

ARTICLE IX. HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sec. 7-151. [Created.]

The Hernando County Waterways Advisory Committee (hereinafter "WAC") is created as a standing committee and an advisory board to assist and make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on matters pertaining to Hernando County's territorial waters.

(Ord. No. 2021-01, § 2, 2-23-21)

Sec. 7-152. Membership.

- (1) The WAC shall consist of five (5) members. The initial members of the WAC shall consist of those persons who are members of the Hernando County Port Authority on the effective date of this ordinance, on which date the initial members' terms as members of the Hernando County Port Authority shall terminate automatically. Thereafter, all appointees shall be residents and registered voters of Hernando County, Florida; and shall serve at the discretion of the board of county commissioners.
- (2) The initial members' terms shall terminate on the date on which their term on the Hernando County Port Authority would have ended. Thereafter, the WAC's members shall serve staggered terms and the term of office shall be for four (4) years. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of any member's full term, the board of county commissioners shall advertise the position and appoint another candidate accordingly for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (3) All members of the WAC shall serve without compensation; none are entitled to pension, retirement, health insurance, or any other benefits from Hernando County for their service on the WAC.
- (4) The WAC shall meet six (6) times a year. Notice of the WAC's meeting will be published in the same manner as that of the board of county commissioners.
- (5) The WAC shall have a chair and a vice-chair to conduct each meeting.
- (6) For the purpose of transacting business at any meeting, a majority of WAC members shall constitute a quorum.
- (7) A member who is seeking re-appointment shall continue to be a voting member for two (2) months beyond the existing term, if necessary, to allow for the finalization of the reappointment by the board of county commissioners.
- (8) The WAC's meetings are open to the public and its members are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law and the Public Records Act.
- (9) At all meetings of the WAC, each member attending shall be required to cast a vote on all matters requiring action by the WAC. Any member who has a conflict of interest on any issue being voted shall recuse themselves from voting on matters relating to the issue. The member must have a special gain or loss as defined by the Florida Commission on Ethics in order to have a conflict of interest. The member should consult with the county administrator's office as to whether a conflict exists. In the event of a conflict, the applicable form promulgated by the Florida Commission on Ethics must be completed and made a part of the minutes. The nature of the conflict and recusal shall be stated prior to the applicable vote.

(10) Each member of the WAC shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, F.S. ch. 112, Pt. III, as it may be amended from time-to-time.

(Ord. No. 2021-01, § 2, 2-23-21)

Sec. 7-153. Duties.

The WAC shall provide non-binding policy recommendations to the board of county commissioners or county staff on all issues that are referred to the WAC for consideration by the board of county commissioners, the county administrator, the county administrator's designee, including but not limited to:

- (1) Issues specifically related to the health, safety, maintenance and sustainability of Hernando County's territorial waters. For the purposes of this section, "Hernando County's territorial waters" shall refer to all naturally-occurring bodies of water which are situated within the geographic area described in F.S. § 7.27, excluding those waters that are situated entirely within the boundaries of a municipal corporation.
- (2) Issues specifically related to matters concerning the construction, improvement, maintenance, use, operation, and regulation of port and harbor facilities, including but not limited to, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other obstacle or obstruction situated within the unincorporated areas of Hernando County.
- (3) Issues specifically related to the enhancement and protection of the fisheries that are situated within Hernando County's territorial waters, including, but not limited to, the development, use, protection, maintenance, and improvement of fishing areas, foreshores, channels, and coastal resiliency projects.
- (4) Issues specifically related to the implementation of the Marine Construction Code, Hernando County Code Chapter 8, Article V.
- (5) Issues specifically related to revision and implementation to Hernando County's Marine Area Strategic Plan and the Marine and Coastal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- (6) Issues specifically related to the selection, evaluation, and implementation of projects that are to be funded with monies received by Hernando County pursuant to the "Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012," commonly referred to as "the RESTORE Act."
- (7) Issues placed upon an agenda of the WAC by the board of county commissioners, the county administrator, or the county administrator's designee, upon the request of a majority of the WAC at a prior meeting.
- (8) Any other issue referred to the WAC by the board of county commissioners, the county administrator, or the county administrator's designee.

(Ord. No. 2021-01, § 2, 2-23-21)