

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EDGEWATER NORTH WATERWAY UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 22, 2012**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**Attendees:** Herb Eldredge, Rae Konjoian, Keith Waltz, Lucius Anthony, Philip Graham

**County:** Bob Halfhill, Dawn Harrison, Sandy Wright

**Guests:** Dan Gallagher, Assistant County Attorney, Commissioner Duffy

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes submitted for approval.

- Mr. Halfhill gave an overview of the rules and regulations of the Sunshine Law.

**Old Business:**

- There was a motion to elect new officers. There was no second with discussion to table until the next meeting. Mr. Gallagher advised the Committee to elect new officers at this meeting due to the time that has lapsed since the last vote. There were nominations to elect Mr. Waltz and Mr. Graham as the Chair. There were three votes in favor and two against the appointment of Mr. Waltz. Mr. Anthony was nominated as Vice Chair which was approved unanimously.
- All business was turned over to Mr. Waltz as the new Chair.
- Ms. Harrison handed out and discussed the status of the 2011/2012 budget stating that the MSBU is currently paying on a loan which would prevent them from getting a rate decrease. A rate decrease is possible next year after the loan is paid.

**New Business:**

- Mr. Waltz inquired about projects; asking if there are currently any active projects underway within this MSBU. There are no projects underway at this time so there is currently nothing to vote on. Citizens stated that they were told there would be a vote at this meeting. The Committee explained that the meeting held two weeks ago was organized by a citizen and was not an official MSBU meeting. A citizens' meeting does not dictate the agenda for the official MSBU meetings.
- The Committee opened the floor for Citizen Input stating the guidelines stipulate three minutes for addressing the committee. Citizens must stay on the subject and be respectful of others.
- Several citizens stated that they are unclear regarding a dredging project and there is a lot of confusion surrounding the subject. A meeting was held 4-6 weeks ago at a citizen's house and attendees were told that they would be able to vote at today's MSBU meeting. They were told to contact their representative, Ms. Harrison to cast their votes. Concern over part-time residents having the right to vote was discussed. A citizen stated there is no need to do a survey to see if a dredge project is needed, when everybody is against it and considers a survey a waste of money. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of a dredging project, however, more information is required to enable the citizens to make an informed decision.
- Mr. Halfhill, Mr. Gallagher, and Ms. Harrison answered questions and explained the outreach process.
- The MSBU Committee will eventually make the decision if a bathometric survey needs to be done.
- In October there will be enough money in the budget for a survey. This can be accomplished with no rate increase using existing funds. Since no rate increase will be necessary, there is no need to go through the Community Outreach process. This process is only for rate increases.

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- If the Committee votes for a bathometric survey, upon completion the property owners would be able to review the recommendations and the cost that would be associated with the project. Mr. Halfhill stated that dredging varies by canal. Normal dredging is approximately 30 feet wide down the center of the canal and 5 feet deep at mean low water.
- If a rate increase would be required to pay for the project, an outreach letter with a survey attached would be mailed to each property owner within the MSBU regardless of whether they are full or part time residents, lot owners or home owners. Every property owner will receive the letter, explaining the project and costs, allowing them to vote. Votes are not accepted over the phone.
- The votes will be tallied and if there are enough favorable votes the pertinent information will be presented to the County Administrator for approval. After Administration approval, the requests would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
- There was a question asking if all the Committee members live within the MSBU and what is necessary to become a member. The Ordinance states at each Committee member must reside within the Unit. Anybody residing within the Unit is eligible to volunteer for a position on the Committee as they become available. Applications are available on the County Website.
- There was a question regarding the process to abolish the MSBU. It was explained that only the Board of County Commissioners would have the authority to do this. They are the ones that gave approval to form the Unit. Mr. Graham explained that this Unit was formed several years ago. Originally, the Unit was part of the Buena Vista Waterway Unit. There was a large assessment approved for work that was going to be done outside of this immediate area. At that time, the Board of County Commissioners was petitioned to allow the Edgewater North area to form its own MSBU. This way the money collected in this area stays in their area.
- There was a request for a “guesstimate” of the cost of the dredging project. The cost varies so widely from project to project that it would be impossible to guess.
- Mr. Shaw discussed the raising of the bridge in his area. He expressed concern about not being able to access his dock area due to the inability to get underneath the bridge. He spoke with several home owners about the subject and asked for the Committee’s help in making this proposal however, only three Committee members were present at the meeting. Mr. Halfhill stated that the goal was to raise the bridge 2.5 feet, however, they were only able to raise it 1.5.
- Commissioner Duffy stated that she is here to listen and get information. She explained that right now there is nothing to vote on and that the MSBU is here for the citizens. Committee members put in a lot of time and effort when they volunteer for these positions. She explained that being here today was the best thing the citizens can do. This allows them to get clarification and answers to questions. She has received an abundance of emails regarding this meeting. She tries to respond to all emails, however, due to the amount she hasn’t been able to get to them all yet. She thanked everyone for coming today.
- There was a question regarding the ability to acquire money from other funding sources such as FEMA, to help fund this project. Mr. Halfhill stated that the County is always looking for ways to receive additional funding. He stated that a full barometric survey will reveal what areas are collecting sediment and what type of work needs to be done. This would also allow for the exploration of additional funding.
- There was discussion about public meetings being required by law to be announced to the public. It was stated that all public meetings are announced on the County Website.
- Mr. Waltz thanked the citizens for coming and stated their input is essential in order for this to work.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.