

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING APRIL 14, 2026 @ 5:00 PM HELD AT THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Jamie Handley	Chairman
Clay Reid	Vice Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Mohamed Abdalla	Nextera Energy
Jonathan Wells	Nextera Energy
Lucas Allison	Cordele Dispatch

Call to Order

Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order at **5:00 p.m.**

Invocation: Commissioner Commissioner Mel Powell

Pledge of Allegiance: All present

1. Nextera Energy Presement

Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order and introduced the first agenda item regarding NextEra Energy and their presentation for the evening. Mr. Mohamed Aballa introduced himself, along with company attorney Mr. Jonathan Wells, and explained their intent to discuss a proposed project currently under development in Wilcox County.

Mr. Aballa provided the board with a detailed information packet outlining the scope of the project and expressed the company's interest in establishing a business presence within the county. He also addressed concerns related to the recently adopted solar ordinance, noting that its strict guidelines may present challenges for the type of development NextEra is proposing. Key concerns included setback requirements, no tax abatements, limitations on tree clearing acreage, as well as escrow account and application fee requirements.

During the presentation, Mr. Aballa elaborated on the overall size of the project, including the proportion designated for solar energy production and the smaller footprint allocated for battery storage. He also highlighted the potential revenue benefits the project could provide to the county.

Chairman Handley shared his perspective that the solar ordinance was established to protect the county's interests and emphasized the importance of maintaining those protections. Vice Chairman Clay Reid expressed concerns regarding tax abatements, stating that granting such incentives to companies that do not generate significant employment opportunities could negatively impact the county.

Commissioner Mel Powell raised concerns about the amount of land being utilized for the project and its potential impact on local residents. He stressed the importance of considering community effects and ensuring that developments of this scale provide tangible benefits, particularly in the form of job creation for local citizens or opportunities that would attract new residents. All commissioners echoed the importance of job creation as a key factor in supporting such projects.

Additional topics were discussed, and it was agreed that Mr. Aballa would return with more comprehensive information. This will include detailed safety considerations related to battery storage, as well as further clarification on other project aspects. County Manager Michael Pomirko also requested that future presentations include a complete financial overview, ensuring the board has a full understanding of the total project cost and implications.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.




CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY

COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO