



**Interim Committee Week: County Lobbyist Call
Monday, January 9, 2017**

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Davin Suggs, FAC's Director of Public Policy, gave the following updates:

- Stephen James' last day with FAC is Friday, January 13th, 2017. Stephen has accepted a position as the Director of Water Policy for the State of Florida as a member of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection team.
- Effective immediately, Susan Harbin will now be assigned to all Environmental and Agricultural Issues and she will retain her title as Senior Associate Director of Public Policy. Susan can be reached at sharbin@fl-counties.com.
- Effective immediately, Laura Youmans will now be assigned to all Finance, Tax and Administration Issues and she will retain her title as Associate Director of Public Policy. Laura can be reached lyoumans@fl-counties.com.
- Eric Poole, FAC's Deputy Director of Public Policy, will handle all Economic Development Issues in addition to Transportation, Growth Management, Federal, Emergency Management and other related issues. Eric can be contacted at epoole@fl-counties.com.
- Regarding Public Safety and Health and Human Services issues, Lisa M. Hurley, Esq. of Smith, Bryan and Myers and Candice D. Ericks of Ericks Consultants, Inc. will serve as FAC's team on these issues. Lisa and Candice can be reached at LHurley@smithbryanandmyers.com and Candice@Ericksconsultants.com.
- Carter Smith will be working as a Public Policy Intern with the Public Policy Division from now through the middle of May. Carter is a graduate (cum laude) of Seattle University with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in Philosophy. Carter will report directly to Eric Poole, Deputy Director of Public Policy, and will assist the entire public policy team in its duties for the upcoming 2017 Session. Among other activities, Carter will assist in legislative communication efforts, policy analysis, and legislative research projects. Carter can be reached at csmith@fl-counties.com.

2017 Priorities Update

Opioid Abuse – Lisa Hurley, Esq.

The Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association has started compiling data in an attempt to measure the impact of the opioid epidemic on:

- law enforcement
- local governments
- costs to hospitals
- costs billed to Medicaid

A group of stakeholders including FADAA, FLC, FSA, FHA, and FAC are meeting Wednesday morning to review the data and help fill in the gaps. FAC may need to circulate an email requesting your assistance in putting some of the numbers together. Two bills have been filed to date attempting to deal with the epidemic: HB 61 (Lee, Jr) pertaining to treatment one should receive if hospitalized for unintentional overdose; and SB 150 (Steube) which creates crimes of trafficking in fentanyl and synthetic drugs and increases penalties for some drug related offenses.

Medical Marijuana – Laura Youmans, Esq. and Susan Harbin, Esq.

Amendment 2 became effective last Tuesday (1/3/2017).

Sen. Young's committee on Health Policy held a panel discussion on December 13, 2016.

A panel on medical cannabis will be held on Wednesday (1/11/2017). Presenters include:

- Christian Bax, Director of the Office of Compassionate Use, Florida Department of Health
- Bertha Madras, PhD, Professor of Psychobiology, Harvard Medical School
- Sue Sisley, MD, Scottsdale Research Institute LLC

FAC will be holding a Medical Marijuana Summit on Saturday, February 4 (from 9:30AM-4:00PM), at the Embassy Suites in Lake Buena Vista (Osceola County). Information about the summit can be found here: <http://fl-counties.com/fac-medical-marijuana-summit>.

So far, the following speakers have been confirmed for the summit: Christian Bax, Ashley Kilroy from Denver Mayor's Office, representatives from the existing licensees, Sheriff's Association participants, and attendees.

Tax Reform / Local Revenue Enhancement – Laura Youmans, Esq.

The House Commerce and Ways and Means committees meet tomorrow (1/10/2017).

Sen. Lee has filed SB 76, a Joint Resolution to continue the 10% increase limit on assessments for non-homestead property. The estimated amount of forfeited revenue in 2017 is \$776 Million.

Sen. Brandes filed SB 90 to implement Amendment 4 to exempt solar and renewable energy devices from property taxes.

The EDR meets on Friday (1/13/2017) to look at SJR 76 – 10% Assessment Limitation on Ad Valorem taxes; SB 90 – Renewable Energy Source Devices; and HB 71 – Sales Tax Exemption for Diapers and Baby Wipes.

Economic Development – Eric Poole

Most attention has been on the few bills (SB 236) dealing with stadiums.

The Governor's office will, again, push for economic development funding, but it is not anticipated to be a significant priority of the Legislature.

A new committee on Careers and Competition (Chaired by Rep. Beshears) will review economic incentive programs incentives in Florida.

Beach Nourishment – Susan Harbin, Esq.

Legislation has not yet been filed.

Senator Latvala has indicated that he will champion beach legislation next session, and push establishment of dedicated funding as well as revise criteria for awarding project funds.

Comprehensive Water – Susan Harbin, Esq.

Legislation has not yet been filed.

The Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation committee will hear presentations from the DEP on implementation of last year's major water resources bill (SB 552), as well as on revisions to the human health-based water quality criteria rule.

2017 Emerging Issues Update

Cell Towers – Eric Poole

During FAC's recent legislative conference, cell towers were highlighted as an emerging issue. So far, FAC anticipates to see two bills introduced this Session.

The first bill is expected to be sponsored by the telecom industry (AT&T/Verizon), dealing with their current legal right to place small cells within county rights of way. FAC took a relatively narrow position, arguing that telecom companies do not have that right. Rather, Florida Statutes speak to traditional lines and poles in rights of way—not small cells. (County attorney's had a task force and put together a report and reached the same conclusion and looked at interplay on state law and federal law.)

The second bill that will be filed is expected to come from 3rd party providers (e.g., Mobilitie, LLC and Crown Castle Intl. Corp.) that are blanketing the state and trying to test the permitting process with cities and counties. It is not yet clear what this legislation will look like, but it would likely clarify these companies' designation as "utilities".

Weekly Calendar

The House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee will be hearing PCB PIEC 17-03 on Local Government Ethics Reform. Although a bill has been filed, there is no text yet. Laura Youmans will be monitoring this legislation and will share the bill language as soon as it becomes available.

Q&A

Arlene Smith asked about several bills related to constitutional officers. Davin Suggs explained that Sen. Artilles basically took his bill from last year and cut it up into five smaller bills, one for each constitutional office. Mr. Suggs indicated that a group of charter counties will be focusing on this, and that FAC will be reaching out to Volusia, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Orange Counties regarding this legislation.

Cari Roth asked about solar amendment implementation and its impact on counties. FAC will be reaching out to the House, inquiring if the House will honor where we left off last year.

Rebecca DeLaRosa asked about the gist of the Medical Marijuana Summit in February, specifically, whether the summit would arrive at new policy recommendations. Laura Youmans clarified that the summit will be more educational in nature, since FAC already developed its policy positions during our recent legislative conference.