

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

*The Charlotte Stone Crabs played the first three (3) games of their six (6) game home stand at the Charlotte Sports Park from April 11-13. Attendance for the three (3) games was as follows: Friday, 4/11 – 1362; Saturday, 4/12 – 1453; Sunday, 4/13 – 559.

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Stone Crabs Easter Egg Hunt on 4/13. There were approximately 150 youths participating in the event and an estimated 200 people in attendance.

Tringali Recreation

The Easter Bunny arrived at Tringali Recreation Center on Saturday 4/12/14 at 9:30 a.m. to help all the children create beautiful Easter Baskets. The Community Center was in full bloom with colorful flowers, giant Easter eggs and spring cheer. The kids loved getting their faces painted with their favorite animals and flowers. They created their own coloring books with bunnies, flowers and Easter eggs in all the colors of the rainbow. The children hopped along with the Easter Bunny to favorite Disney songs. There were wonderful demonstrations put on by Ms. Susanna's Ballet class and Imperial Martial Arts.

Harold Avenue Recreation

On Saturday, Charlotte County Community Services, in association with the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency, hosted its Third Annual Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt for Children with Disabilities and their Families. The hunt was held at Bayshore Live Oak Park located in Charlotte Harbor. The event was open to children ages 12 and under and their siblings/families. Over 85 children and their parents spent the afternoon engaging in arts & crafts, story time, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and a traditional Easter Egg Hunt. All of our participants were winners! At the end of the hunt they were rewarded with a goodie bag full of treats. Thank you Charlotte County Community Services for a job well done!

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

This week at Port Charlotte Beach, Thursday, April 10, we had the Promenaders for the last time this year. Attendance was over 110 for their last Hoorah! Look forward to seeing them next year.

On Saturday, April 12, Crystal Litchfield held a very nice Wedding Ceremony and Reception for 100 guests. On Monday, April 14, North Port Kingdom Hall held memorial services in the late afternoon for 275 guests.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 342 paid admissions, was visited by 67 pass holders and had 104 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park

For the week of 4-6-14 through 4-12-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 257 paid admissions, 20 water aerobics participants and was visited by 125 pass holders. The Blue Fins held 9 practices with approximate attendance of 800.

South County was the host site for Charlotte High Senior Splash Day on April 17. Approximately 300 high school seniors utilized the gymnasium, pool and outdoor space in the park for the day.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 4-9 through 4-15-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 280 paid admissions, was visited by 88 pass holders and had 127 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Spring Session continued with one class and three participants. In addition, the Lifeguard Training course continues with nine students. April Pool's Day was held Saturday April 12 and had an estimated attendance of 230 people. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 80 "splashes".

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for April 14 – “The big blue”

Charlotte Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting – April 14

2014 Master Gardener Training – “Home Turf Management”- April 15

Community roadway (gateways & thoroughfares) landscape beautification committee meeting – April 16

2014 Master Gardener Training – “Venomous Creatures/Invasive Plants” – April 17

Libraries and Historical

The Historical Marker dedication for the Cookie House is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 and everyone is invited. It is at 10am at the Cedar Point Environmental Park located at 2300 Placida Road in Englewood. The Cookie House is an important part of Charlotte County’s history and the marker is the final piece of the project. A brief ceremony will be held, come join us!

The Mid-County Regional Library has a wonderful display of hundreds of cut-outs of children’s hands. These were decorated and displayed as part of at State wide celebration of, “Children’s Art Week”. The colorful display is a great reminder of how much children love art.

On April 23rd the Charlotte County Libraries are taking part in a worldwide program called, “World Book Night”. On this night books are given out to volunteers who have agreed to go out into their communities and give books to people on the streets. This is a way to get books into everyone’s hands. It is exciting to know that around the world books are passing hand to hand and that we are all joined in the love of reading.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Relocating the gazebo from Mid County Regional Library to South County Regional Park is progressing.

Lots of improvements were done at Chadwick Park on Englewood beach in preparation for last weekend's inaugural Super Boat Grand Prix race. General "sprucing up" projects included bathrooms touch-up, light fixtures checked and re-lamped, and parking lot signs re-aligned to name just a few.

We recently completed an emergency repair to light poles at Franz Ross Park.

Port Charlotte Beach complex recreation building roof replacement is still "work in progress". When roof is completed, then plans for floor replacement are next for this location.

Facilities Department staff assisted the Sheriff’s office in the disassembly and cleanup of the Punta Gorda gun range last week. We used inmate labor to remove all the cross ties and target bases prior to the new medium installation that catches the bullets fired on the range. When the medium is installed, we will assist in the re-installation of the target bases to complete the range renewal.

Operations

In addition to the normal fire sprinkler inspections, Facilities will also be conducting Fire Sprinkler Backflow Inspections for our county buildings. These are annual inspections required by National Fire Prevention Association to make sure that our backflows are operational. Backflows are designed to protect our buildings through the fire sprinkler systems and also protect the potable water source. Inspections check for water which might stagnate in the sprinkler system causing contaminates in that location's fresh water.

Project Management

Staff submitted review comments to the County Attorney’s office on the draft lease to the Punta Gorda History Center.

Port Charlotte Beach complex floating dock 85% design documents have been received.

The Facilities staff met with the Judicial Strategic Space Management Plan steering committee to take

comments on the draft final plan. Minor updates will be made and the final plan will be published for use in future planning and budgeting.

Human Services

Senior Services staff began their annual on-site monitoring of the 14 subcontracted in-home elder care service providers under contract with the County to provide services to qualified frail seniors who have been assessed for services through State & Federal grant funded programs. The Department participates in a joint standardized regional monitoring of vendors to minimize duplication of efforts and increase efficiencies. All monitoring reviews will be completed by June 30, 2014.

Public Works

Active Construction Projects (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

2014 County Paving Program - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. 2014 paving maps are available on the public Web site.
Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Projected Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

Week of April 15th: Paving is complete on Midway, Veterans, Toledo Blade, Rio de Janeiro, and Sandhill Boulevards. Shoulder restoration is complete on all streets and they are awaiting sod to be placed. The Contractor replaced the original sod Contractor with another Contractor who will begin placing sod on Monday April 21, 2014 and will work until the sod placement is caught up to the paving.

The Contractor moved into the Greater Port Charlotte, Olean 1 Area, and performed all the required base repairs in this area. Asphalt was removed from the streets that required complete asphalt removal; these streets have been leveled with 75 pounds per square yard of asphalt leveling as to protect the base until it has the final lift of asphalt placed.

To date, the Contractor placed approximately 23,416 tons of asphalt and 650 square yards of 10" base repairs and 2,682 square yards of 6" base repairs in the Road and Bridge and Greater Port Charlotte areas. The required 6" base repairs in the Elmira 1 area will begin on April 16, 2014 and proceed until complete.

Dredging - Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system connecting to the Myakka River navigation channel. This is a new channel, over one mile long, that extends and connects three waterways to the Myakka River channel. This project consists of design, engineering, permitting and construction of the new channel.
Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group
Projected Schedule: 07/07/2013 – Late Spring 2014

The contractor is dredging the mouths of the Venus and Cheshire waterways. Heavy rain conditions over the summer, early winter tides and cold fronts hampered progress. The contractor requested and was granted a time extension; the revised contract end date was March 31, 2014. The Contractor is in liquidated damages as of April 1, and is doing everything they can to complete the project as quickly as possible. An additional barge is on site to expedite the completion of the project.

Sidewalks - Gardens of Gulf Cove – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle.
Construction Contract: Bonness, Projected Schedule: 04/24/2014 – July 2014

The preconstruction meeting was held on April 3, 2014 and the notice to proceed was established for April

24, 2014. This contract allows 75 days for construction.

PSA issued 4/14/14: Preliminary work for sidewalk construction will begin in the Gardens of Gulf Cove on Drucker Circle, Coliseum Boulevard and Coniston Street starting Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Sidewalk construction will begin shortly thereafter and is expected to be completed by May 9, 2014. Traffic patterns will shift due to intermittent lane closures throughout the duration of this project. There will be traffic signs and flagmen present as needed and citizens are urged to use caution when moving through in this area. Please consider utilizing alternate routes to avoid these construction areas if possible.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks on Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road and on Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road.

Design Contract: Banks Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – September 2014

Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

A work order was issued to Banks Engineering to complete the design of approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks in Burnt Store Lakes. The MSBU met with Banks Engineering on February 4, 2014, to kick off the project. 30% plans are expected to be delivered in May 2014.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – 09/01/2014

Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

A work order was issued to Johnson Engineering to complete the design of approximately 2.7 miles of multi-use pathways in the South Gulf Cove MSBU. MSBU members met with Johnson Engineering on January 30, 2014, to kick off the project. 30% plans are expected to be delivered by the end of May 2014.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek -6 Feet Dredging c391302 – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit.

Design Contract: Coastal Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2013 – Summer 2014

Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

Natural resource investigations are complete - no impact to sea grasses, hard bottom or oysters exists. The geotechnical study is complete. Rock was located however no continuous rock is exposed at the surface. No rock shelf exists containing soft corals or other hard bottom habitats. The permit plans and exhibits were submitted to the permitting agencies in February 2014 and are under review. FDEP sent a Request for Additional Information to the Consultant; response is being prepared. The Mitigation/Public Interest plan has been formulated and submitted to the permitting agencies for review.

Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe

navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2014 – Fall 2014

Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014

Johnson Engineering is currently reviewing the pre-existing permits and documents. They will begin surveying the area the week of April 14, 2014 to obtain information on existing conditions that will facilitate the permitting and engineering of the project.

Gulf Cove Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses.

Design Contract: TBD

Design/Permitting Schedule: TBD

Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

A Request for Letters of Interest was submitted to the Purchasing Department to begin the process of obtaining a qualified engineering firm. Staff reviewed the submittals and is in the process of negotiating with the selected firm.

Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging - This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system.

Design Contract: Stantec

Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/17/2013 – Summer 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Staff reviewed the 80% design plans with the consultant; permitting strategies were discussed. These strategies should lead to a streamlined process. The permit application was submitted to staff for review the week of April 14, 2014. Upon review and approval it will be submitted to the permitting agencies for action.

Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging will be conducted in the Manchester, Ackerman and Hyattsville Waterways to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. This project is located within Gasparilla Sound - Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/15/2012 – 02/20/2014

Procurement Process: 02/20/2014 – May 2014, Projected Start of Construction: June 2014

The FDEP and ACOE permits were issued. The Consultant and County staff were successful resolving permitting delays with the ACOE. This project is advertised for bid; the pre-bid conference was held April 9, 2014 with the bid opening scheduled for April 30, 2014. Numerous contractors participated in the pre-bid conference.

Pirate Harbor Access Channel – Dredging provides safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge 2,300 feet of access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. This project was recommended and approved by the Pirate Harbor Waterway Advisory Committee.

Design Contract: Coastal Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: May 2014 – Summer 2015

Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, staff is in the process of adding the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel to the previous contract. This project was originally presented to FDEP in 2003/04 however at that time FDEP did not view this project as favorable and it was removed from the original contract. Recently it was determined that dredging the Pirate Harbor Access Channel may be viewed (by the permitting agencies) as "acceptable" and will require a standard general permit to dredge 2,300 feet of the access channel. A change order will be presented to the BCC on April 22, 2014 that will allow Coastal Engineering Consultants to continue their work on this project with a new permit application. If the change order is approved, this task will be placed back on their contract.

South Gulf Cove Turn Basin – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock, the only existing location for vessels, with any substantial size and draft, to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/01/2013 – Spring 2014

Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

A location was accepted as the spoil disposal site that will substantially reduce the cost of hauling material. The permit application was submitted to the regulatory agencies and the FDEP permit was issued, however the application is still under review by the ACOE. Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries (NMF.) The Consultants are making every attempt to work with ACOE and NMF to expedite the process. The ACOE indicated that this process should end soon and the ACOE permit will be drafted shortly. Johnson Engineering completed the construction plans and the bid specifications; staff is reviewing the bid documents the week of April 14, 2014.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts.

Design Contract: Coastal Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/16/2012 – Spring 2015

Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants completed a project modeling study to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. The results have been provided to the State agencies responsible for review and comment. The result of this modeling showed that reducing the height of the structure by 1.5 feet did not affect the performance and decreased any negative impacts downstream of the structure. However, the State Park Service did not choose this as their desired configuration. They asked for a design that would increase the amount of sand placement upstream of the structure, but the modeling showed that this would be more costly and could have negative impacts on the down drift beaches and the pass itself. The permit plans and the project description have been reviewed by staff; the Consultant is in the process of compiling the initial permit submittal. An additional Stakeholder meeting was held March 5, 2014 to resolve the configuration of the engineered structure. The permit application was reviewed by staff and will be submitted by the end of April 2014.

Drainage Projects

Charlotte Harbor Watershed Management - Stormwater Structures Phase 2 - This project shall follow Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) guidelines consistent with the District's Watershed Management Program. Three components are proposed: Topographic Information, Watershed Evaluation and a Watershed Management Plan. The Watershed Management Plan includes the installation of stormwater structures on Church Street and Bayshore Road (BMP 6) and on Harper Avenue (BMP 29) as Phase 1 of this project which is complete. Phase 2 includes the installation of stormwater structures on Central Avenue near Oakley Street (BMP 25), near Church Street (BMP 26) and near Main Street (BMP 42).
Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers
Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/06/2014 – June 2014
Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

30% plans are expected by April 15, 2014.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Quasar NIA 5.09 - This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be properly sized and upgraded from two 48" metal pipes with a 44' weir to two 48" concrete pipes with a 20' weir.
Design Contract: Johnson Engineering
Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2013 – June 2014
Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The plans and permit application were submitted to SWFWMD on January 15, 2014 for approval. Johnson Engineering is working on the 90% plans and is expected to submit them to the County for review by the end of April 2014. Construction is funded in Fiscal Year 2015.

Maintenance & Operations

Week Ending April 15, 2014

- Pest Management: Beth Carey attended a regional meeting of mosquito control programs at Lee County Mosquito Control. This initial meeting was focused on forming Rapid Response Teams to combat disease transmissions to humans by mosquitoes, such as the Dengue outbreak last year in Martin County. It was proposed that formal mutual aid agreements be formed by the southwest Florida mosquito control programs. Over the last week Mosquito Control Staff treated over 15,020 acres with ground adulticide trucks and the Aquatic Department completed over 15 treatments, or 11.7 acres, and also completed 7 inspections.
- Complaint Investigators: Last week we fielded over 100 calls and wrote over 60 new work orders. The majority of these were drainage related due to recent rains. We did have a few brush trimming work orders as well as some pothole maintenance work orders.
- Contract Services: We have several contract services operations running simultaneously. We have a tree brush and power sheer (also known as vertical hedging) contractor working in the North West Charlotte area who has cut over 528,000 linear feet of brush in the rights of way. We also have rights of way mowing contracts underway in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte.
- Maintenance and Operations: An outfall crew finished a pipe repair on Oakland Hills Court in Rotonda West and completed a road crossing pipe replacement and armoring on Sunnybrook Boulevard in Englewood East. Armoring is a technique in which we fill the last 8 inches of backfill area with concrete to ensure there is no settling and opens the road to traffic sooner than if conventional back fill/compaction methods are utilized. It is especially successful in wet conditions

where base material would need time to dry out.

- A drainage crew finished up the line and grade on Chevy Chase Street in Port Charlotte with 8000 square feet of swale regrading. The Vac-Con was used to clean the associated drainage pipes in this area to optimize the flow of water. The crew then moved over to the Hinton Street area to regrade a side lot outfall and the associated line and grade swale regrading.
- A drainage crew completed 6,900 square feet of line and grade swale grading, and installed 70 linear feet of 14"X23" reinforced concrete pipe (four shell driveways) on Swiss Boulevard in Charlotte Ranchettes.
- The Shoulder repair crew completed .7 tenths of a mile on Edgewater Drive between Midway and Harbor Boulevards and performed two days of flagging for the Asphalt crew.
- An Outfall Crew completed three existing basin repairs with sink holes: Edgewater Drive near Harbor Boulevard, Spice Lane/Peppercorn in Burnt Store Lakes, and Campos Drive in Deep Creek.
- The Asphalt Crew milled and patched a 6' x 75' section on Sunnybrook Boulevard and Boundary Circle with the help of shoulder repair crews. They also milled and patched a 40' x 6' area of Orlando and Peachland. These areas were experiencing pavement "pushing." This is a result of large vehicles stopping quickly, and under the right circumstances, pushes the asphalt creating a severely uneven travel surface.
- The Grapple truck removed 9700 lbs. of debris from the county ROW's.
- A Drainage crew in the MacArthur/Orlando area completed 8,400 square feet of line and grade swale regrading. They also replaced two 40' linear feet runs of 19x30 reinforced concrete pipes that drain water under the road (road crossing pipes.)

Other Projects

Murdock Village - The Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area is an 879 acre future redevelopment tract located in mid Charlotte County. Murdock Village is to be redeveloped and revitalized as a community focal point through the implementation of the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan and the creation of the resultant mixed-use community and Town Center, through the establishment of one or more public/private partnerships.

The County is seeking concept plan approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan as it pertains to stormwater management design and environmental concepts. Under the new Statewide Stormwater Environmental Resource Permit Rule 62-330.055 F.A.C., a redevelopment Concept Approval Permit is available for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area that will provide Charlotte County with an assurance that during the duration of the permit (20 years), the stormwater management design and environmental concepts, upon which the Conceptual Approval Permit is based, will meet applicable rule criteria for issuance of permits by SWFWMD for subsequent phases of the project.

SWFWMD issued the Conceptual Approval Environmental Resource Permit for Murdock Village on April 11, 2014.

Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure - The purpose of this project is to design and construct a water control structure at the downstream end of the Sunrise Waterway to restore and enhance the water quality of Sunshine Lake. This project is being conducted in response to recommendations received from the Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study.

The 2012 Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study, conducted by Atkins, focused on the potential causes of the existing and persistent algal blooms occurring in the Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway, and recommended solutions toward restoring and enhancing the water quality of these water bodies. The study recommendations include the following actions: removal of the algal biomass, enhancing circulation by aeration, providing additional water input by well augmentation, and modification of lake levels by the addition of a water control structure.

This project is intended to meet the lake level modification recommendation of the study. The control structure will be constructed at the large culvert at the Tamiami Trail frontage road, located at the downstream end of Sunrise Waterway. The structure will raise the water level in the water bodies eighteen inches, lessening algal growth due to seasonal lowering of water levels. The additional water depth and volume provides additional attenuation and dilution of runoff and will increase storage for suspended solids. Additional proposed improvements include upsizing the pipe crossing at Gertrude from the existing 36" diameter to a 48" diameter storm drain, and increasing the number of pipe crossings at N. Tamiami Trail frontage road from one 72" to two 72" pipes.

Design: Public Works Engineering Division

Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/17/2013 – 10/01/2013

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late Summer 2014

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) was issued November 4, 2013. Bid documents for construction are being prepared and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in early summer of 2014. Construction is projected to begin in the late summer of 2014 subject to funding.

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended VISIT FLORIDA's Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature Committee meeting in Pasco County last week (April 15). The committee, composed of representatives from hotels, attractions and destinations, discussed future projects to raise awareness about the state's cultural, heritage, rural and nature-based activities. A representative from Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services spoke about the state's Fresh from Florida initiative which includes encouraging Florida restaurants to serve Florida-sourced ingredients.