

BCC MEETING DATE: February 18, 2020
AGENDA ITEM: PH-5

**MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners **DATE:** February 10, 2020

VIA: Taryn Kryzda
County Administrator

FROM: Nicki van Vonno, AICP, Growth Management Director

REF: 20-0339

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER TRANSMITTAL OF
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT (CPA) 19-19, PULTE AT
CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Attached is the newspaper ad that gives notice to the public regarding the BCC Hearing.

Reviewed by County Attorney's Office

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Ad Number: GCI0356444-01

Insertion Number: N/A

Size: 3 Col x 12 in

Color Type: N/A

Advertiser:

Agency:

Section-Page-Zone(s):

Description:

Martin County Commissioners

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Ohio looking to tackle toxic algae

State authorizes financial incentives for farmers

John Seewer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOLEDO, Ohio – Nearly halfway into a 10-year pledge to combat the toxic algae that turns Lake Erie a ghastly shade of green, Ohio has made little progress. Its patchwork of mostly voluntary efforts hasn't slowed the farm fertilizers that feed algae blooms, leading to contaminated drinking water and dead fish.

Ohio's governor has authorized an ambitious plan that this year will begin offering farmers financial incentives to adopt new agriculture practices and will create a network of wetlands to capture and filter runoff from fields.

The broad approach is being watched closely by states struggling with an increasing number of algae outbreaks. Some environmental groups are skeptical, but others that have been at odds with the farming industry are hopeful.

While there are no guarantees the strategy will revive the shallowest of the Great Lakes, there are potential pitfalls, including a lawsuit calling for tougher regulations, that could upend the state's goal of drastically reducing nutrient pollution entering the lake's western end by 2025.

"We can't move forward as a state unless we preserve Lake Erie," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said when he announced plans to pay farmers to voluntarily participate, part of \$172 million targeted for water quality.

One of the biggest hurdles is that the state must convince farmers to make changes without any certainty they will be enough. And no matter how many get on board, progress will be slow because phosphorus from chemical fertilizer and manure has built up for years.

Backers of the state's plan worry that farmers could get discouraged and lawmakers may back away from committing more money if algae blooms continue to overwhelm the lake.



Ohio is beginning a new strategy to save Lake Erie from toxic algae. In February, the state will start offering financial incentives to farmers whose runoff feeds the algae. ANDY MORRISON/THE BLADE VIA AP, FILE

That's why the state's immediate focus is on convincing farmers in the western Lake Erie region to commit to some changes. "Our measure of success will be in how many farmers enroll in each county," said Dorothy Pelanda, Ohio's agriculture director.

They'll begin finding out in February how the state intends to distribute \$30 million worth of incentives and what the money will cover. That's a big concern for those who've been hurt by depressed commodity prices, the trade war with China and one of the rainiest years in memory.

Nathan Eckel, who raises corn and farms with his family just outside Toledo, said he and many neighbors already are doing several recommended practices, including planting cover crops and vegetation along streams and mixing manure into the ground.

"We're doing what's most time efficient and what's best financially," he said.

One of the state's suggestions for reducing phosphorus runoff is to inject fertilizer into fields instead of on top, but that equipment costs close to \$200,000. "How do you justify that coming off a year like we just had?"

Eckel said.

What holds back others are lingering questions about whether the recommended steps are feasible and effective, said Robyn Wilson, a behavioral researcher at Ohio State University.

"I can't blame the farmer," she said. "Even those committed to it aren't getting enough feedback."

Surveys have shown that while up to 20% might not be willing to change, a larger share are open to new ways but face barriers, many of them financial.

"It's a lot to accomplish in a short amount of time," she said.

Ohio's governor has said offering in-

centives is the key. "We cannot expect farmers to do things that will drive them out of business," said DeWine, who first talked about long-term solutions just months after he took office a year ago.

States throughout the U.S. will be monitoring Ohio's results because reducing nutrient pollution from farms has been a much bigger challenge than slowing it from sewage plants and factories, said Dan Obenour, an environmental engineer at North Carolina State University.

"In general, states are still trying to figure it out," Obenour said.

Ohio's leaders have been under pressure to fix the lake since algae toxins in 2014 left more than 400,000 people around Toledo unable to drink their tap water. Studies have shown that roughly 85% of the phosphorus going into the lake comes from agriculture.

Many experts think the only way to reduce that is to order agriculture to make changes instead of relying on volunteers.

A federal lawsuit that could be ruled on this year is seeking to force Ohio to adopt enforceable regulatory standards. The state's agriculture director said they'll continue to move ahead with their plan, not knowing what will come from the courts.

There's a sense of urgency because Ohio's leaders say they're committed to sticking with the previous administration's promise to cut 40% of the phosphorus flowing into western Lake Erie within the next five years. If they fall short, the only choice may be tougher regulations that farmers have been trying to avoid.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

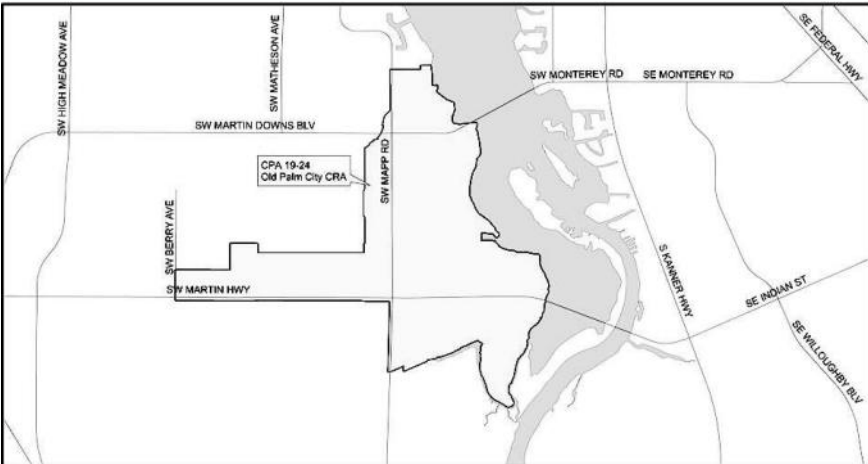
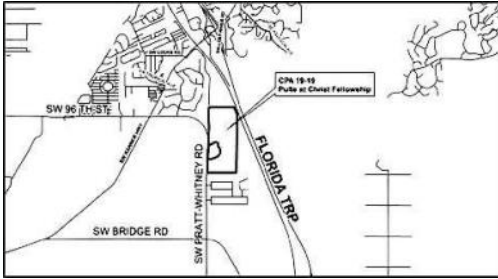
Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County will conduct public hearings on February 18, 2020 beginning at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following items:

1. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 19-11, COVE SALERNO PARTNERS, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
2. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 19-19, Pulte at Christ Fellowship: A proposal to consider transmittal of a Future Land Use Map change from Rural Density Residential (up to 1 unit per 2 acres) to Residential Estate Density (up to 1 unit per acre) on 321 acres, located at 10205 SW Pratt Whitney Road.
3. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 19-24, OLD PALM CITY FLUM, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
4. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING DIVISION 4, OLD PALM CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT CODE OF ARTICLE 12, REDEVELOPMENT CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY CODE; REPEALING SECTION 3.265, OLD PALM CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA; AMENDING THE ZONING ATLAS TO ASSIGN THE OLD PALM CITY REDEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT AND MAKE OTHER CHANGES FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meetings will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida. Written comments may be sent to: Nicki van Vonne, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Copies of the items will be available from the Growth Management Department. For more information, contact the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.





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