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park and is detrimental to the overall well-being of Biscayne Bay and the entire environment of South Dade. Board Member Porter seconded the amended motion (the vote remained unanimous; see above).

Chair Accursio moved the agenda out of order to revisit the At-Large nomination.

Unfinished Business

Vote for At Large Member

Ms. Cristina Rabionet, County Attorney's Office, stated that the Ag Board approved Barney Rutzke as the At-large nominee at its October 2021 meeting, but there was no motion after the voting had concluded to submit the nominee to the BCC, so the Ag Board (technically) did not take any action on nominating a new At-large member. She said the election can be redone completely. Chair Accursio asked for clarification. Ms. Rabionet replied there should be a vote for the At-large nominee, then a second motion to forward the nominee to the BCC.

Board Member Motes moved that the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board elect the At-large member with each Board member casting a single vote for his/her candidate; Board Member Porter seconded the motion. Chair Accursio nominated Barney Rutzke Jr. as the At-large nominee to the Ag Board. Upon being put to a vote, the vote was 5 to 2 as follows:

Ivonne Alexander	N/A	Martin Motes	No
Larry Caudle	Yes	Matthew Porter	No
Marc Ellenby	Yes	Tommy Vick	Yes
Arturo Lopez	N/A	Arie de Zwart	N/A
	Sam Accursio, Chair	Yes	
	Erik Tietig, Vice Chair	Yes	

Board Member Motes moved that Barney Rutzke, Jr. be moved forward as the At-large nominee to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. Board Member Porter seconded the motion.

Ivonne Alexander	N/A	Martin Motes	No
Larry Caudle	Yes	Matthew Porter	No
Marc Ellenby	Yes	Tommy Vick	Yes
Arturo Lopez	N/A	Arie de Zwart	N/A
	Sam Accursio, Chair	Yes	
	Erik Tietig, Vice Chair	Yes	

New Business

Open Burning: Kevin MacEwan

Mr. Kevin MacEwen, Manager, Everglades District; Florida Forest Service (FFS) introduced himself. He said the Everglades District, located in Princeton, includes Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. He said FFS has 2 functions: putting out fires and managing open burning for agriculture in Florida. He said there have been issues with illegal dumping and setting garbage piles on fire, however, they are not responsible for fines. He said there is pile burning—which is the majority of ag burning in Miami-Dade County—and acreage burning. For example, a grower, company, or nursery will call the FFS dispatch center and request an authorization to burn (legal material produced from that property). If the farmer/business has never been issued a burn authorization, the district office will send a firefighter or forest ranger to inspect the property, a compliance check, to make sure it meets setbacks (approx. 300-feet from any occupied structure, 100-feet from the road, and 50-feet from wildlife, woods etc.) based on where the burn area will be located; they will set up weather parameters that would allow the owner to burn to minimize smoke. He said the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) provides enforcement and FFS assists the farmer, nursery, or property owner, and if someone is out of compliance, their job is to educate and bring them into compliance. He said FDACS sets burning restrictions for the State and the district based on local weather/wind conditions. He said farmers/growers do not need a burn authorization, but they generally will call to ask if it is ok prior to burning.

Chair Accursio asked if a permit/authorization is needed to burn jugs, bags, boxes etc. at the end of the day; Mr. MacEwen replied no, that FDACS does not authorize or manage agricultural plastics, which can be burned without authorization. Board Member Vick described the process as he does it regularly. Mr. MacEwen said the Everglades District can be reached at 954-453-2800. In response to a question, Mr. MacEwen replied that the Everglades District in Princeton has 9 employees, several vehicles and, although they are on call 24/7, their office hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturdays. In response to a question, he referred them to <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service> for more information on open burning, and he can also be reached at 954-453-2800.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Mark Dorsey provided pamphlets on "brownfields" as discussed at last month's meeting. Ms. Kim Brown reminded the board that they received a copy of a 'scope of services' from the University of Florida/Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to conduct a County agricultural land study which would help answer the amount of land needed to maintain a viable agricultural industry. She is hoping it will be advanced to the BCC so the County can enter into an interlocal agreement for the study. Board Member Motes replied that he has repeated stated that we should not be counting the amount of acreage in terms of the viability of agriculture but instead the dollars it contributes to the economy.

Agricultural Manager's Report

Mr. Charles LaPradd, Agricultural Manager, asked Ms. Brown if the UF/IFAS study was a land study or an economic study. Ms. Brown replied that it is both. She said the County wants to answer one of the CDMP (Comprehensive Development Master Plan) policies which directs the County to maintain sufficient agricultural land to maintain an economically viable industry, as well as 7 other issues within the scope of services that the County would like to address.

Mr. LaPradd said once the scope of services is approved, UF/IFAS and his office will begin seeking input from growers and the industry. He asked them to be honest and to provide their information as best they can. He reported that at the end of October, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized and stopped all fresh imports of tomatoes from a company in Mexico that utilizes slave/indentured labor. He said there is a little enforced Federal rule/statute that prohibits the importation of any product produced by convicts, forced labor, child labor slavery or indentured servitude, etc. He said the company and its subsidiaries are prohibited from importing to the United States until the conditions are resolved (he believes it is related to

an LA Times investigation 7 years ago which identified companies in northern Mexico operating 10,000 and 20,000 acre farms with no nearby towns or communities).

He reported that the BCC approved a \$1.5 million grant from the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) to work jointly with his office to buy development rights on the southeast end of HARB. He also reported that the Interim Site Assessment Guidelines deadline was October 29 and hoped everyone submitted their comments. He also reported on a bill filed by the State to create a signage program for roadside stands or farm stands. He said it is something they have been working on for some time and is similar to the winery signage program.

Chair Accursio asked how a grower or nursery could obtain beds for their local labor camps. Mr. LaPradd replied that the Homestead Housing Authority (HHA) has two facilities and recommended that the Board request Steve Kirk of HHA to discuss the subject (Chair Accursio replied he will contact him after the meeting). Board Member Lopez replied that the Everglades Community Association (of which he is the chair) is now called Rural Neighborhoods Inc. He said one project, "Casa Cesar Chavez" is for single (employees) and open to anyone and another, "Casa Chavez Juarez," will be built for single occupancy (agricultural workers); he also named two other facilities and said occupancy rates range from 85% to 100%. However, his concern is that the Board/attendees talk about the value of agriculture but fails to talk about how many people are fed via agriculture and the income generated to the State. Chair Accursio agreed and said his farm feeds 60,000 people per day.

Mr. LaPradd said there a lot of housing along the Busway, most of it is income-restricted. He has had growers contact him stating that their full time employees cannot accept pay raises because the income-restrictions would make them ineligible for housing. Board Member Lopez added that Nikki Fried, Commissioner of Agriculture, has re/established the Farmworker Council. Their first agenda will include housing and they will ask Mr. Kirk and HHA to give a presentation. Board Member Lopez believes Miami-Dade County has the best farmworker housing and services available in the State and he appreciates the Board's concerns. Chair Accursio disagreed and said Miami-Dade is behind with farmworker housing and farmers/growers have to jump through too many hoops. However, Board Member Lopez said few counties have a farmworker housing organization, but Miami-Dade does because of Mr. Kirk's efforts; he said some of our commissioners have blocked farmworker housing because they do not want to increase 'low income' housing in the County.

UF/IFAS Extension Report

Ms. Teresa Olczyk, Director, announced an online "Core Pesticides" training with CEU's (Continuing Educational Units) on November 23; also on November 23, Jeff Wasilewski will have "Tropical Fruit Tuesday's" on Annona (sugar apple); and today at 12:00 PM, Barbara McAdams will have a workshop on Monarch butterflies (in accordance with the mayor's pledge to protect pollinators in urban settings). In regard to available positions, in 2-3 weeks she will post a "4-H Youth Development Extension Agent" position (60% State funded; 40% County funded and located at Amelia Earhart Park), and she added that the 'Expanded Food and Nutrition Education' program will have a new leader. She thanked Mr. Mick Gnaegy of Mix'd Greens who donated several trees and mulch to beautify the Ag Center's landscape. She announced the annual "One Night in the Tropics" event for this Saturday and said tickets may still be available; they are expecting 300 attendees and it is also a fundraiser for TREC (Tropical Research and Education Center) students conducting research. Board Member Motes stated that one of his books on orchids will be offered as part of the event's auction/fundraiser, and Ms. Olczyk encouraged attendees to bid on a collection of 10 Polish beers.

Chair Accursio asked if there was someone in-house that monitors the pay rates/scale of agricultural workers; he wants to see how Miami-Dade County compares to the rest of the State. Ms. Olczyk replied there is not, however, she would contact the Gainesville office for more information.

Office of the Property Appraiser Report

Mr. Raul Nillo, Office of the Property Appraiser: Agricultural Section (PA Office), reported as of November 2021 the PA Office has received 879 applications for agricultural exemptions for 2021 tax year (609 timely/270 late applications). He said there are 7,001 agriculturally classified folios totaling 56,262 acres of agricultural land. He said 245 petitions have been filed with VAB (Value Adjustment Board) regarding denial of an agricultural classification. The PA Office requests that property owners or agents provide the required documents as evidence to resolve their denial. For more information, the Ag Section may be reached at 305-234-1454.

Board Member Porter commented that the Board was told there were 56,262 acres of agricultural land last month and are being told the same this month. He asked if the numbers consider the amount of acreage lost on a monthly basis through zoning and development. Mr. Nillo replied that no change is seen because the 2021 tax year has closed. However, as they grant (agricultural classification to) properties via the VAB, the number of acres and folios should increase. He said he could provide the numbers on a monthly basis, but when comparing numbers within and outside the UDB (Urban Development Boundary), he would have to request that data from the Administration. Board Member Porter asked Mr. Nillo to provide the Board with the numbers/data, in written form, prior to Board meetings on a monthly basis; Mr. Nillo agreed to forward the data to Mr. Dorsey prior to the meeting but said it would not indicate any change (in the data) until the January report.

Code Compliance Report

Mr. Ed Rivera, Code Compliance, reported on the truck parking enforcement in the Agricultural area. He reviewed the impetus for the Code change—he said Code Compliance began enforcement in August—and said his report today is similar to a 90-day report. Thus far, Code Compliance has issued 662 tickets on 32 properties. Approximately 119 trucks have been removed, and others (property owners) are seeking agreement with the legal team to voluntarily comply. He said 87 property owners have appealed their citations and the appeals will be heard later this month. He said they have already begun issuing 3rd round tickets: Code Compliance officers issue the 1st round ticket at \$500 per truck, if no compliance or appeal is filed within a given time, they issue a 2nd round at \$1,000 and the 3rd round is \$2,500. He said the County's legal section would determine the next steps after the 3rd round. He also announced a public forum (via ZOOM) tonight at 6:30 PM on commercial truck parking, and he can be reached at 786-236-8689 for more information.

Ms. Brown commented that Board members were encouraged to use drones to document illegal truck parking at the last meeting and said the County cannot use such photos for these cases and in no way encourages such use by the public. She recommended the Board contact Ms. Cindy Hoskins for more detailed information. Mr. Rivera replied that Ms. Hoskins would be at tonight's meeting if they have questions, but they should also seek their own legal advice.

Public Comments/Board Announcements

Mr. Antonio Mena, virtual attendee, asked Mr. Rivera why the property owner with illegal truck parking adjacent to him has not had their CU (Certificate of Use) revoked. Mr. Rivera replied that the referenced nursery's CU was issued by Zoning and has no impact on the ability to store trucks. However, he said the owner has been cited for multiple trucks under the revised Code, and those citations are under appeal.

Ms. Rebecca Elliott, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Office of Agricultural Water Policy (FDACS/OAWP), virtual attendee, reported that the LOSOM (Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual) is in high gear for a final preferred plan selection by the Corps (US Army Corps of Engineers). She said it has been controversial and the Corps is asking for input on a subset of planned model runs they will conduct on November 5 and will announce their final preferred plan by November 16. Afterwards, they will begin work on the operational guidance for the manual and instructions to implement the plan

they select and should have a draft in December. A final draft should be available in April 2022, and once the process is complete a 'record of decision' should be issued by the end of 2022. She also said there are continuing plans for the agricultural drawdown and the next project delivery team meeting is on December 1.

Mr. Jorge Abreu, Commission District 9, announced that Commissioner McGhee conducted a drive through of the Agricultural Area last week with the Illegal Dumping Task Force. He was scheduled to hold a town hall meeting on illegal dumping this evening but is postponed due to the previously mentioned truck parking town hall meeting. However, it is on his radar, and the commissioner is working on legislation to address illegal dumping.

Mr. Michael Wanek, President of Redland Homes and Farms Assn., attendee, recognized RER for citing the illegal truck sites. He agrees with Chair Accursio and Board Member Vick that illegal dumping and illegal burning are closely related. He has met with Michael Fernandez of Department of Solid Waste Management and discussed different ideas such as a direct bill system for people who cannot go to the recycling center, etc. He said Redland Homes & Farms would like to be a part of the solution and not just complain.

Mr. Sidney Robinson, attendee, stated that Mr. Dorsey presented (the staff recommendation to Community Council 14) on an application last week (CDMP No. 20210007) in which the applicant requests to build 309 townhomes homes on 50 acres of agricultural land on the UDB. He was concerned with proposing a high density on the UDB and said the proposed density is inappropriate, and the County should have transitional zoning at the UDB.

Set Agenda

Adjournment

With no further matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Stephen M. Dorsey

Stephen M. Dorsey, AICP, Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 5, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(3)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(3)
4-5-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING BARNEY RUTZKE, JR. TO THE
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD**

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose, and duties of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, section 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County specifically provides for the designated organizations to recommend at least one nominee; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board has recommended Mr. Barney Rutzke, Jr. to serve as the At-Large representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of County Commissioners,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Mr. Barney Rutzke, Jr. is hereby appointed as the At-Large representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board to serve a four-year term beginning on the effective date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner ,
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of April, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Cristina M. Rabionet