

League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area – LWVPBA

Natural Resources Committee

Monday December 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Enid Sisskin at 12 noon.

Those present on Zoom were Enid Sisskin, Carol Pulley, Ellen Roston, Mary Gutierrez, and Elizabeth Majors. Absent: It was reported that Carolyn Kolb had successful lung surgery.

Enid reported that the letter on open burning had been signed by both presidents and sent to DEP.

Everyone was in favor of sending a letter to the Board of County Commissioners opposing changing the Comprehensive Plan to take away protection for the aquifer resource area. It has to go before the planning board again and the County Commission. Enid will write a letter to the county commission. Ellen suggested doing an article for the newspaper. We could all write letters as individuals. Peich and Rice voted against the change. Mary reported on call "Rights of Nature." Enid suggested bombarding a commissioner who voted for the change to threaten water with barrow pits and fill. Mary said Caulkins had a conflict of interest. Ellen Roston suggested asking all LWVPBA to send emails to the County Commission. Enid will give 5 talking points and people writing could choose three.

Elizabeth praised reporting by Annie Blanks. Scott Reeder was praised for past environmental support. Enid noted that the Florida Voter ran praise for Bailey's bag policy and Jackie Lane on water clean-up. Others need to be nominated for praise in the Voter.

Elizabeth suggested a natural resources book club. They could do one book a month. She will forward Enid the site for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – NOAA as a source. Enid said they could also discuss articles. She will send out information to the Natural Resources Committee members. Enid and Elizabeth will work on a short educational power point on native species.

Ellen asked about the plastic bag issue status. There is no active chapter in Lakeland to talk to Publix. Ellen said we need to call Publix and start a statewide campaign against pre-emption of local authority to ban plastic bags. Enid said she would write the talking points if someone else called Publix. Elizabeth said we need to get rid of pre-empting authority for local governments. We need home rule.

The next meeting is Monday, January 18, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned by Enid at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Pulley