



Environmental Protection Board Members
David Wood - Chairman
Thomas Deck – Vice Chairman
Roi Dagan, MD, Charles Garrison, Adam Hoyles
Beth Leaptrott, Clint Noble, Guillermo Simon

Air Odor Noise Committee
Thomas Deck – Chair
Charles Garrison
Adam Hoyles
Clint Noble
Guillermo Simon

Education & Public Outreach
David Wood – Chair
Charles Garrison
Thomas Deck

Water Committee
Charles Garrison – Chair
Roi Dagan, MD
Adam Hoyles
Beth Leaptrott
Clint Noble
Guillermo Simon

Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board Monday, January 18, 2022 MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Wood, Chair
Adam Hoyles
Charles Garrison

Thomas Deck, Vice-Chair
Guillermo Simon
Clint Noble

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Beth Leaptrott

Roi Dagan, M.D.

STAFF/RESOURCES PRESENT:

James Richardson, JEPB Administrator
Cherry Pollock, OGC

Melissa Long, EQD Chief
Terry Carr, EQD Water Branch

VISITOR(S) PRESENT:

Jennifer Casey, DSWCD
Steve Patterson, FTU

CALL TO ORDER

DAVID WOOD

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wood called to order the monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board (JEPB) at 5:00 pm. A quorum was established.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair recognized Clint Noble as a newly appointed member and allowed him to say a few words of introduction.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of December 13, 2021, Monthly Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made (Simon), properly seconded (Deck) and approved by the body.

CONSENT ORDERS

Air/Noise

- None

Water

- None

ENFORCEMENT REPORT

TREE KILBOURN

No updates or questions.

PRESENTATION(S)

- Plans to Meet BMAP Goals by 2023

MELISSA LONG

Chief Long shared information about the BMAP requirements and the process used by the City to comply. She then fielded questions from the members.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- none

COMMISSION & JEPB COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Waterways Commission** – Mr. Hoyles shared the discussions around coal ash resolution they are considering are being sidelined for now, more derelict vessels have been removed and other procedural and budget items were discussed
- **KJB Commission** – no report
- **JEPB Water Committee** – Mr. Carr shared highlights from the branch report distributed with the meeting packet and addressed questions.
- **JEPB Air Committee** – Chief Long shared highlights from the report distributed with the meeting packet and addressed questions.
- **JEPB Education & Outreach Committee** – no report

EPB ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Richardson referred members to the report provided in the packet. He shared that Dr. Sonnenberg will present on the mercury study at the February meeting and a potential schedule for rulemaking for JEPB Rule 3.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION REPORT

Chief Long had no report.

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

- **Funding Request – State of the River Report**

Dr. Gerry Pinto shared information about the State of the River Report and thanked the members for past support. He fielded a few questions from members. Mr. Richardson then shared his staff review of the request, including recommendation to approve the request with conditions (staff report attached). During discussion, members directed Mr. Richardson to discuss future funding with the Administration in hopes that they will add funding for the report to the City's general budget.

A motion to approve the request and conditions as recommended by staff was made (Deck), properly seconded (Hoyles) and approved by the body.

- **Funding Request – DSWCD Natural Resources Education**

DSWCD Supervisor Jennifer Casey shared information about activities that the funding request would provide for and thanked members for past support. Mr. Richardson then shared his staff review of the request, including recommendation to approve the request with conditions (staff report attached).

A motion to approve the request and conditions as recommended by staff was made (Deck), properly seconded (Hoyles) and approved by the body.

- **Election of JEPB Chair**

Mr. Richardson shared that the normal timeline for officer elections was not followed and that elections needed to take place now. The term would be through September 2023. The Chair then opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Deck nominated David Wood for Chair. There being no others, the Chair closed the nominations. A motion to approve Mr. Wood as Chair was made (Garrison), properly seconded (Simon) and approved by the body.

- **Election of JEPB Vice-Chair**

The Chair opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Hoyles nominated Tom Deck for Vice-Chair. There being no others, the Chair closed the nominations. A motion to approve Mr. Deck as Vice-Chair was made (Hoyles), properly seconded (Simon) and approved by the body.

ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

none

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING(s)

- JEPB Committees
 - Air Committee - TBD
 - Water Committee - likely February 28, 2022
 - EPO Committee - TBD
- JEPB Steering Committee - February 14, 2022, at 4:00 pm
- JEPB Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 5:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

STAFF REPORT FOR FUNDING REQUEST
PROPOSED FUNDING FOR STATE OF THE RIVER REPORT
JANUARY 2022

The JEPB Program Administrator forwards to the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board its comments and recommendation regarding the above referenced funding request.

Requesting Organization: Jacksonville University

Project Name: Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns River Basin

Amount of Request: \$296,741.00

Staff Recommendation: Approve with conditions

GENERAL INFORMATION

The objectives of this project are to write and publish the *Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth State of the Lower St. Johns River Basin Report (LSJRB)* and a single-page Brochure that explains the current health of the LSJRB. The Report is a scientific review of the basin's health that is understandable and interesting to the public. The Report will be written by a team of academic researchers from Jacksonville University (JU), the University of North Florida (UNF), Florida Southern College, and West Chester University (WCU). It will undergo an extensive review process including local stakeholders and an expert panel with the expertise and experience in various disciplines to address the multi-faceted nature of the data, and will be published in the summers of 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Key Features of the New Proposal:

This proposal includes several ongoing and new items:

- The tributaries section will be updated with the most recent annual data and advisories so that the public can better assess current conditions and data gaps.
- New information from studies on microbial source tracking will be included.
- An education and outreach section to include K-12 aspects of the project addressing the use of hands-on water quality testing kits for K-12 students, lesson plans, and documentation of outreach, educational, and media activities. Teachers and teachers-in-training will be trained on the use and usefulness of these kits in meeting required curriculum standards, facilitating K-12 students sampling water from LSJRB tributaries in their neighborhoods or in the region.
- This proposal requests support for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Reports, including the Report, single-page color Brochure, Appendix of supplementary data, public website, and K-12 components.

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

Pursuant to Jacksonville Ordinance Code Section 360.601, the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board shall evaluate and consider the following criteria of a request for use of the Environmental Protection Fund (FUND):

1. ***Is this an appropriate use of the FUND pursuant to Sec. 360.602 Ord. Code?***
Yes. Section 360.602(f), Ord Code, provides for the use of the fund to conduct studies, surveys, tests and investigation which are unique and of a onetime nature. The proposed project meets this criterion as it will survey existing conditions and assess the health of the lower St. Johns River basin.

2. ***Will granting of this request reduce the balance of the FUND below \$100,000 as required pursuant to Sec 360.602(f) Ord Code?***
No.
3. ***Is there a sufficient fund balance available to support the request?***
Yes. The estimated balance of the fund available for projects currently is \$365,000.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The Report has been published annually since 2008 and has been primarily funded through the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board (EPB) as one component of the River Accord. It was supported in 2010 by the River Branch Foundation as well.

The topical coverage of the report includes an introduction, and then sections on water quality, including salinity; fisheries; aquatic life; and contaminants, including aquatic toxicology. In 2011, a special section on unusual events in 2010 was published. The Report itself is approximately 346 pages with the complete suite of deliverables including the Report, a color Brochure, an Appendix, and a public website hosting PDF version of all three.

The Report has been disseminated by several methods and its impact can be evaluated by many measures. Every year the Report's release is publicized through JU, UNF and other efforts with print and broadcast media. Each year, the Report has been featured in various media platforms including the Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville Business Journal, Florida Specifier, Mandarin News Line, WJCT (online events and ADAPT series), including First Coast Connect, WOKV, and First Coast News. Findings are released each year at the Environmental Symposium. In addition, presentations are available on request, and venues include area CPACs, MOSH, Jacksonville Science Festival, Earth Day, Beaches Watch, etc.

The Report was also adapted and expanded into a book chapter on the St. Johns River Basin in the 2012 release of the United Nations World Water Development Report 4 (WWDR4), the UN's main publication on global water resources. The St. Johns River case study was the first United States river in the series.

The JEPB funding currently represents 100% of the project costs. At the request of previous City Council's, discussions will be taking place with the Administration to consider including annual funding for subsequent reports in the City budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, it is the recommendation of the JEPB staff that the funding request be approved with the following conditions:

1. Seek approval of an appropriation of \$97,000 to Jacksonville University to provide funding for the Fifteenth State of the River Report to be disbursed per terms outlined in a research agreement.
2. Seek approval of the research agreement
3. Seek waivers of Sec. 111.755 and Sec 360.602 to allow for continued funding of the report
4. Seek exception to Sec. 126.107(g), Ord Code as Jacksonville University will be listed in the authorizing legislation.
5. Seek waiver of Sec. 110.112, Ord Code to allow for the advance of City funds