

**Minutes**  
**Charlotte Assembly 2013**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**August 20, 2013**

3:00pm: The steering Committee Meeting was called to order

In Attendance: Dr. Robert Peterson (Facilitator), Matthew D. Donatelli (Scribe), Ms. Elaine Jones, Ms. Kelly Shoemaker, Mr. Bill Abbatematteo, Ms. Katherine Ariens, Mr. Scott Barber, Mr. Chris Beers, Mr. Andy Dodd, Mr. Barney Duffy, Mr. David Haynes, Mr. John Hitzel, Mr. Richard Hoagland, Mr. Howard Kunik, Dr. Pat Land, Ms. Julie Mathis, Dr. Thomas Noone, Ms. Julie Price, Mr. Bill Schafer, Ms. Susan Swanson, Mr. Joe Tiseo, Mr. Steve Vieira, Dr. Joyce Cream, Dr. Thomas Rath, and Ms. Marie Mclvor, Mr. John Stanwix.

Absent: Ms. Theresa Murtha, Mr. John Polk, and Mr. Lindsay Harrington.

3:05pm: Dr. Robert Peterson informed the committee that Ms. Mclvor has joined the committee to replace Dr. Joseph Ravid.

3:06pm: Dr. Robert Peterson asked the group if they had all submitted their nominations for the October Charlotte Assembly.

3:07pm: There was a motion to approve the minutes from April 13, 2013 Steering Committee Meeting.

3:07pm: The motion to approve the minutes was passed by the committee.

3:10pm: Dr. Peterson went over the agenda for the meeting. Two new Meeting dates were added to the calendar; September 3, 2013 and September 11, 2013.

3:15pm: Group started discussion concerning the Water Resources in Charlotte County:

Major points of interest included:

- T. M. D. L. (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- Quality vs. Quantity
- Quantity of Water Resources:
  - o 6 Billion Gallon Reservoir
  - o Cost \$26 million to build
  - o No foreseeable problems in the Future.
- Quality of Water Resources:
  - o Interconnection has been done
    - Easier to get funds

- There's an abundant supply of water but it's not all great.
- Water Does not stop at County line
- There needs to be a study on Regional Supply
  - A Regional Connection of Water supply
  - Up to Sarasota, Desoto and down to Naples
- The Area has plenty of Water.
  - It's not all great
- Follow up on Plants that were to be built.
- Tampa Bay Plant
  - Expensive but it works good
- Charlotte County and Punta Gorda Plants
  - 5 years
  - 3 -4 years before complete
- Babcock Ranch
  - Charlotte County can pull water from there.
- Issue of Fluoride?
  - No fluoride in Charlotte County Water.
  - This has been tried and there was fervent opposition to fluoride despite backing from the dental community.
  - By-Product of Aluminum
  - Strength of enamel on teeth
  - Brittleness of bones?
- Reservoir
  - Phases approved?
  - Plenty of water for today
  - Will it be enough for the future
  - There's not much room if population grew.
  - Holding vast quantities of water
    - What does it cost?
  - Water Reclamation?
  - Water re-use?
  - Don't re-invent the wheel.
- Lack of Water
- Cost = very high.
- County Upper Tier of Water Cost.
- Punta Gorda Water Cost
- Counties Combined bill is far less that the City.
- Is county paying a penalty?
  - Contract regulations?
- 35% - 45% of the bill?
- C. C. U. = \$8 million per year
- 5 years ago Charlotte County Water was at it's most expensive.
  - No it is the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> highest
- 25% surcharge if household is not within City limits.
- Does the Debt for the service give out an artificially high dollar amount?
- Water/Economy

- Creative Jingles:
    - “Rediscover Charlotte County, the way nature made it to be.”
    - “Find a hidden treasure...” etc...
- What are we trying to attract?
  - Water is a big deal.
- Down here in Florida we have to use Osmosis
  - We have to landfill water we don't use.
- Quality
  - Article provided by Dr. Cream: May 1995
    - People dumped property because of sewers
    - People didn't want it.
- It's a more important issue to areas around water ways.
- Solar energy uses water.
- Federal Government – Give land to local Government?
  - Did it happen?
  - No, they're not handing out grants to anyone.
- Sewers
  - Hot Topic for every assembly.
  - How is it incumbent to make it mandatory to change on their dime?
  - Can use a low pressure & voluntary option to change.
  - How do you make it voluntary?
  - Liners are smaller and there's no ripped up roads
  - 750 homes = \$1.5 million Infrastructure.
  - Make incentives for people that pay up front for the conversion
    - \$5,000.00 for upfront payment
  - This makes happy homeowners.
  - Get back the seed money in 7 years.
  - The lines will be put in for future use.
    - It's there if you need it.
    - If your system fails then you have to hook up.
- Water Table – Drain fields
  - Surface water gets in our canals and what's in the canals gets into the Gulf
  - “It's not your land.” But “It's my water.”
- Water table was established when the house was built.
- What's with the protesting?
- Need to spread the cost.
- Sewer Expansion Issue
  - MSBU – Charge smaller group?
  - 500 – 1,000 people
  - It's dismissive and does not promote the county
  - It creates division amongst the citizens.
- Paying for Sewers
  - Can the sewer treatment plants handle it if everyone went with a sewer?
- Plan expansion costs.

- You can charge anything to a MSBU.
- Everyone if affected by water.
- Benefits derived service?
- TIF Financing – but limited.
  - County \$6 million – freeze first \$6 million.
  - County wide TIF
  - How do you pay for it?
- Water use & Water waste
  - Need to look at a more global picture of how we use it.
  - Hope to focus on ‘the big picture’ for this issue.
- Previous Reports
  - Mention time tables to expand sewer
    - Has this been done?
  - We can’t manage by crisis and that’s what we’re doing now.
  - There is a plan.
    - Color coded chart of the County
    - It’s phased out in Charlotte County.

4:00pm: Group started discussion concerning the Participants for the October Assembly:

Major points of interest included:

- Participants & Demographics
- List that Dr. Peterson provided
- Ethnicity and Age need to be considered more.
  - We can’t re-do the picks
    - The names already submitted are a go.
- How do we get the data?
  - Simple, go to a census
  - Going to a census is better than just randomizing the list.
- Age
  - Retired
  - Workers can’t commit to have the days off.
  - X – Y – Z High School
    - Have them all put up 1 candidate for the assembly.
    - Doesn’t have to be the Student Council President.
    - The principle needs to be approached.
    - Needs to be of mature age.
  - Do the right thing children.
    - They already have shown that care about the community.
- We do not need all the same demographic.
- How old is old?
- What is the younger bracket of Charlotte County?
  - 30, 40, 50 years of age?
- Need to add to form:

- Age
  - Ethnicity
  - Geographic area representing
- Can the committee yield some picks from the pool if they can't get 3?
  - Yes
- Nominated Members list given to assembly by Dr. Peterson.
- Can we submit more names today?
  - Yes
- How do we differ between the demographics?
- The committee will know 90% of people on the list of 3 name nominations.
- 21 people have already displayed interest in attending.
- 57 Total so far.
- Will need to attract about 40 more names.
- We must keep an eye on the underrepresented population.
  - Who are they?
    - People that are have assisted income form the government.
    - Section 8 housing.
    - Disabled (Hearing, Physically, etc...)
    - Contact the president of the homeless coalition.
- Will the Lottery be filtered?
- Need to create electronic form
  - Check off ethnicity on form for lottery.
  - Make sure to get 100
  - What do they represent?
    - Successful all the way to don't care.
  - Make an excel spreadsheet after lottery.
  - The candidates will fill out their own form.
  - Worried about the disenfranchised people.
- 21 already interested on their own will.
  - They will be the fill ins for the demographic pool
- How do we get it started?
  - Tomorrow.
- What methods will be used?
  - News release
  - Website
  - Call
- Are we just opening up another can of worms with this?
- We will always be criticized.
- Publically advertised?
  - Yes
  - Start now?
    - Yes
  - Form will be ready in a day.
  - Will give them 2 – 3 weeks to submit the form.
- Use Lottery for extra 100+
- Use a pull out notice of 1 week.

- Info will be given at the 2 week out meeting.

4:30pm: Group was divided by Dr. Peterson into groups of 4 to create questions for the Topics for the October Assembly.

- Summary of Group Categories
- Create questions
- Leave them open ended
  - o Questions cannot lead.

4:55pm: Committee was adjourned and meeting was called to an end.