

Administrator's Update for 2/5/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Part of the ongoing responsibilities of maintaining a large organization is to continually assess the operation and look for efficiencies. One of those changes is moving the engineering division from our community development department to public works. This move coincides with the start of our new director of community development, Ty Harris, and Dan Quick's move to the position of public works director.

Additional operational and financial efficiencies will be achieved by moving the 211 call center from the public safety department to now report to the human services department. The human services department already coordinates with 211 in the communication and partnership with area agencies, thus centralizing that function.

As always, our goal is to be as effective and efficient as possible, in alignment with the focus area goals set forth by the Board of County Commissioners. Good stewardship of our public service is of the utmost importance and we strive to achieve outstanding service.

Update on microtunnels & weirs

The U.S. 41 Microtunnels & Weirs project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the U.S. 41 access roads, and replacement of two stand-alone weirs across the Elkcam Waterway and the Fordham Waterway.

At the Pompano Waterway, the U.S. 41 access roads were closed in that location the week of Jan. 6, 2014. For the week ending Jan. 25, 2014: 15,000 square feet of debris was removed during clearing and grubbing, 10 feet of the existing FDOT endwall was removed, 80 feet of temporary sheet piling was installed, 25 gallons of coal tar epoxy was applied to the permanent sheet pile and 162 steel studs were welded to these sheets. The contractor plans to install the permanent sheet piling, construct the microtunnel boring pit and the receiving pit in the next two weeks. The microtunnel equipment will be mobilized starting the week of Feb. 6, 2014. Constructions of the new weir, direct bury pipes and microtunnel pipes at this location are scheduled to be complete in May 2014.

All businesses are open along the access road; signage is posted to help motorists navigate the area

As part of this project, Charlotte County Utilities installed two insert valves on the eight-inch water main at the Pompano waterway. These valves allowed the contractor to continue work without needing to shut off water service to the 60 customers served by that line.

Upgrades done in-house

Charlotte County Utilities staff recently took on the project of upgrading an existing six-inch deep injection well and irrigation pump manifold to 16 inches in diameter, rather than outsourcing the work to a contractor. Doing this project in-house saved thousands of dollars. These upgrades postponed the need to construct a larger wet well, as well as allowed us to better handle effluent flows from the Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility.