



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

◆ NOT Required for Public Hearings or Citizens' Comments ◆

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VALUES YOUR PARTICIPATION

Please fill out one form at the beginning of the meeting for each item (**except Public Hearings or Citizens' Comments**) you wish to address and submit to the County Administrator. When the Board comes to that item/portion of the agenda, the Chairman will call speakers to the podium from these forms in the order received.

Please PRINT all information.

Name: DeeVon Quirolo for Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Address: 222 E Liberty St Zip: 34601

Indicate Agenda Item Number: M-1 Fertilizer Ord.

Brief description of your comments:

Support passage of ordinance draft but
recommend motion to revise to include
3 specific loopholes.

Limited agenda time and the need to conduct meetings in an orderly fashion require that you adhere to the following guidelines for Citizens' Comments:

- **A three-minute time limit per speaker will be adhered to.**
- **Time may not be yielded to other speakers.**
- **Discussion cannot include issues acted upon at an earlier date.**
- **The Chairman has the right to limit discussion if the subject is outside of the authority of the Board of County Commissioners or if the discussion regarding an issue is repetitive.**
- **The Chairman has the authority to request Board approval for an extension of time if he/she deems it appropriate.**

**Comments of DeeVon Quirolo, Chair, Sierra Club Adventure Coast
To the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners on May 23, 2023
Regarding the Hernando Draft Revised Fertilizer Ordinance under Consideration**

Good Morning: I'm DeeVon Quirolo. I live in Brooksville and speak as Chair of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

At your earlier hearing on revising the County Fertilizer Ordinance, great progress was achieved on reaching consensus to improve that ordinance to better protect water quality in Hernando County.

Since then, staff drafted a revised ordinance that we reviewed and replied to last week. Our email outlined recommendations supported by Sierra Club Florida Chapter, Florida Springs Council, Save the Manatee, Sierra Adventure Coast and Nature Coast Conservation to strengthen the proposed revised ordinance under consideration today.

We recommended three revisions:

1. Add required minimum levels of slow release nitrogen levels;
2. Tweak the language on phosphorus application limits to delete the word "tissue deficiency" to the exclusionary conditions; and
3. Set limits on overall annual nitrogen application.

Together, these changes will be consistent with the majority of other ordinances in this part of Florida and will reduce nutrient loading from urban landscapes.

Yesterday, I sent you a draft motion containing exactly the amendments needed to address these three points. We respectfully request that you now incorporate that language into the existing draft ordinance via a motion from the floor to be voted on today, providing your legal and planning staff have no further recommendations or comments, and in time to adopt this updated ordinance by June 30th, 2023.

We will then have achieved passage of a strong urban fertilizer ordinance that will reduce a known source of harmful nutrients to our groundwater, the source of our springs and drinking water.

I urge you to take this action today.

Motion to Amend

Draft Document: F:\1 COUNTY ATTORNEYS OFFICE\JAJ\Ordinances\Fertilizer Revision\2023-5-12 Proposed Ordinance 8.wpd, May 12, 2023 (4:16pm) NOTE: additions/deletions = language proposed for addition/deletion to existing Code provisions.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2023-__

Sec. 28-510. Fertilizer Content and Application Rates.

- (a) Fertilizers applied to turf within Hernando County shall be applied in accordance with requirements and directions provided by Rule 5E-1.003(2), Florida Administrative Code, labels or tags Specialty Fertilizer Label Requirements for Urban Turf or Lawns, as it may be amended or renumbered from time to time, unless otherwise specified in this section.

(Replace the paragraph above with the paragraph below in red adopted by Sarasota County, Florida in 2007)

Fertilizers applied to turf and/or Landscape Plants with Hernando County shall contain no less than 50 percent Slow Release Nitrogen per Guaranteed Analysis Label.

- (b) Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall not be applied to turf or landscape plants except as provided in (a) above for turf, or in University of Florida IFAS the UF/IFAS's recommendations for landscape plants, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees and shrubs, unless a soil or tissue deficiency has been verified by an approved test.

(Replace the paragraph above with the paragraphs below in red)

Fertilizer containing phosphorus shall not be applied to turf or landscape plants except as provided in (a) above for turf, or in University of Florida IFAS the UF/IFAS's recommendations for landscape plants, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees and shrubs, unless a soil deficiency has been verified by an approved test.

(Add the following paragraph adopted by Sarasota County, Florida in 2007)

- (c) Fertilizers should be applied to Turf and/or Landscape Plants at the lowest rate necessary, No more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet shall be applied to any Turf/landscape area in any calendar year.