

**East-West Spring Lake Wastewater Pilot Program  
Stakeholder Committee Meeting Report  
Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

On Tuesday, March 12, Banks Engineering held the third in a series of East-West Spring Lake Wastewater Pilot Program Stakeholder Committee meetings. Thirteen (13) stakeholders attended the meeting, which was convened and facilitated by Todd Rebol of Banks Engineering. Stakeholders represented seven community groups including the Chamber of Commerce, Team Punta Gorda, and the Curmudgeon Club. The balance of the committee was filled with residents of the pilot community. The residents were randomly selected to be on the committee from a pool of interested parties. The workshop objectives were to:

- Provide information on the East-West Spring Lake Wastewater Pilot Program
- Prioritize East-West Spring Lake Wastewater Pilot Program benefits and concerns
- Brainstorm possible solutions to the concerns
- Develop input for the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners

The workshop began with a short overview of the work to-date of the Stakeholder Committee. A guest speaker, Karen Bickford, TMDL Coordinator for Lee County, made a presentation regarding water quality. She discussed water quality standards and nutrient loads; she presented a case study from the Florida Keys regarding septic vs. sewer and impacts on water quality; and she identified other communities choosing sewer, including Lee County, Port St. Lucie, Tampa Bay and Wekiva Springs, among others. Ms. Bickford also discussed nutrient loads and how they can impact county reporting and permits.

A member of the Committee asked how the East-West Spring Lake area got selected as the Pilot Program for wastewater expansion. The group commenced a discussion about Charlotte County's compulsion to comply with the State's water quality standards, as identified in the county's 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The East-West Spring Lake area was identified by the State as the top priority.

The group moved into discussion of the input it would like to provide to the Board of County Commissioners. The report will be developed accordingly and provided to the group for review and comment in advance of presentation to the Commissioners by Todd Rebol during an April workshop. The basic tenets of the Committee's comments about moving forward with the Pilot Program are as follows:

Providing hardship funding/deferment; providing a discounted up-front cash pay-out; providing a rebate for newly installed septic systems; providing an alternative funding source for all or part of the project, such as sales tax; having CCU assist with band-aid repairs of failing septic systems until completion of the wastewater expansion program; and county moving forward with a master wastewater expansion plan for all of the urban service area where septic systems are being used.

The Stakeholder Committee members who were present agreed that the tentative meeting date of April 2 was not necessary; therefore, there will be no meeting on April 2.

Fourteen members of the General Public signed in for the meeting. One comment card was received:

- Why not use proportional allocation on water usage basis of both capital project cost recovery and yearly operational costs? This would address the single largest obstacle for affected public acceptance – FAIRNESS! It avoids the “negative” terms of assessment on a property, amortization or time payments, etc. I am a former state agency and county auditor; university professor of accounting; nationally certified behavioral assessor; and software project coordinator for Charlotte County Clerk of Courts and Board of County Commissioners. Signed, Paul Frazier [contact information excluded from this public report]