

Minutes
Florida Highway Beautification Council
May 14-15, 2003
URS Corporate Office
Tampa, Florida

- Meeting Called to order 1:05 p.m., Wednesday, May 14
- Members present: David Johnston, Marsha Levy, Bill Albaugh, Alan Shapiro, Susanne Karr, Joann Phillips.
- Guests: Bryan Dennis, Dick Bush, Willson McBurney, Elisabeth Hassett, Susana Thompson, Christine Webb, Vicki Mitchell, Craig James, John Simpson, Bruce Mantell, Tim Allen, Jane Burner, Jim Gilman, Paul Kurtz, Ramon Murray, Joan Randolph, Brad Smith, and many others representing applicants.
- District reports were presented by FDOT District Highway Beautification Council Grant Coordinators. The presentations covered grant projects awarded in previous years
- The Council discussed the strong possibility that the Florida Legislature will not fund grants this year. The Council acknowledged their disappointment, but carried on with their statutory obligation to rank applications.
- The Council approved final revisions to Part II, Rule Chapter 14-40.022
- The Council discussed and ranked all 25 applications. Scores and rank are tabulated on Excel spreadsheet that is part of minutes. Each Council member initialed the original “official scores” spread sheet. Council members submitted their individual score sheets to be included as part of the meeting minutes.
- Florida Urban Forestry Council report was presented by Susana Thompson, FDOT District Four. Florida Urban Forestry Council is hosting, at no charge, three Tree Care Workshops for FDOT employees later this year. Workshops will be in Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tallahassee. Workshop flyer was distributed.
- Florida Wildflower Advisory Council report was presented by Jeff Caster. The Wildflower Advisory Council reports that sales of Wildflower License plates continue to be brisk. Proceeds from sale of plates will be used for research on native seed production, and grants to local governments for demonstration projects.
- The Council discussed most recent updates to Rule Chapter 14-40, F.A.C. Part II, that have significant changes to the grant process. The new grant process will be used for applications due February 1, 2004. The department website has the new application and instructions.
- The Council discussed the fall 2003 meeting, but did not establish a date or location.
- In spite of possible funding concerns, the Council asks that local governments submit applications for next year. The more applications submitted, the more likely the program will be funded.
- Meeting adjourned 11:15 a.m., Thursday, May 15.
- Following the meeting, on Thursday, May 15, Council members and guests car pooled (led by Will Moriaty) to the vicinity of Brooksville for barbeque lunch and a tour of Joe Meltons Wildflower Seed Farm.
- Minutes submitted by Jeff Caster, State Transportation Landscape Architect, 5.19.03