

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH THE
ALACHUA COUNTY ENERGY CONSERVATION
STRATEGIES COMMISSION

November 25, 2008

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met with the Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission in a joint session duly called at 9 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Kirby-Smith Administration Building, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. School Board members present: Chairman Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman F. Wesley Eubank, Ginger Childs, Eileen Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent; and staff members.

Members of the Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission (ECSC) attending: Penny Wheat, Chair; and Sean McLendon, ECSC staff liaison.

Chairman Pinkoson called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION Ms. Penny Wheat, Chair, Alachua County ECSC, addressed the Board and presented Mr. Sean McClendon, staff liaison, to make the PowerPoint presentation related to 'carbon sequestration' on agriculture, forestry, preservation lands in Alachua County, and energy-related challenges and opportunities facing the community in the future. Also provided ideas and suggestions regarding local energy issues and policies.

DISCUSSION Discussion focused on encouraging the Legislature to reauthorize funding for solar panels and incentives/rebates.

Santa Fe College is currently working with the school system towards the goal of training and certifying young people for energy-related jobs. A suggestion was to begin at the high school level to assist students to develop different career trades in this field.

Mrs. Sharpe suggested investigating available grants for solar panels for some schools. She also suggested the Board begin a high school education course regarding energy audits and take "baby" steps to move in the right direction.

Chairman Pinkoson thanked the ECSC for a comprehensive and motivating presentation and suggested taking this presentation to the schools to inform students on how important it is to get involved, and how to be better stewards of the environment.

Ms. Wheat provided a website for students to become informed:
www.energysmackdown.com

Mrs. Sharpe also suggested the presentation be made to the high school principal group.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.