

FEBRUARY 1, 2001 – WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a workshop on Thursday, February 1, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. in the Tourist Development Council's Boardroom.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Chairman Herman L. Walker, Vice-Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Ms. Shirl Williams, Administrative Supervisor, and Ms. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Courts. Mrs. Linda Clark and Mr. Tom Blackshear of the Walton County Planning Department were also present.

Vice-Chairman Rees called the meeting to order.

Mr. Blackshear gave an overview of the Long-range Planning Office, staff and their duties. Some of the duties include overseeing the local comprehensive planning program and reviewing and monitoring Developments of Regional Impact. Other duties include issuing a variety of permits and license.

Ms. Williams explained the process developers must go through to obtain development orders and permits.

Mr. Blackshear explained the Comprehensive Planning Program and cited the Florida Statute that requires preparation of a Comp Plan. He also explained about the history of local comprehensive planning in Florida and the evolution of Walton County's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Blackshear said that Comprehensive Plan Amendments are categorized into large-scale and small-scale according to statutory requirements and further explained the differences. A parcel of property over 10-acres is classified as a large-scale amendment.

He also told about the process that a large-scale amendment must go through before final submission to the Department of Community Affairs.

Mrs. Clark briefed the Commissioners on the application process an individual must go through to apply for a small-scale amendment. She stated that the fee is \$450.00 for a small-scale amendment and \$750.00 for a large-scale amendment. Commissioner Rees questioned if the fee is sufficient to cover administrative costs. Mrs. Clark felt that it is not enough due to the amount of work that goes into the process. Commissioner Pauls felt that the application fee should be sufficient to cover the amount of staff time spent on the process and also suggested making changes on the application regarding required versus optional information.

Mr. Blackshear presented information regarding Developments of Regional Impact (DRI's). Mr. Blackshear stated that certain criteria must be met for a project to qualify as a DRI. Ms. Beth Folta of Seaside addressed the Commissioners regarding changes to DRI's and substantial deviations.

Commissioner Pauls questioned Mr. Blackshear regarding expiration of DRI's. Mr. Blackshear stated that DRI's expire upon build-out; however, extensions can be requested. Commissioner Rees questioned information that was presented regarding the possible elimination of DRI's in the year 2003.

Mr. Brent McBroom, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), gave a presentation on the GIS system and various aspects of information that is contained therein such as soil types, boundaries, lakes, and streams. Discussion followed regarding if soil types could be include on the GIS for abandonment purposes. Mr. Blackshear suggested placing this type of information on a web site for public use. Mr.

McBroom stated that he is currently working on imputing all major and minor arterial roads into the system.

Mr. Blackshear presented a list with areas of emphasis for this calendar year consisting of the following: Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code Revision; GIS Mapping; Enhanced Public Participation/Education; Improved DRI Consistency Review; Develop a Neighborhood Planning Program; Consider Developing a Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements. He stated that SAIC is currently working on the GIS Mapping and the county is working on a capital improvement projects; however, it needs to be in a formalized plan.

Commissioner Pauls suggested removing the unrelated duties out of the Planning Department that do not correspond to the aspects of their job functions such as permit issuance and licensing. He also stated that he would like to see more communication between other counties regarding governmental planning coordination; he also sees no way to track businesses in Walton County because of no occupational licenses and would like to find a way to supplement staffing needs.

Commissioner Rees requested for staff to prepare an executive summary of upcoming issues. He also thanked the public for their input and encouraged future public participation in all county meetings.

Commissioner Pauls requested staff prepare a summary of today's meeting and also requested that any future workshops be advertised as a meeting to allow Board action if necessary.

There being no further business the workshop was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

APPROVED: _____
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts