



The Florida Legislature

OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



SUNSET MEMORANDUM

Report No. 07-S11

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Summary

In response to a request from the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee, we have reviewed the advisory committees of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. We reviewed the department's advisory committees and identified and examined their purposes, activities, and related costs and assessed the need for continuation.¹

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services had 50 advisory committees in Fiscal Year 2006-07 that incurred travel, staff, and other expenses totaling \$220,067. In general, these advisory committees served a public purpose by providing the department with stakeholder input and expertise in a variety of activities, including product marketing and establishment of research and training priorities. One of these committees was established to meet federal requirements and cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing approximately \$1.4 million in federal funds.

The Legislature and the department may wish to consider continuing 48 of the 50 advisory committees because they provide useful citizen input into agency decision making. However, the department should discontinue the Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee and the Exotic Pest of Citrus Council, which have not met in recent years, and their functions could be performed by other entities.

¹ Included in our review were advisory committees that are defined in ss. [20.03\(3\)](#), (7), (8), (9), (10), and (12), *F. S.*, or were created through executive order.

Gary R. VanLandingham, Ph.D., Director

Background

The department's mission is to safeguard the public and support agriculture by

- ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products;
- improving the production and sale of Florida's agricultural products;
- preserving and protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources; and
- protecting consumers from potential health and security risks and unfair and deceptive business practices.

The department reported having 50 advisory committees.² Thirty-one of these committees were established by statute while 19 were created by the department. Collectively, these committees incurred travel, staff, and other expenses totaling \$220,067 in Fiscal Year 2006-07 (see Exhibit 1).

The reported expenses for most of the department's advisory committees are for travel, staff, and other meeting-related expenses. These committees primarily provide technical expertise and input on industry issues or make recommendations to the department on funding research and other activities.

In addition to the advisory committees listed in Exhibit 1, the department reported that it incurred \$9,038 in staff and other meeting related expenses for the Florida Urban Forestry Council during Fiscal Year 2006-07. This council is a non-profit organization that promotes urban forestry practices by educating citizens and forestry professionals. The federal government requires the state to have a designated urban and forestry council as a condition for receiving funding through the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The state receives approximately \$1 million annually in federal program funds that are used to support four department positions, 50% of a research position at the University of Florida, some council operating expenses, and 50/50 matching grants awarded to city and county governments. However, this council was not created by state law or by the Commissioner of Agriculture to assist the department in performing its duties and responsibilities.

See Appendix A for more information on the department's advisory committees.

² The department also reported having one additional organization, the Florida Urban Forestry Council, but we did not include it in the 50 advisory committees because it is a private non-profit organization.

Exhibit 1

DACS Reported \$220,067 in Costs for Advisory Committees in Fiscal Year 2006-07

| Advisory Committee | Reported Cost |
|--|---------------|
| Private Investigation, Recovery, and Security Advisory Council | \$26,850 |
| Pest Control Enforcement Advisory Council | 26,685 |
| Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control | 24,315 |
| Off Highway Vehicle Committee | 15,064 |
| Seed Investigation and Conciliation Council | 13,654 |
| Animal Industry Technical Council | 13,275 |
| The Emergency Food Assistance Program Advisory Board | 7,818 |
| Florida Food and Nutrition Advisory Council | 7,265 |
| Soil and Water Conservation Council | 6,789 |
| Viticulture Advisory Council | 6,149 |
| Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee | 5,977 |
| Motor Vehicle Repair Advisory Council | 5,433 |
| Florida Consumer's Council | 5,271 |
| Florida Food Safety and Food Defense Advisory Council | 5,001 |
| Aquaculture Review Council | 4,096 |
| Florida Amusement Device and Attraction Advisory Committee | 4,023 |
| Pesticide Review Council | 3,786 |
| Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council | 3,686 |
| Endangered Plant Advisory Council | 3,301 |
| Seafood and Aquaculture Advisory Committee | 3,227 |
| Florida Forestry Council | 3,150 |
| Florida Propane Gas, Education, Safety and Research Council | 3,026 |
| Fertilizer Technical Council | 2,755 |
| Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force | 2,750 |
| Clam Industry Task Force | 2,142 |
| Seed Technical Council | 2,135 |
| Pest Control Research Advisory Committee | 2,026 |
| Florida Alligator Marketing and Education Advisory Committee | 1,884 |
| Commercial Feed Technical Council | 1,726 |
| FL Center for Wildfire & Forest Resources Management Training Advisory Council | 836 |
| Citrus Budwood Technical Advisory Task Force | 788 |
| Lettuce Advisory Committee | 747 |
| Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee | 644 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Community Advisory Council (Board) | 577 |
| Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council | 507 |
| Silviculture Best Management Practices Technical Advisory Committee | 489 |
| Noxious Weed Review Committee | 452 |
| Honey Bee Technical Council | 335 |
| Plant Industry Technical Council | 328 |
| Tropical Fruit Advisory Council | 300 |
| Peanut Advisory Council | 272 |
| Tobacco Advisory Council | 214 |
| Florida Liquid Propane Gas Advisory Board | 161 |
| Citrus Crop Estimates Advisory Council | 158 |
| Transgenic Aquatic Species Task Force | 0 |
| Sturgeon Production Working Group | 0 |
| Dairy Industry Technical Council | 0 |
| Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee | 0 |
| Exotic Pest of Citrus Council | 0 |
| State Agricultural Advisory Council | 0 |
| Total | \$220,067 |

Source: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Assessment

In assessing department advisory committees, we considered various criteria, including whether the committees

- serve a public purpose;³
- facilitate public participation in an agency's activities and provide agency staff with stakeholder expertise without duplicating the efforts of other entities;
- are federally mandated; and
- fulfill their public purposes.⁴

We concluded that most of the department's advisory committees serve a public purpose by providing the department with stakeholder input or expertise in a variety of matters. For example, the Pesticide Review Council advises the department regarding the sale, use, and registration of pesticides; the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee advises the department in developing operating guidelines for both the forest stewardship and forest legacy programs; and the Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force conducts ongoing reviews of the Citrus Health Response Program to recommend appropriate action to retard the spread of citrus canker.

Further, the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee was established to meet the requirements for the state to receive grants through the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.⁵ As this committee is federally mandated, abolishing it could result in the loss of approximately \$1.4 million in federal funds.

³ Section [20.052\(1\)](#), *F. S.*

⁴ Section [20.052\(2\)](#), *F. S.*

However, we recommend that the department consider discontinuing the Exotic Pest of Citrus Council and the Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee.

- The Exotic Pest of Citrus Council was created to review exotic pests of citrus to develop strategic action plans and make recommendations regarding projects to address and mitigate the impact of pests on the citrus industry. The council has been inactive since October 2001.
- The Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee was created to advise the department on the management, control, and suppression of the Caribbean fruit fly. However, the committee did not meet during the past two fiscal years because it did not have issues to address. If this committee was discontinued, its functions, if needed, could be performed by the Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force.

In conclusion, the Legislature and department may wish to consider continuing 48 of the department's 50 advisory committees. Although department staff could implement state policies without these committees, they generally provide useful citizen input into agency decision making and eliminating them would not significantly reduce state costs.

⁵ 16 *U.S.C.* Sections 2101-2111, July 1, 1978, as amended 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1996.

Appendix A

The Department Had 50 Advisory Committees in Fiscal Year 2006-07

Advisory committees are listed by division and in order of costs (highest to lowest) incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-07 within each division.

Administration

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| State Agricultural Advisory Council | Advises and makes recommendations to the department about items, regulations and situations that affect agricultural interests in the state as required by s.570.23, <i>F.S.</i> | Provides input and recommendations to the department to address general issues affecting the agricultural industry. The council did not meet in Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Would eliminate the department's mechanism for obtaining input from the agricultural industry and academic professionals on agricultural issues and concerns. |
| | There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | | |

Agricultural Environmental Services

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|---|--|---|
| Pest Control Enforcement Advisory Council | Advises the department regarding the regulation of pest control practices and advise other government agencies with responsibilities related to pest control. Authorized by s.482.243, <i>F.S.</i> , the council serves as the statewide forum for the coordination of pest control related activities. | Reviews cases and provides recommendations to the department on pest control enforcement procedures. The council meets four times per year. | Would eliminate industry input into pest control enforcement procedures and reduce coordination between agencies involved in pest control activities. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$26,685. | | |
| Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control | Serves as the statewide forum for the coordination of mosquito control related activities. Advises and assists the state in implementing best management practices, developing outside funding sources and establishing priorities for research as required by s. 388.46, <i>F.S.</i> | Serves as a forum for coordinating and communicating with stakeholders involved in mosquito control. Also informs the department of industry needs, makes recommendations for funding proposals for arthropod control research projects. The council meets three times per year. | Could result in the loss of technical expertise and would reduce coordination between public agencies involved in mosquito control. |

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Page 7 of 16

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$24,315. | | |
| Seed Investigation and Conciliation Council | As authorized by s.578.27, <i>F.S.</i> , assists farmers and agricultural seed dealers in determining the validity of complaints made by farmers against dealers and recommends cost damages resulting from the alleged failure of the seed to produce as represented by the label on the seed package. | The council investigates complaints made by farmers against dealers and makes recommendations of cost damages. The council meets about six times per year. | Would require farmers to file a civil case to resolve complaints against agricultural seed dealers. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$13,654. | | |
| Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee | Reviews certain registration actions and make recommendations to the department concerning the proposed pesticide registration. The committee is authorized by the Pesticide Registration Guidelines, September 1991, as adopted by reference in the <i>Florida Administrative Code</i> . | The committee reviews special local need registrations, experimental use permits, new active permits, new active ingredients, and significant new uses. The committee meets monthly. | Would reduce the coordination of pesticide registration functions between state agencies. Also could make it more difficult and increase the amount of time necessary to register pesticide products. |
| | The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$5,977. | | |
| Pesticide Review Council | Advises the department regarding the sale, use, and registration of pesticides and advises other government agencies with responsibilities related to pesticides as authorized by s. 487.0615, <i>F.S.</i> | Serves as a statewide forum for the coordination of pesticide related activities. The council meets three to four times per year. | Would reduce opportunities for the industry and the public to provide input on pesticide regulation and other issues. It would also reduce coordination between agencies involved in pest control activities. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,786. | | |
| Fertilizer Technical Council | Advises the department on technical issues associated with commercial fertilizers as it pertains to best management practices and labeling requirements. Also provides advice on the registration and licensing of individuals who sell and apply commercial fertilizers as authorized by s.576.091, <i>F.S.</i> | Provides technical expertise to the department and makes recommendations regarding statutes and rules. The council meets about once each year. | Could result in the loss of technical expertise and input on fertilizer related issues. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$2,755. | | |
| Seed Technical Council | Reviews and makes recommendation to the department on seed related matters. As authorized by s. 578.30, <i>F.S.</i> , the council also recommends policies and practices, and submits proposed legislation and rules to the department. | Provides technical expertise to the department regarding the promulgation, administration and enforcement of all laws and rules relating to inspection, regulation and certification. The council meets once per year. | Could result in the loss of technical expertise and input on seed related issues. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 2006-07 was \$2,135. | | | |
| Pest Control Research Advisory Committee | Assists the department in establishing research and education priorities, developing requests for proposals for bids and selecting research and education contractors as authorized by s. 482.2401, <i>F.S.</i> | Prioritizes and makes recommendations to the department on research and training projects submitted to assist the pest control industry. The committee meets twice per year. | Would eliminate education and training opportunities for the pest control industry. |
| The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$2,026. | | | |
| Commercial Feed Technical Council | Advises the department on commercial feed and feedstuff as it pertains to the production, distribution, and regulation of commercial feed and feedstuff in Florida as authorized by s.580.151, <i>F.S.</i> | Provides technical expertise and research information to the department and makes recommendations regarding statutes and rules. Also reviews program cost statements, provides input regarding the budget, registration fees. The council usually meets once each year. | Could result in the loss of technical expertise and input on commercial feed related issues. |
| The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$1,726. | | | |

Agricultural Water Policy

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|---|---|--|
| Soil and Water Conservation Council | Authorized by s. 582.06, <i>F.S.</i> , the council advises and consults with the department on laws, rules and policies relating to soil and water. | Provides recommendations to the department on water quality, land management, invasive species, and agricultural sustainability in Florida. The council meets twice per year. | Would eliminate the primary source of input to the department and other state entities on soil and water related issues. |
| The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$6,789. | | | |

Animal Industry

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|---|--|--|--|
| Animal Industry Technical Council | Authorized by s. 570.38, <i>F.S.</i> , the council advises the department regarding animal issues. | Meets with members of animal industries in Florida to discuss concerns and advises the commissioner on animal issues. The council meets four times per year. | The department would use other stakeholder groups to obtain input on these issues. |
| The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$13,275. | | | |

Aquaculture

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|---|---|--|
| Aquaculture Review Council | Authorized by s. 597.005, <i>F.S.</i> , this council facilitates communication between the aquaculture industry and the department. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$4,096. | Provides input to the department and makes recommendations regarding policies regulating the aquaculture industry. Also prioritizes research projects for funding. The council meets four times per year. | Would reduce communication between the department and the aquaculture industry. |
| Clam Industry Task Force | Provides a forum to discuss issues relevant to the clam industry. The task force's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$2,142. | Makes recommendations to the department regarding leasing and other policies. The task force meets four times per year. | Would reduce industry involvement in the development of policies regulating the clam industry. |
| Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council | Provides a forum to discuss issues relevant to the aquaculture industry. Also facilitates communication between state agencies regarding current activities and issues as authorized by s. 597.006, <i>F.S.</i> The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$507. | Serves as a statewide forum for state agencies to discuss activities conducted and the amount of funds spent to address aquaculture issues. The council meets once per year. | Would eliminate the primary forum for agencies to discuss and address aquaculture industry concerns. |
| Sturgeon Production Working Group | Promotes the commercial production and stock enhancement of sturgeon as authorized by s. 370.31, <i>F.S.</i> There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Coordinates the implementation of the state sturgeon production management plan. The working group did not meet in Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Would reduce opportunities for the industry to provide input to the department. |
| Transgenic Aquatic Species Task Force | Advises the department as to whether or not a new transgenic fish, an organism that has genes from a non-related species, will be safe to harvest and sell. There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Provides scientific testing and information to ensure the safety of a new fish. The task force did not meet in Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Would eliminate the state's process for evaluating new fish species and the industry's ability to introduce new species for commercialization. |

Consumer Services

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Motor Vehicle Repair | Reviews rules relating to the Motor Vehicle Repair Act as required by s. 559.9221, <i>F.S.</i> Also advises the department on matters relating to educational grants, advancements in industry | The council provides technical expertise and input to the department on proposed legislation. Also provides advice and | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input on issues related to motor |

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Page 10 of 16

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Advisory Council | standards and practices and other issues that require technical expertise of the vehicle repair industry. | recommendations on how to distribute educational grants and other issues. The council meets twice per year. | vehicle repair. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$5,433. | | |
| Florida Consumer's Council | Provides industry input regarding department activities and reviews all proposed legislation related to general consumer issues to provide recommendations to the Legislature as authorized by s. 570.543, <i>F.S.</i> | Advises the department on issues relating to consumer protection and makes recommendations for changes and improvements to the activities of the Division of Consumer Services. Also reviews and makes recommendations for proposed legislation relating to consumer issues. The council meets twice per year. | Would eliminate formal process for the industry to provide input into the activities of the department and legislation proposed to address consumer issues. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$5,271. | | |

Dairy Industry

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Dairy Industry Technical Council | Authorized by s. 570.42, <i>F.S.</i> , the council advises the department on issues and problems relating to the dairy industry. | Advises the department to resolve issues affecting the dairy industry and provides technical expertise and input for the promulgation of rules. The council did not meet in Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input on issues affecting the dairy industry. |
| | There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | | |

Food Safety

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|---|---|---|---|
| Florida Food Safety and Food Defense Advisory Council | Authorized by s. 500.033, <i>F.S.</i> , the council serves as a forum for presenting, investigating, and evaluating issues relating to food safety. | Advises the department and proposes recommendation on food safety issues. The council meets twice per year. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input on food safety and food defense issues. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$5,001. | | |

Forestry

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|---|--|--|---|
| Off-Highway Vehicle Committee | <p>Authorized by s. 261.04, <i>F.S.</i>, the committee assists the department in developing policies and guidelines for developing recreational sites for users of off-highway vehicles.</p> <p>The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$15,064.</p> | <p>Ensures broad-based participation in decision making about the use of state funds for developing off-highway vehicle recreational opportunities, and developing related policies such as safety standards. The committee meets four times per year.</p> | <p>Would eliminate public input into decisions regarding off-highway vehicle recreational opportunities.</p> |
| Florida Forestry Council | <p>Authorized by s. 589.01, <i>F.S.</i>, the council advises the department on all major activities including program development, establishing fee rates, equipment needs and revenue generation practices.</p> <p>The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,150.</p> | <p>Ensures the department receives feedback representing multiple areas of interest and expertise including the timber industry, private landowners, and members of conservation groups. The council meets twice per year.</p> | <p>Would result in the loss of technical expertise, as well as public and industry input, on laws and rules related to forestry in Florida.</p> |
| Florida Center for Wildfire and Forest Resources Management Training Advisory Council | <p>Reviews program curriculum, course content, and scheduling as required by s. 590.02(7)(e), <i>F.S.</i></p> <p>The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$836.</p> | <p>Provides a forum for program managers to hear about the training needs of state agencies and other entities that send staff to training programs. The council meets once per year.</p> | <p>Would require the division to develop a different means for receiving input regarding training needs and on how well the center is meeting those needs.</p> |
| Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee | <p>Assists the department in developing operating guidelines for both the forest stewardship and forest legacy programs.</p> <p>The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$644.</p> | <p>Provides a forum for coordination among the agencies that provide assistance to local communities and private landowners. The committee meets twice per year.</p> | <p>Could result in the loss of federal funds as the committee satisfies the requirements for the state to receive grants through the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Community Advisory Council | Provides community input into the operations of the Forestry Youth Academy. This council satisfies the community relations standard included in the program's contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$577. | Assists the department with gaining resources for its youth program including 1) access to community-based activities and service projects; and 2) job opportunities for youth released from the program. The council meets four times per year. | Would reduce resources for the program. In addition, the department would need to develop another means for meeting the community relations standard in its contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice. |
| Silviculture Best Management Practices Technical Advisory Committee | Provides guidance and oversight regarding forestry best practices. The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$489. | Provides a mechanism for state agencies, forestry industry representatives, private individuals and conservation groups to review the guidance the department is providing to the forestry community and make recommendations for change. The committee meets bi-annually. | Could reduce the credibility of department actions and accountability. |

Licensing

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|--|---|---|
| Private Investigation, Recovery, and Security Advisory Council | Advises the department and makes recommendations relative to the regulation of the security, investigative, and recovery industries as required by s. 493.6104, <i>F.S.</i> The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$26,850. | Provides advice to the Division of Licensing, which ensures improved industry representation in legislation and department priorities. The council meets four times per year. | Would eliminate a forum for communication between the department and representatives of both large and small companies. |

Marketing and Development

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|---|---|---|
| Emergency Food Assistance Program Advisory Board | Provides recommendations to the department regarding the administration of Florida's emergency food assistance program. The board's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$7,818. | Provides input to the department regarding program administration and makes recommendations to improve the program. The board meets twice per year. | Would eliminate public input into decisions relating to the administration of this program. |
| Florida Food and | Provides information and recommendations to the Commissioners of Agriculture and | Provides expertise about best nutrition practices to the state. The | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input |

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Page 13 of 16

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Nutrition Advisory Council | Education about food and nutrition programs provided by the state and U.S. Department of Agriculture. | council's involvement has lead to healthier food options in public schools. The council meets twice per year. | regarding best nutrition practices. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$7,265. | | |
| Viticulture Advisory Council | Authorized by s. 599.002, <i>F.S.</i> , the council provides a forum for the industry to provide input and information to the department to encourage growth of the wine and grape industries. | Assists the department with the preparation of the State Viticulture Plan. The council also makes recommendations for funding research, promotion, and education projects. The council meets once every two years. | Would eliminate a forum for the industry to provide recommendations for department research and marketing activities. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$6,149. | | |
| Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council | As required by s. 573.112, <i>F.S.</i> , advises the department on the administration of the citrus marketing order. | Makes recommendations to the department for funding citrus marketing, research, promotions, and advertising projects. The council meets three times per year. | Would eliminate a forum for communication between citrus growers and the research community regarding industry concerns. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,686. | | |
| Seafood and Aquaculture Advisory Committee | Makes recommendations regarding educational and marketing activities that will benefit Florida's seafood and aquaculture industries. | Advises on promotional activities for the seafood and aquaculture industries along with educational activities for consumers. The committee meets about twice per year. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise needed to successfully conduct its aquaculture marketing activities. |
| | The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,227. | | |
| Florida Alligator Marketing and Education Advisory Committee | Educates the public and industry about the American alligator and the uses and potential uses of its meat, leather, and by-products. | Markets and educates the general public, manufacturers and restaurants about the products of the alligator industry and their uses. The committee meets four times per year. | Would eliminate the primary forum for communication between the industry and state regarding alligator products. |
| | The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$1,884. | | |
| Tropical Fruit Advisory Council | Provides assistance, review, and recommendations to the department for drafting the South Florida Tropical Fruit Plan as required by s. 603.203, <i>F.S.</i> | Discusses issues relevant to the tropical fruit industry and informs the department of products for which marketing assistance is needed. The council meets monthly. | Would reduce technical expertise and input to the department on tropical fruit issues. |
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$300. | | |
| Peanut Advisory Council | Advises the department on the administration of the peanut marketing order as required by s. 573.112, <i>F.S.</i> | Makes recommendations to the department for funding research projects to address industry needs and recommends advertising | Would eliminate the primary forum for communication between peanut growers and the research and advertising |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$272. | campaigns to help increase sales and encourage growth of the market. The council meets once per year. | communities. |
| Tobacco Advisory Council | Authorized by s. 573.112, F.S., the council provides the department with recommendations for tobacco marketing, research, promotions, and advertising. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$214. | Prioritizes research projects and determines the tobacco tax rate. Also coordinates the levying of the tobacco tax in order to generate revenue to fund tobacco research projects. The council meets once per year. | Would eliminate the primary forum for communication between tobacco growers and the research community. |
| Citrus Crop Estimates Advisory Committee | Makes recommendations for the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service. The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$158. | Provides feedback to the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service. The committee meets once per year. | Would make it difficult to make changes in the data supplied and to determine the data needs of users. |

Plant Industry

| Advisory Committee | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|--|--|---|--|
| Endangered Plant Advisory Council | Advises and makes recommendations to the department concerning the protection of endangered flora located in Florida as authorized in s. 581.186, F.S. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,301. | Provides a standard list of endangered plants and coordinates the use of grant money received through Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund. The council meets once or twice per year. | Would reduce public input on decisions regarding plants to include on the endangered, threatened or commercially exploited list. |
| Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force | Conducts reviews of the Citrus Health Response Program to recommend appropriate action to retard the spread of citrus canker in Florida. The task force's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$2,750. | Makes recommendations to the department on how to respond to threats and issues related to citrus health. The task force meets three times per year. | Would require a similar group be created to discuss responses to citrus health threats. |
| Citrus Budwood Technical Advisory Task Force | Provides technical oversight on the introduction, screening and release of new citrus budwood varieties. The task force's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$788. | Advises the department in deciding which new varieties of citrus to test. The task force meets once or twice per year. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input for determining which new citrus varieties should be tested. |
| Lettuce Advisory Committee | Makes recommendations to the department regarding the proper cultivation of lettuce to prevent the spread of lettuce mosaic virus and other diseases and pests. | Advises the department on steps needed to address lettuce health issues and determines the diseases for which lettuce should be tested. The committee meets once per year. | Would result in the loss of industry input on lettuce regulation. |

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Page 15 of 16

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$747. | | |
| Noxious Weed Review Committee | Assists the department in reviewing the official state list of noxious weeds and invasive plants. The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$452. | Maintains a list of weeds that cannot be sold by growers. The committee meets about once per year. | Would result in the loss of statewide coordination on noxious weeds issues and may lead to individual jurisdictions developing localized policies that differ throughout state. |
| Honey Bee Technical Council | Authorized by s. 586.161, <i>F.S.</i> , the council provides consideration and study of the entire field of beekeeping. Also advises and makes recommendations to the department regarding statutes, rules, and policies affecting Florida's Honey Bee industry. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$335. | Advises the department on honey bee regulation and makes recommendations for research. The council meets twice per year. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input on issues related to honey bee regulation. |
| Plant Industry Technical Council | Authorized by s. 570.34, <i>F.S.</i> , the council advises and makes recommendations on the promulgation, administration, and enforcement of all laws, rules, and regulations relating to the plant industry. The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$328. | Provides general advice and guidance to the Division of Plant Industry – not industry-specific. The council meets once per year. | Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input on plant issues. The department would create another general stakeholder group when general input was needed. |
| Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee | Advises the department on the management, control, and suppression of the Caribbean Fruit Fly as it relates to the certification of Florida host materials. There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Investigates and makes recommendations regarding research needs related to the management of pests. This committee did not meet in Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07 due to a lack of fruit fly-related issues. | Functions could be performed as needed by the Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force. The committee is most important for the sale of citrus to Japan. |
| Exotic Pest of Citrus Council | Reviews exotic pests of citrus to develop strategic action plans and make recommendations regarding projects to address and mitigate the potentially adverse impact of pests on the citrus industry and ornamental resources. There were no reported costs for Fiscal Year 2006-07. | Develops strategic action plans to address pests which threaten the citrus industry. The council has been inactive since 2001. | Council has not met since October 2001. Its functions could be assumed by the Florida Citrus Health Response Task Force. |

Standards

| | | | |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Advisory | Purpose | Agency Reported Activities | Impact of Abolition |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Advisory Committees

September 11, 2007

Page 16 of 16

| Committee | | |
|---|---|--|
| Florida Amusement Device and Attraction Advisory Committee | <p>Advises the department on patron and ride safety issues, ride inspections, ride equipment, industry concerns, and other current matters, in support of the department's amusement ride inspection program.</p> <p>The committee's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$4,023.</p> | <p>Provides technical expertise to the department and provides an opportunity for industry input on issues related to amusement ride inspection regulation. The committee meets twice per year.</p> <p>Would result in the loss of technical expertise and the opportunity for industry input on issues related to the regulation of amusement rides. May increase the use of administrative hearings to resolve challenges to regulatory actions taken by the department.</p> |
| Florida Propane Gas Education, Safety, and Research Council | <p>Conducts research to address industry problems and provide recommendations and policy options to the department. Authorized by s. 527.22, <i>F.S.</i>, the council also provides education and training for consumers and members of the industry.</p> <p>The council's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$3,026.</p> | <p>The council prepares an annual budget and business plan of marketing, education and research projects for implementation. The council also recommends the assessment rate necessary for the industry to fund these projects. The council meets four times per year.</p> <p>Would eliminate training opportunities for the propane gas industry and reduce consumer safety and education activities.</p> |
| Florida Liquid Propane Gas Advisory Board | <p>Provides input to the department on matters relating to the regulation of liquid propane gas.</p> <p>The board's reported cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 was \$161.</p> | <p>Provides technical expertise and input to the department on regulatory policies and procedures affecting the liquid propane gas industry. The board meets once per year.</p> <p>Would result in the loss of technical expertise and input to the department on the regulation of liquid propane.</p> |

Source: OPPAGA review of the *Florida Statutes* and information from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Project supervised by Jeanine Brown (850/487-4256)

Project conducted by Byron Brown (850/487-9215), Kimberly Barrett (850/487-0872), Audrey Rice (850/487-9254), Susan Munley (850/487-9221), Ron Patrick (850/487-3878), and Rich Woerner (850/487-9217)

Tom Roth, Staff Director (850/488-1024)

Cover photo by Kent Hutchinson

Gary R. VanLandingham, OPPAGA Director