

**BOCA GRANDE STREET & DRAINAGE UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 30, 2012**

**2:00 p.m. in the Boca Grande Board Room**

**Attendees:** Tony Ackerman, Richard Morrison, Neal Rietz

**County:** Judith Nothdurft, Sandy Wright

**Guests:** Jeremy Butts (USDA), Conny Spurfeld (USDA), Palmer & Linda Long, Patrick Bell, Tom & Debra Reinke, Jill Ballheimer, Arnold & Patti Rapaport

**Absent:** Bill Kunklar (Excused Absence)

The meeting was called to order at 1:58 p.m.

**Minutes:** Meeting notes from September 21, 2011 were approved as written.

- The status of committee members was reviewed with two vacancies noted. Mr. Harold Wells has applied to fill a regular vacancy, and Mr. Patrick Bell has applied to fill an alternate vacancy. Both vacancy appointments are on the agenda for approval at the April 10, 2012 BCC meeting.

**Business:**

- The Committee agreed to wait until the next meeting to elect officers. The new appointments will be members of the Committee at that meeting.
- Mr. Bell was present and introduced himself to the Committee. He stated that he is a retired surgeon and has studied iguanas extensively for the past several years. He has personally caught several thousand and euthanized them in an attempt to control the iguana population on Boca Grande.

**New Business:**

- USDA Iguana Contract – The current Iguana Control contract expires September 30, 2012. The USDA distributed copies of the two options available for the new contract. Option 1 is for 12 months of work performed and Option 2 is for 9 months of work. With the Committee's approval Ms. Spurfeld will prepare an estimate to enable tracking the iguanas to gain knowledge of their travel and breeding habits. There is a cost involved with tracking and she will not proceed if there is no interest from the Committee. It was agreed that an estimate will be prepared prior to the next meeting so they can vote on it at that time. The USDA will provide costs to Ms. Nothdurft within the next two weeks to distribute to the Committee.

Citizen input regarding the iguanas was allowed. Iguanas can have 3 clutches of eggs per year and each clutch can have as many as 60 eggs. There was extensive discussion regarding the pros and cons of the 9 month versus the 12 month work plan. The iguanas have been observed robbing tortoise nests of their eggs. There is citizen concern that Boca Grande seems to be the only community doing their part to control the iguanas. Ms. Northdurft was asked to find out what the rest of the County is doing to control them. This division of the USDA is being paid by the contracts they secure. They are not paid by the Government.

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- The Committee was in full agreement that the representatives from the USDA are doing a phenomenal job and they want to maintain the USDA as their vendor of choice. The Committee will review the tracking quote in addition to the 9 month versus 12 month work contract and will vote at the next meeting. The USDA would like the Committee to vote on the option prior to the current contract expiring on September 30, 2012. They need to know by July to have time to prepare the necessary paperwork and process it in advance for continuity of service. They would like a decision by the beginning of August.
- Budget & Finance Reports –The budget and finance reports were distributed for review and discussion. There were questions regarding the rejuvenation charges on the Activity Report. Ms. Nothdurft will ask the Finance Department if those fees are for the entire area or specifically for Beacons Cove. She will check with Finance to see if there are any additional funds that can be used for animal control. The Committee will wait until the next meeting to approve the budget at which that time the new Committee members will be in place.
- There was a question about the half constructed white house on Gulf Shores Drive and Gasparilla Pass Road. It has been sitting idle for a long time. Ms. Nothdurft will let the Committee know who to contact for these types of status questions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Boca Grande Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.