

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**BOARD APPOINTMENT SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** January 14, 2025  
**Department:** Cooperative Extension Service  
**Submitted by:** Cooperative Extension Service  
**Advisory Board Name:** Agricultural Enhancement Council

**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve:** Appointment of Mike Atchison to the Agricultural Enhancement Council to fill a currently vacant position, for the term of January 14, 2025 to March 13, 2026.

**Appointment**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category, Seat Number</u>
Mike Atchison	Agricultural Reserve agricultural producer and land owner, Seat 1

**Summary:** The Agricultural Economic Development Program requires direct input from the agricultural industry. Based on Resolution No. R2014-0303, nine (9) members are nominated by either specific agricultural enterprises or by the Palm Beach County Extension Department to represent a cross section of agriculture-related sectors on the Agricultural Enhancement Council (AEC). One (1) nomination is being submitted at this time for approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Staff is requesting appointment of one (1) member to fill a vacancy. The current diversity count is Caucasian: 7 (87.5%), Hispanic: 1 (12.5%). The current gender ratio (male:female) is 7:1. The new member appointment Mike Atchison is Caucasian male and his nomination was unanimously approved by the AEC on September 11, 2024. Staff is actively seeking to increase diversity on this board and will continue to encourage this to expand this Board's diversity. Countywide (AH)

**Background and Justification:** The Agricultural Economic Development Program requires direct input from the agricultural industry. Resolution No. R2014-0303 provides an opportunity for the industry to nominate representatives to serve on the AEC. These individuals are nominated to meet specific criteria necessary to implement the Agricultural Economic Development Program, which was approved December 6, 1994, by the Board of County Commissioners (Resolution 94-1760). Staff is requesting appointment of one (1) member to fill a vacancy. Fully staffed, the AEC consists of nine (9) members.

- Attachments: 1. Board/Committees Application Form (Mike Atchison)  
2. Bio (Mike Atchison)  
3. Resolution No. R2014-0303

**Recommended By:** Ronald W Rice 12/18/2024  
**Department Director** **Date**

**Legal Sufficiency:** Anne T. DeLeon 12/19/2024  
**Assistant County Attorney** **Date**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION**

The information provided on this form will be used in considering your nomination. Please **COMPLETE SECTION II IN FULL**. Answer "none" or "not applicable" where appropriate. Please attach a biography or résumé to this form.

**Section I (Department):** Extension Department

Board Name: Agricultural Enhancement Council Advisory  Not Advisory

At Large Appointment or  District Appointment / District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Term of Appointment: 3 Years. From: 1/14/2025 To: 3/13/2026

Seat Requirement: Ag Reserve Landowner and Producer Seat #: 1

\*Reappointment or  New Appointment

or  to complete the term of Glenn Whitworth Jr Due to:  resignation  other  
Completion of term to expire on: 3/13/2026

\*When a person is being considered for reappointment, the number of previous disclosed voting conflicts during the previous term shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section II (Applicant):** (Please Print)

**APPLICANT, UNLESS EXEMPTED, MUST BE A COUNTY RESIDENT**

Name: Atchison Michael Dean  
Last First Middle

Occupation/Affiliation: Atchison Exotics Inc.  
Owner  Employee  Officer

Business Name: Atchison Exotics

Business Address: 9625 Happy Hollow Rd.

City & State: Delray Beach, FL Zip Code: 33446

Residence Address: 913 Snowden Dr

City & State: Lake Worth, FL Zip Code: 33461

Home Phone: ( ) Business Phone: ( ) Ext.

Cell Phone: 561-767-7389 Fax: ( )

Email Address: Atchisonexotics@gmail.com

Mailing Address Preference:  Business  Residence

Have you ever been convicted of a felony: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   
If Yes, state the court, nature of offense, disposition of case and date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minority Identification Code:  Male  Female  
 Native-American  Hispanic-American  Asian-American  African-American  Caucasian

**Section II Continued:**

**CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS:** Pursuant to Article XIII, Sec. 2-443 of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, advisory board members are prohibited from entering into any contract or other transaction for goods or services with Palm Beach County. Exceptions to this prohibition include awards made under sealed competitive bids, certain emergency and sole source purchases, and transactions that do not exceed \$500 per year in aggregate. These exemptions are described in the Code. This prohibition does not apply when the advisory board member's board provides no regulation, oversight, management, or policy-setting recommendations regarding the subject contract or transaction and the contract or transaction is disclosed at a public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. **To determine compliance with this provision, it is necessary that you, as a board member applicant, identify all contractual relationships between Palm Beach County government and you as an individual, directly or indirectly, or your employer or business.** This information should be provided in the space below. If there are no contracts or transactions to report, please verify that none exist. Staff will review this information and determine if you are eligible to serve or if you may be eligible for an exception or waiver pursuant to the code.

<u>Contract/Transaction No.</u>	<u>Department/Division</u>	<u>Description of Services</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>Example: (R#XX-XX/PO XX)</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Recreation</u>	<u>General Maintenance</u>	<u>10/01/00-09/30/2100</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(Attach Additional Sheet(s), if necessary)  
OR

NONE   NOT APPLICABLE/ (Governmental Entity)

**ETHICS TRAINING:** All board members are required to read and complete training on Article XIII, the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, and read the State Guide to the Sunshine Amendment, **Article XIII**, and the training requirement can be found on the web at: <http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/training.htm>. Ethics training is on-going, and pursuant to PPM CW-P-80 is required before appointment, and upon reappointment.

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by Article XIII, the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, and I have received the required Ethics training (in the manner checked below):

\_\_\_\_\_ By watching the training program on the Web, DVD or VHS on 8/13 2024  
 \_\_\_\_\_ By attending a live presentation given on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**AND**

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Guide to the Sunshine Amendment & State of Florida Code of Ethics:

\*Applicant's Signature: [Signature] Printed Name: Mike Atkinson Date: 8/30/24

Any questions and/or concerns regarding Article XIII, the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, please visit the Commission on Ethics website [www.palmbeachcountyethics.com](http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com) or contact us via email at [ethics@palmbeachcountyethics.com](mailto:ethics@palmbeachcountyethics.com) or (561) 233-0724.

**Return this FORM to:**  
**Ron Rice, Extension Department**  
**559 N Military Trail, West Palm Beach FL 33415**

**Section III (Commissioner, if applicable):**

Appointment to be made at BCC Meeting on: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

Revised 01/14/2014

**Bio: Mike Atchison**

Candidate for Seat #1: Agricultural Enhancement Council

Seat #1: Agricultural Reserve Agricultural Producer and Land Owner

*Recommended by the Palm Beach County Extension Department*

Mike Atchison is a second-generation agricultural entrepreneur committed to sustainable and responsible farming in Palm Beach County's Agricultural Reserve. Since the 1970s, his family has been integral to the area's agricultural community, with Mike continuing this legacy as the owner of Atchison Exotics. Under his stewardship, the nursery emphasizes best management practices, focusing on the health of both the operation and the surrounding environment.

As an active leader within the local agricultural sector, Mike serves on the UF/IFAS PBC Extension Horticulture Advisory Committee and is the immediate past president and an active board member of the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA). His leadership has been pivotal in shaping policies that support sustainable agriculture while ensuring that the industry's voice is heard in policy discussions.

Mike is also deeply involved in balancing the interests of agriculture with urban development pressures in the county. He advocates for recognizing the foundational role of agriculture in Palm Beach County's development and is committed to ensuring its sustainability alongside new growth. Currently, he is focused on advancing water initiatives, particularly the new standards for landscape irrigation, to promote environmental sustainability.

Mike's dedication to agriculture in Florida, and specifically in Palm Beach County, drives his mission to support and sustain the agricultural heritage that has been a cornerstone of the region. His professional experience and personal commitment to the land make him an ideal candidate to represent Ag Reserve interests on the Agricultural Enhancement Council.



**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes  No   
 Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

\*No fiscal impact

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review:** \_\_\_\_\_

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Budget and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**

[Signature]  
 OFMB/Budget  
 2/10/14  
 [Initials]

[Signature] 2/11/14  
 Contract Development and Control  
 2-11-14 [Initials]

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

[Signature] 2-11-14  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, REPEALING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION R-94-1760, PROVIDING FOR RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF RESOLUTION 94-1760; PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE AND DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING FOR TERM; PROVIDING FOR MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR ETHICS; PROVIDING FOR POWERS; PROVIDING FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR CONSULTANTS AND SPECIALIST; PROVIDING FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE AND UNIFORM POLICY FOR ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the agricultural and food processing industry has been identified as one of the four base industries in Palm Beach County with tremendous opportunities for job creation; and

WHEREAS, an agricultural Economic Development Program (hereinafter the "Program") has been prepared, presenting an indepth proposal to enhance agriculture, and agriculture marketing, research, and diversification; and

WHEREAS, the Program calls for the establishment of the Agricultural Enhancement Council to make recommendations concerning the promotion of opportunities in Palm Beach County, including the Program; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 1994, the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") adopted Resolution 94-1760, creating the Agricultural Enhancement Council; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2013, the Board adopted Resolution 2013-0193, establishing uniform policies and procedures for Palm Beach County advisory boards, committees and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to repeal and replace Resolution 94-1760, so the Agricultural Enhancement Council conforms to the uniform policies and procedures for Palm Beach County advisory boards, committees and commissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are expressly incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

2. Repeal of Resolution 94-1760. Resolution 94-1760 shall be repealed effective upon adoption of this Resolution.
3. Creation of the Agricultural Enhancement Council. There is hereby created the Agricultural Enhancement Council (hereinafter the "AEC") which shall serve as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners on matters concerning agricultural business and associated topics within Palm Beach County.
4. Purpose/Duties. The purpose and goal of the AEC is to identify promotion opportunities in Palm Beach County ("County"), including the Program, and to provide recommendations on the oversight and direction of same. The AEC shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the implementation of all enhancement activities associated with agricultural economic development in the County, except the administration of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program.
5. Membership. The AEC shall consist of nine (9) members at-large who shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Appointments shall be made from a slate of nominees who represent business associated interests in the County, members of the farming community, and other citizens associated with agriculture in the County. The nominees shall be forwarded for final approval to the Board of County Commissioners by the various entities identified next to the categories set forth below.
  - a. One (1) agricultural reserve agricultural producer and land owner shall be recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service Department.
  - b. One (1) coastal agricultural producer outside the Agricultural Reserve shall be recommended by the Palm Beach County Farm Bureau.
  - c. One (1) representative of the sugar cane industry shall be recommended by the Sugar Cane Industry.
  - d. One (1) agricultural lender shall be recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service Department.
  - e. One (1) nurseryman shall be recommended by the Palm Beach County Wholesale Growers Association and the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, Palm Beach County Chapter.



- f. One (1) marketer, wholesaler, or processor of agricultural products shall be recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service Department.
- g. One (1) representative of the agricultural support industry shall be recommended by the Palm Beach County Farm Bureau.
- h. One (1) vegetable producer from the Everglades Agricultural Area shall be recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service Department.
- i. One (1) representative from the equine industry shall be recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service Department.

All AEC members must be residents of Palm Beach County and owners or operators of an agricultural business within the county other than the agricultural lender at the time of appointment and while serving on the AEC.

6. Term. Each member shall serve for a period of three (3) years. Terms shall begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, and end September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year their terms expires. Existing member's terms shall end on September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year in which their term expires. Beginning on or after March 1, 2013, no member shall be appointed or reappointed to the AEC for more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled for the unexpired term, and shall not count toward the member's term limits.
7. Meetings. The AEC may meet in regular session quarterly, or as required, at times and places set by the AEC. Special meetings of the AEC may be held at the call of the Chair of the ABC or the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service Department, provided, however, that forty-eight (48) hours advance notice is given to the members of the AEC and the public in accordance with Florida Statute. Reasonable public notice of all AEC meetings shall be provided and all such meetings shall be open to the public at all times. A quorum must be present for the conduct of all meetings. A majority of the members appointed shall constitute a quorum. All meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
8. Attendance at meetings. Members shall be automatically removed for lack of attendance. Lack of attendance is defined as: failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings or failure to attend more than one-half (1/2) of the meetings scheduled during a calendar year. Participation for less than three-fourths (3/4) of a meeting

shall constitute lack of attendance. Members removed pursuant to this paragraph shall not continue to serve on the AEC, and such removal shall create a vacancy.

9. Compliance with the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. AEC members shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics as codified in Section 2-254 through 2-260 of the Palm Beach County Code.

10. Powers. The AEC shall have the authority to:

A. Hold public information meetings for the purpose of receiving public input on matters relating to the agricultural industry. All meetings shall be held in accordance with Section 286.011, Florida Statutes.

B. Review and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on all matters relating to problems and programs affecting the agricultural industry in Palm Beach County.

C. Recommend priorities for maintaining and promulgating the existence of agricultural industries within the County.

D. Recommend methods to facilitate the continued operation of agricultural businesses within Palm Beach County.

11. Fiscal Responsibility. Funding for agriculture enhancement related programs shall be through the Cooperative Extension Service budget. The County Extension Director shall have the responsibility for administering the funds. Further funding will be sought from federal and state programs promoting agriculture.

12. Administration. The County Cooperative Extension Director of the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service will act as the executive staff member to the AEC. The Economic Development Coordinator and support staff will implement the Agricultural Economic Development Program, taking into consideration the recommendations of the AEC.

13. Consultants and Specialists. The County Cooperative Extension Director shall, as necessary, recommend contracts with outside resources, including the University of Florida, specialized nonprofit organizations and independent private consultants to assist in the implementation of AEC programs.

14. Travel Reimbursement. Travel reimbursement is limited to expenses incurred only for travel outside Palm Beach County necessary to fulfill AEC member

responsibilities when sufficient funds have been budgeted and are available, as set forth in Countywide Policy and Procedures memoranda ("PPM") CW-0-038. No other expenses are reimbursable except as documented long distance phone calls to the liaison County department. Any approved travel reimbursement shall be subject to those actual expenses at the rate or rates established by State law and County travel policy. Approval authority for pre-authorized AEC member travel is designed to the County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator and shall be in accordance with PPM CW-F-009.

15. Compliance with Uniform Policy for Advisory Boards and Commissions. This Resolution and the AEC are expressly subject to all uniform policies for advisory boards and commissions as established by the Board pursuant to Resolution 2013-0193, as may be amended. In the event of any conflicts between this Resolution and any amendments hereto, and the aforesaid Resolution 2013-0193, as may be amended, the latter shall prevail over the former.

16. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

17. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Burdick who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams and upon being put to a vote, was as follows:

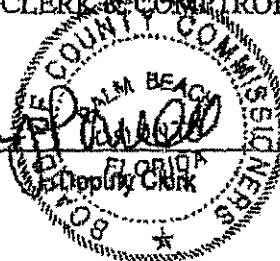
	ABSENT	AYE	NAY
Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Paulette Burdick, Vice Mayor	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Shelley Vana	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger	_____	X	_____
Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria	_____	X	_____

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 11th day of March, 2014.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK & COMPTROLLER

By: Sharon R. Bock



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL  
SUFFICIENCY

By: Anne DeLeon  
Assistant County Attorney