

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

A Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Truex, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Tiseo (departed at 3:40 pm). Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input - None**

1. Fiscal Update

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of Topics of Discussion, Rate Model Update, East Port Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Financing/Timeline, Burnt Store WRF Timeline, Burnt Store Preliminary Bond Scenarios, Burnt Store Bond Financing Timeline, Timeline Flexibility, Alternative Financing Options, Reimbursement Resolution, Water Authority Project Financing, Lake View Midway Septic to Sewer (S2S), Funding/Subsidy Mechanics, Lake View Midway S2S 20-Year Scenarios, and Funding Discussion.

**Chair Truex** discussed advanced water treatment (AWT), pollutants, Lake View Midway S2S 20-Year Scenarios, subsidy, adjustments, indexing, cost, Funding Discussion, and benefits. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned East Port WRF Financing/Timeline, Burnt Store Preliminary Bond Scenarios, Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist, Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Council Senior Advisor Lisa Robertson, funding, State Expenditure Plan (SEP), projects, allocation, legacy water pollution, expenditures, US Treasury Department, cost, Lake View Midway S2S 20-Year Scenarios, rates, subsidy, affordability, inflation, indexing, State Revolving Fund (SRF), Funding Discussion, and National Association of Counties (NACo). **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Burnt Store Bond Financing, Finance Committee, timeline, Water Authority Project Financing, milestone dates, Lake View Midway S2S 20-Year Scenarios, affordability, and Funding Discussion. **Commissioner Tiseo** noted components, uses, projects, strategy, alternatives, Water Authority Project Financing, Babcock Ranch, cost benefits and increases, Lake View Midway S2S 20-Year Scenarios, Spring Lake, affordability, subsidies, North Port, fixed and average medium incomes, deferral program, SRF, limitations, phases, Funding Discussion, water quality, One Charlotte One Water, capital millage, and benefits.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis responded to RESTORE Act, Burnt Store, infrastructure limitation exemption, uses, legacy water pollution problems, AWT, Florida Gulf Consortium, Balmoral Group, process, SEP, projects, components, timing, language, subsidy, and long-term plans.

County Administrator Flores interjected on phases, favorable conditions, SRF, millage rates, and Funding Discussion.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director remarked on General Fund balance.

2. Utility Update

Dave Watson, Utilities Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Monthly Purchases from Water Authority, Water Produced at Burnt Store, Reclaimed Distributed, Water Reclamation Facilities Percent of Capacity, Water Distribution, Wastewater/Reclaim Events, New Customers, Engineering, Business Services, Customer Support Data, Public Relations, Employee Performance Measures, Hurricane Ian Recovery Update, and Utility Initiatives.

Chair Truex spoke to Employee Performance Measures, low pressure sewer (LPS) systems, and cost. Commissioner Constance discussed Water Produced at Burnt Store, Reclaimed Distributed, Water Reclamation Facilities Percent of Capacity, trending data, Public Relations, and Employee Performance Measures.

Kenneth Stecher, Utilities Operations Manager responded to Water Produced at Burnt Store.

### 3. Projects Update

Mr. Stecher gave a brief overview of Engineering Projects, East Port Expansion, Burnt Store Replacement, U.S. 41 Commercial Sewer, Deep Creek Force Main, Ackerman - Water Quality Improvement, Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, Cape Haze - Water Quality Improvement, State Road (SR) 776 Force Main Replacement (Biscayne to Sports Park), Master Plans & Reports, West Port Expansion, South County Upgrades, Repair and Replacement (R&R) Planned Projects in Design, and R&R Planned Projects in Planning.

Chair Truex mentioned Cape Haze – Water Quality Improvement and South County Upgrades.

Mr. Watson responded to Cape Haze – Water Quality Improvement.

### **Taken Out Of Order**

### 5. Water Master Plan

Tom Friedrich, Jones Edmunds Senior Consultant gave a brief overview of Agenda, Mid/West County Actual and Projected Water Demands, South County Actual and Projected Water Demands, Water Demand Summary, Water Supply Options, Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Identifiers and Descriptions (Option 1), Peace River Estimated Capital Costs, CIP Identifiers and Descriptions (Option 2), Babcock Ranch Estimated Capital Costs, Future Peace River Member Allocations, Water Supply Comparison for Meeting 2045 Demand Conditions, Cost Estimates for Meeting 2045 Demand Conditions, Cost Comparison, and Water Supply Comparison.

Chair Truex noted Water Supply Comparison for Meeting 2045 Demand Conditions, Babcock Ranch, Water Supply Authority, expansion, alternatives, and Water Supply Comparison. Commissioner Constance spoke to Babcock Ranch, Water Supply Comparison, permit, data, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), cooperative funding, water sources, capacity, and Tuckers Grade. Commissioner Deutsch discussed Cost Comparisons, water supply, and Babcock Ranch. Commissioner Doherty mentioned Future Peace River Member Allocations, utilization rate, time component, Water Supply Authority, water use permit, documentation, quality, quantity, Babcock Ranch, needs, and challenges. Commissioner Tiseo commented on Water Supply Comparison, Cost Comparisons, rate payers, resiliency, Cost Estimates for Meeting 2045 Demand Conditions, flexibility, permits, and studies.

Mr. Stecher interjected on Future Peace River Member Allocations, study, engineering consultants, Mid/West County Actual and Projected Water Demands, and cost.

Mr. Watson replied to water connection, allocation permit, and process.

**COMMISSIONER TISEO MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE STUDY AS PROPOSED BY UTILITIES DIRECTOR DAVE WATSON FOR ALLOCATION SPECIFICALLY TO PROCEED WITH THE WORK NECESSARY TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OUT THERE THAT EXISTS IN THE PERMIT TO WHATEVER IS DETERMINED BY THE CONSULTANT IS THE NUMBER WE NEED FOR BABCOCK RANCH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

4. Manpower Audit Presentation

Rich McGillis, Blue Cypress Consulting Project Manager gave a brief overview of Agenda, Project Approach, Characteristics of Utility Management Maturity Levels, Employee Survey, Employee Agreement, Areas of Improvement, Survey Focus Area Overview, Key Insights, Benchmarking and Levels of Service, Peer & American Water Works Association (AWWA) Wastewater Benchmarking, Peer & AWWA Treatment Benchmarking, Budget Benchmarking, Peer Benchmarking Influencers, Key Benchmarking Takeaways, Initial Findings, Organizational - People and Process Gaps, Performance Management Gaps, Data Management Gaps, Technology Gaps, Staffing and Resource Recommendations, Technology and Data Management Recommendations, Other Key Improvement Recommendations, Capacity Management Operations Maintenance (CMOM) Program Requirements, Water Reclamation Facilities AWT Conversions and Expansion, Future State Development, Future State Action Areas, Staffing for the Future, Summary of Staffing Needs, Operations, and Next Steps Moving Forward.


Chair Truex noted business, R&R, expenses, staffing challenges, Other Key Improvement Recommendations, and Staffing for the Future. Commissioner Constance spoke to environmental concerns, career paths, and community outreach. Commissioner Deutsch discussed Performance Management Gaps, Summary of Staffing Needs, Characteristics of Utility Management Maturity Levels, Peer Benchmarking Influencers, cost, and safety. Commissioner Doherty mentioned Summary of Staffing Needs and Key Benchmarking Takeaways.

AA. County Administrator: None

BB. County Attorney: None

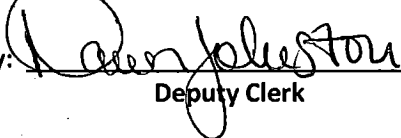
CC. Commissioner Comments: None

ADJOURNED: 4:29 pm

  
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 William G. Truex, Chair  
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 DATE ADOPTED: March 17, 2023

ATTEST:

ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By:   
Deputy Clerk