

Town Hall Roles – Pros & Cons Considerations” worksheet

Mayor	New resident to Florida
Has been receiving complaints about local water quality	Florida has sandy soils, you have to fertilize to grow plants I had back at home
Local business may lose money if fertilizer restrictions are enacted	Was told that the best time to fertilize was right before a rain-storm to “water-in” the fertilizer
Other local businesses may lose money if fertilizer restrictions are not enacted.	Radio commercials suggest fertilizing in the summer
Lawn & Garden Store Owner	Town Commissioner(s)
May lose money on summer fertilizer sales	Has been receiving complaints about local water quality
May have to reduce staff because of reduced sales	Local business may lose money if fertilizer restrictions are enacted
May actually increase sales informing customers about “Florida Friendly” plant options	Other local businesses may lose money if fertilizer restrictions are not enacted.
Environmental Scientist	Lawn Service Owner
Fertilizer restriction are needed to improve water quality	May lose money on summer fertilizer sales
What alternatives are available instead of summer fertilizing? Or is it even necessary?	May have to reduce staff from reduced sales
What research is available to support fertilizer restrictions?	May actually increase sales informing customers about “Florida Friendly” plant options
Tax Paying Public	Fisherman – Recreational & Commercial
Citizens will ultimately pay for water quality improvements	Fish populations and seagrass habitats may decline if water quality decreases
	Need to bring the fishing back
	Local fishing businesses depend on healthy habitats and good fishing
Television Reporter	Eco-tour Business Owner (kayaks/canoes)
Would fertilizer restriction improve water quality?	As water quality decreases, tourists will go to other destinations
Why not just let the government clean up the water quality?	Reduced tourists = lost money \$\$
Do the citizens really understand the connection between fertilizer and water quality?	How would improved water quality increase money for all local tourist-based businesses?
Native Plant Nursery Owner	
May lose money on summer fertilizer sales	
May have to reduce staff from reduced sales	
May actually increase sales informing customers about “Florida Friendly” plant options	

Cut out each individual section and distribute to assigned students. Students should create additional Pros & Cons Considerations in addition to the suggestions listed above to increase their understanding and be able to provide a in-depth details supporting their position.