

5/27/2026

The Feed Mill

6400 CR 214, St. Augustine, FL 32092

AAC – Meeting Notes

Member Attendance and Guests:

☒ Chuck Owen

☒ Jackee Dobish

☒ Carleton Johns

☒ Christine Wilson

☒ Bryan Jones

☒ Bill Hamilton

☐ ~~Scott Parker~~

Prissy Fletcher

Christine Valliere

Commissioner Clay Murphy

Pam Murphy

Danny Johns

David Dinkins

Jim Browning

Call to Order at 6:00pm by Chair Christine Wilson.

Roll call and introductions.

Discussion:

Referred to Bill H., who asked guest Jim B. to provide historical account of land gifts specific to the SJC agricultural center facility.

Jim: Historical review of how funds were matched by the state and county for gift from Charles Usina. Deed specified its intended uses for agriculture, meant to support forestry demonstrations, canning, etc. Deed has no succession plan for Usina's descendants' input. Previously rejected a dog park and other EOC facilities. The SJC ag center will be our version of central park one day. Issue is leadership.

Bill: Referring to the recent IFAS advisory committee meeting, only two members were present, himself and Jim. Displayed an IFAS folder of annual reports from the County Extension Director and discontentment with the results. Poor leadership and lack of buy-in by grower community and county. Needs are not being addressed. There is no functional lab. Referenced his report of economic impacts of agriculture. IFAS dropped the ball, long-term impacts of land donations not protected by CED.

Commissioner: Morality vs Legality.

Discussion among members about competing interest with fire department, yet acknowledgement of the lack of facility use. Concerns of the County not providing oversight, and whether IFAS should be able to run the ag center autonomously.

Commissioner: White paper. Write a letter to County Administrator explaining what is desired for the intended use of the facility, such as timberland sales for 4-H clubs, regional meetings, etc. Work with Prissy on your plan. Commented on poor conditions of the facility witnessed at the recent farm tour. Joy is a problem solver, reach out to her.

Bryan: Tired of SJC carrying our neighbors. Issue is leadership, locally and statewide. Bill confirms IFAS won't fix the problem on their own. They answer to UF, not us.

Jim: Recommended Danny Johns approach IFAS SVP Scott Angle. Danny stated the county made a good approach with the agricultural committee. Offered a plan: List the assets of the ag center, bad stewardship and need for better leadership.

Continued discussion amongst members and guests regarding IFAS needing more control by SJC of the Ag Center grounds and activities. Extension needs to answer to the county and ag community.

Prissy: Upcoming changes to IFAS structural leadership, impacts to county. Contract revisions in progress, and current reports from Extension.

Christine: Request to review ratios and compare salaries to other counties. Compare requests of county vs state in different versions of the new contract.

Carleton: Send Prissy priorities for ag center use. Jackee: USDA service center.

(Public Comment)

Dinkins: Master plan made ~20 years ago, Mike Reuben.

Discussion about relocating IFAS to Hastings area, concerns of impacts to 4-H and Master Gardener programs. Discussion of giving funds to FAMU over IFAS. Recent purchase of Sykes land in Elkton, available county funds. Goals: incentivize IFAS with accountability.

Commissioner: Need to move quickly as plans are in progress for the ag center. Aim for June 16th or July 21st BOCC meeting but does have the power to control the agenda items for earlier readings.

Christine W makes a motion to draft a letter to the County Administrator requesting to be on the July BOCC agenda to discuss the use of the Fire Department Training Facilities and the County Agricultural Center. Bryan Jones seconds. All in favor, 6-0.

Prissy: We will reconvene in August at one of the County facilities.

Christine calls to adjourn.

Adjourned: 7:30pm