



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

### COMMISSIONER NICOLE “NIKKI” FRIED

---

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 16, 2020

**TO:** Kelley Burk Smith, Director, Office of Energy  
Tony Morgan, Deputy Director, Office of Energy

**FROM:** Joseph Smith III, Business Process Consultant, Organizational and Strategic Development

**SUBJECT:** Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy November 5, 2020 Virtual Meeting Report

#### **FACCE members in Attendance**

- Jake Leech for Megan Houston, Director, Palm Beach County Office of Resilience
- Doug Kettles, Director, Central Florida Clean Cities Coalition
- Luis Nieves – Ruiz, Economic Development Manager, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Steve Chriss, Director of Energy Services, Walmart
- The Honorable Matt Surrency, Mayor, City of Hawthorne
- Andrew Sauber, Director of Corporate Sustainability, Florida Crystals
- Temperince Morgan, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter
- Tony Guillen, Director of Engineering and Operations, Talquin Electric
- Keith Rizzaedi, Professor of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law
- Morgan Higman, Doctoral Candidate, Florida State University
- Dr. Jennifer Languell, President, Trifecta Construction Solutions
- Jeremy Susac, Vice President of Government Affairs, Lennar
- Patricia “Pat” Steed, Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Sean Sullivan, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Anddrikk Frazier, President & CEO, Integral Energy
- Berdell Knowles, Task Force Leader, Association of Blacks in Energy

## Overview

On November 5, 2020, the Office of Energy facilitated a virtual meeting of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS/department) Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy (FACCE). The GoToMeeting was scheduled from 10:00AM – 12:00PM. ([Agenda](#)) Workgroup participants included invited industry and business leaders ([FACCE Members](#)). Staff from the Division of Administration and Office of Energy leadership were present as subject matter experts.

The virtual meeting focused on water and agriculture issues as they relate to energy within the state. FACCE members participated in a facilitated discussion on the how these sectors can help our state modernize energy policy, diversify energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and create opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens.

Meeting presentations included:

- Welcome and Roll Call, Kelley Smith Burk
- Overview of Chapter 5. Advance the Energy-Water Nexus from the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#), April Grover Combs
- Presentations on Advance the Energy-Water Nexus from:
  - Keith Rizzaedi, Professor of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law
  - Sam Cramer, Program Director, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
  - Temperince Morgan, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter
- FDACS Organizational and Strategic Development ([OSD](#)) section staff facilitated a discussion on Advance the Energy-Water Nexus
- Overview of Chapter 9. Agriculture from the [Florida Energy and Climate Plan](#), Tony Morgan
- Presentations on Agriculture from:
  - Tony Morgan, FDACS Office of Energy
  - Andrew Sauber, Director of Corporate Sustainability, Florida Crystals
- FDACS OSD facilitated a discussion on Agriculture
- Kelley Smith Burk described the next steps to be taken by FACCE
- FDACS OSD facilitated comments from the Public and the meeting was adjourned by Kelley Smith Burk
- [FACCE Virtual Meeting Presentation](#)
- [FACCE Virtual Meeting Video Recording](#)

## Facilitated Discussion on Advancing the Energy-Water Nexus

### Guiding Questions:

- Energy and water are interconnected, yet the permitting processes for energy and water tend to be separate. Should the state look at these permitting processes and consider a more comprehensive process?
- How can the state encourage alternative water technologies and help lower the cost?

### Prioritizing Efforts and Initiatives

- Conservation efforts are the most environmentally friendly measures as those are the kilowatts that never have to be created.
- Efficiency measures are some of the least expense measures to implement and provide significant results.
- Managing soil health in all our spaces will be increasing more important to help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

### Water Conservation and Efficiency in New Construction

- Simple measures in construction can save and reduce water consumption by 40 percent inside the building.
- Simple measures outside the building can reduce water consumption by about 50 to 60 percent on the irrigation side.
- With new construction, there is no additional costs to implement waste efficiency measures. Education efforts on the benefits of water efficiency would be helpful.
- Updates to the Florida Building Code will be required to make these measures mandatory.

### Water Conservation and Efficiency in Existing Buildings

- Existing buildings are hard to modify as many fixtures still work and there is a long payback for new, efficient fixtures.
- Much like the energy efficiency block grants, grants for water efficiency measures would help implement measures that would otherwise not take place.
- Other ways to ensure water efficiency measures in existing buildings include:
  - When a homeowner renovates a certain amount of their house, they have to bring their house or their building up to current code.
  - A protentional option would require an energy disclosure and water disclosure at the point-of-sale for buildings.

### Government Leadership

- Rainwater harvesting at a neighborhood or municipal area level is a low-cost, easy alternative water use solution.
- Currently water systems and stormwater runoff are managed at the local level. Because of climate change, we are experiencing more high-volume precipitation events. The water from these events are not being absorbed into the earth's soil but rather pass through urban areas picking up pollutants before ending up in our bodies of water. Leadership at the state level to manage water runoff could help address algae blooms and provide alternative sources of water.

## Facilitated Discussion on Agriculture

### Guiding Questions:

- How can the state encourage alternative technologies like anaerobic digestion, and help lower the cost?
- How can the state prevent continuation of urban sprawl?

- As the population continues to increase, how can the state support agriculture producers to produce more crops with less GHGs?
- How do we expand electric utility infrastructure in the rural and agricultural areas to help the expansion of electric pumps?
- How do we incentivize use for efficient fuel like propane?
- How do we encourage cover cropping?
- How do we use waste-to-energy facilities more efficiently?

#### Urban Sprawl

- Urban Sprawl continues to be a problem for the state and will require state leadership to solve.
- Analyzing our regional food systems and implementing alternative solutions like urban agriculture should be part of the solution.

#### Balance

- Florida is better positioned in terms of growing conditions for commercial agriculture than many other states. This means we can produce more crops without depleting our non-renewable resources including the water from aquifers. Moving forward, strategies and initiatives that include balance should be considered.

#### Education and Communication

- It is crucial to bring stakeholders together, including both the agriculture and environmental communities, to help them develop a common language in order to facilitate conversations and actions on shared visions.

### Public Comments

In addition to measures FDACS has already conducted for water efficiency, they should also include nutrient conservation goals.

How is and can cogeneration be used in terms of the energy-water nexus?

FACCE members are encouraged to consider the European experience and read reports they have produced on water and the energy-water nexus.

-----

### Facilitators

- Kelley Smith Burk – Director/Office of Energy
- Joseph Smith – Business Process Consultant/OSD
- Hakeem Holmes – Business Process Consultant/OSD