

## **Administrator's Update for 4/21/10**

### **By Roger Baltz**

#### **Budget Decisions/Local Stimulus Projects**

Our staff has been conducting Budget Workshops with our Commissioners this month. At our first workshop a number of issues were discussed. Our staff has identified just over \$5 million in savings so far for our 2010/11 fiscal year to date.

Our Commissioners also approved moving forward with several projects brought forward by staff during our workshop. Projects were selected with an eye toward creating jobs, moving forward quickly, and having a limited ongoing annual maintenance cost. The projects are:

- Kings Highway mill and resurfacing of 16.8 miles of roadway.
- County Road 74 mill, resurface, and add paved shoulders to roughly 15 miles of roadway.
- Elkcam Waterway Bridge South demolish and replacement.
- Elkcam Waterway Bridge North demolish and replacement.
- Melbourne Bridge demolish and replacement.
- Spring Lake Bridge at Midway Boulevard rehabilitation.

The total estimated costs of these projects are just over \$11 million dollars.

The Board of County Commissioners also approved adding a maximum of \$800,000 to the new Human Services facility at Loveland Blvd., which is currently in the design phase. The monies come from General Government Impact fees, which have restricted use. The additional funds will be used to expand the building by approximately 6000 square feet of office space in order to accommodate a number of County Departments that are currently housed in leased space.

Lastly, our Commissioners approved an expansion and renovation of the existing West County Library in Englewood. The project will add an additional space of approximately 5500 square feet connecting to the existing library, demolish the PAL building and renovate space within the existing library. This project is expected to take 12-16 months start to finish, and is partially funded by Library Impact Fees.

#### **Midway Boulevard**

Construction of Phase 1 of the Midway Boulevard Widening Project has begun. Phase 1 consists of widening Midway to four lanes from Elkcam Boulevard east to Birchcrest Boulevard. This project includes sidewalks, major drainage improvements, utility relocations and improvements, street lighting, and new mast-arm traffic signals at Midway and Harbor Boulevard.

## **Traffic Timing**

Florida Department of Transportation consultants worked with our Public Works Lighting Section to reconfigure traffic signal sequences and implement a new coordinated timing plan along US 41 from Kings Highway to Cochran Boulevard. The timing plans for this corridor should improve traffic flow.

## **Decontamination Training**

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Special Operations Team has just conducted a 2 week in-house training for all Fire/EMS personnel on how to set up and perform gross decontamination of contaminated victims from a chemical incident or weapons of mass destruction event. Gross decontamination is the process of cleaning large groups of contaminated victims through large shower type devices to wash any contaminants from their bodies. The equipment used to handle this type of emergency was awarded through a Homeland Security Hazardous Material Grant.

## **Greenhouse Gases and Recycling**

Our Solid Waste staff received training from HDR Engineering on the mandatory Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Monitoring Plan. This plan is to comply with EPA Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, which allows the EPA to better understand the sources of GHG emissions and support the future development of policies and programs to reduce GHG emissions.

All the vertical wells and collections pipes for the Landfill Gas-to-Energy System have been installed at the Zemel Road Landfill. The next step is to install the skid flare system which is on order by the contractor. The flare will burn off methane gasses, reducing our carbon footprint and creating carbon credits which will be sold.

The West Charlotte and Mid County Mini Transfer and Recycling Facilities serviced 7,537 customers in the month of March. This represents the highest monthly total ever for these popular facilities.

## **Regional Council**

Vikki Carpenter, our Director of Human Services, has been appointed to the C20 Regional Council for Substance Abuse & Mental Health. The Council meets monthly to provide input to the managing entity, Central Florida Behavioral HealthCare Network, to offer ideas on how best to deliver services, organize provider systems and allocate State funding and coordinate resources for Southwest Florida.