

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GULF COVE WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**April 15, 2015– Regular Meeting**  
**2:00 p.m. – Building Construction Services Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Ron Kubala, Joel Trefry, Edward Speer, Steve Eckstrom

**County:** Kelly Louttit, Chuck Mopps, and Judith Nothdurft

**Guests:** Sign-in sheet attached

- The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. A roll call was taken that established a quorum was present. Membership status was reviewed.
- The minutes from January 20, 2015 were unanimously approved as written.

**Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)**

- None

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**

- Mr. Trefry nominated Mr. Eckstrom for Chair, seconded by Mr. Kubala and was passed unanimously. Mr. Eckstrom accepted the nomination.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Maintenance Dredge Project Update – Mr. Mopps advised the design was presented at the last meeting. The plan was to connect the canals for a better design approach for future maintenance. Permitting will be pulled for a -5 MLW but the cheaper option would be to dredge to -4 MLW. Inside the new dredge plan, there is less material to remove and maintenance would be less due to the hydrodynamics of the Myakka River. Mr. Mopps stated the Pre-Application meeting was held with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to discuss configuration and both agencies do not see any issues with the proposal. Mr. Mopps stated the Army Corps stated the application will also be reviewed by National Marine Fisheries because the project area is within the Smalltooth Sawfish habitat area; the review could take 6 plus months. Mr. Mopps conveyed DEP stated this portion of the river is in shellfish harvesting area, which would require variances to dredge the access channels and working with the Florida Department of Agriculture. This is not a problem, as it has been done for the NW Port Charlotte dredging project. Permitting updates will be provided to the Committee as they become available. Mr. Trefry questioned costs an expressed concern that interest alone would be more than tax collections. Mr. Mopps stated the costs would not be \$2.3 million because the dredge will only go to -4MLW versus -5 MLW and the new design is 800 cubic yards less. Discussion continued on rate increase to cover the deficit and availability of funding from outside sources. Mr. Mopps stated he spoke to Commissioner Deutsch and there are no funds available from WCIND to offset costs at this time. Mr. Mopps explained the permitting timeframe will be approximately 2 years. Mr. Trefry questioned using the old maintenance dredge permit. Mr. Mopps explained the Army Corp permits are only good for 5 years so using the past permit would not be feasible. Discussion continued on the cost per cubic yard for the dredging, permitting process for the future, past costs, and fill from previous dredging. Mr. Mopps estimated costs for fill disposal of 11,849 cu. yd. to range from \$400,000 to \$550,000 if dredging goes to -4 MLW. Costs to dredge to -5 MLW would be approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. Kubala suggested an assessment increase. Ms. Nothdurft stated the next rate assessment if approved would be the next budget cycle.
- Vacant Lots without seawalls – Ms. Nothdurft stated vacant lots without seawalls are not within authority of the Public Works nor the MSBU and Mr. Kubala should forward his concerns to the Commissioners and complaints would have to be handled privately. Discussion continued relating to erosion. Ms. Nothdurft reviewed the purpose of the MSBU Committee.

**New Business:**

- Financial History/ 3 Month Actual FY 2014/15 – Ms. Nothdurft provided the financials for Committee review.

- Financial History/6 Month Actual FY 2014/15- Ms. Nothdurft provided the financials for Committee review. Ms. Nothdurft advised the planning for an increase would be in the FY2017. Ms. Nothdurft stated more information will be provided at the next meeting.
- Activity Report (1/1/15 – 03/31/15) – Ms. Nothdurft provided the Activity Report for Committee review.
- Draft FY 2016 & FY 2017 Budgets Rev. 3/16/15 – The Draft Budgets were provided for Committee review. Total expenditures and budget items were discussed.
- **Advisory Committee members open discussion**

None

**Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)**

- Tom Mondelci suggested a way to subsidize this project is to offer dredging to property owners individually.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 2:00 pm in the Murdock Administration Building B Room 106.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.58 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly Louttit  
Public Works Department

