

Union County Has Two New Commissioners

November 20, 2018



New commissioners are Channing Dobbs and Lacey Cannon, far right, respectively.

On Monday night in Lake Butler new commissioners Lacey Cannon and Channing Dobbs began their new terms, and current chair Karen Cossey was re-elected to lead the board. Newcomer Channing Dobbs was elected vice-chair.

Of interest is that Alachua County Commissioner Ken Cornell was present and welcomed the new commissioners. He repeated Alachua County's previous offer to share the services of Alachua County as a resource to Union County. He said they have a full environmental department with staff, and five attorneys, and are happy to help in any way. He suggested a meeting of both boards

in the near future at either venue.

Commissioner Tallman, stating that the Union board would be foolish not to take up the offer, made a motion to accept. The motion passed unanimously.

Your historian was the lone speaker against the mine. He introduced himself and OSFR to the new commissioners, leaving business cards to them, and the letter from Randall Denker to Corcoran regarding the Bert Harris Act (see our earlier post "[Fracking and the Bert Harris Act.](#)") to the board. Thanks to Ken Cornell, this letter is now distributed to the Alachua County BOCC and staff attorneys.

Two important points in this letter stated by Ms. Randall is that clean air and water are constitutional rights in Florida, and mining is not a constitutional right. Secondly, the Bert Harris Act is essentially an intimidating tool and, in most cases, has no legal teeth.

Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.

-A river is like a life: once taken, it cannot be brought back-



Ken Cornell addresses the board.