

DRAFT

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY 12, 2011

Chairman Burgess called for a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Bright Leaf Nursery, Lake Panasoffkee, Florida, between the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, the Sumter County Agricultural Alliance, Sumter County Farm Bureau, Sumter County Cattleman's Board, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, Sumter County Farmers Market and the USDA Board. Proof of Publication, as advertised, filed herewith. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss amongst the various boards how to move forward in expanding and promoting Agri-Business in Sumter County. The following members were present to wit: Richard Hoffman, District No. 1; Douglas Gilpin, 2nd Vice Chairman, District No. 2; Donald Burgess, Chairman, District No. 3; and Garry Breeden, Vice Chairman, District No. 4. Randy Mask, District No. 5, was absent. The following individuals were also present and acting in their respective official capacities: Bradley Arnold, County Administrator; Bill Kleinsorge, Finance Director; and Connie Webb, Deputy Clerk. Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the invocation given by Vice Chairman Breeden followed by the flag salute led by Chairman Burgess.

1. Welcome and Presentation of House Rules and Requirements by Mr. Nate Jameson, Host of the Meeting Location (Bright Leaf Citrus Nursery, LLC)

Nate Jameson, owner of Bright Leaf Nursery, welcomed everyone and gave a brief explanation of the Bright Leaf Nursery operation.

2. Introduction of Attending Board Members of Attending Organizations

3. Agribusiness Presentations

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding the Board they represent: James Sutton, Sumter County Agricultural Alliance; Kelly Rice, Sumter County Farm Bureau; Danny Maddox, Sumter County Cattlemen; Martha Maddox, Sumter County Cattlewomen; Susan Kelly, Sumter County Extension Office (County Agent); Andrew Cripps, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce; and James Wall, Sumter County Farmers Market.

The overall discussion of the attendees was Sumter County's Agriculture Business and ways to promote and get the word out about this industry. The Chamber of Commerce is already using the term "Simply Sumter" in some of its promotions for locally produced items.

4. Board to Board Questions and Discussion

During discussion it was addressed that the common goal is to bring awareness of the Agriculture Business in Sumter County to those outside of the County. There is a need to work together to get the word out. It was consensus of the County Commissioners to coordinate ideas, issues, and concerns of the Alliance

for the County Commission through Bradley Arnold, County Administrator. James Sutton of the Sumter County Agricultural Alliance, advised that the Alliance meets once a month and it might be good for a representative of the County Commission to attend for informational purposes.

5. Adjourn for Refreshments and Tour

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.