

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MID CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 29, 2012**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** George Kearns, Bob Logan, Douglas Tucker, and Steve Vieira

**County:** Judith Nothdurft, Sandy Wright, Joanne Vernon, John DeGiovine

**Absent:** Benjamin Petrone

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 8, 2011 were approved as written.

- Ms. Wright reviewed the status of the Committee. Mr. Tucker has applied for re-appointment. His application will go before the Board of County Commissioners at the March 13, 2012 meeting. There is one vacancy.

**Old Business:**

- Desoto Canal Project – Mr. DeGiovine stated that the project is 90% complete. Currently there is only minor clean up that needs to be done. The Engineering Department is having a bathometric survey done to show if silt has settled on the down side of the bridge. The contractor has not and will not be released until the hydro seeding takes hold.
- There was discussion regarding the widening of the bridge. Ms. Vernon stated that the bridge is going to be replaced as a CIP project during the 2012/2013 fiscal year. Mr. DeGiovine had a conversation with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) regarding the widening of the bridge. It will be widened by a small degree, however, not by a full car lane. The project will be funded by the Gas Tax. Mr. Koons will be asked to verify the widening and will be invited to the next meeting to answer questions.
- Engineering Study at Sunshine Lake – Engineering stated that there was a public meeting last week and there was a lot of good information gathered. The algae bloom has been narrowed down to blue-green algae. They think the cause of the algae is phosphorus, however, they haven't been able to identify where it is coming from. The consultants consider it to be one of the worst cases they have worked on. They hope to have the research done by late March or early April. Engineering will report the findings and recommendations with costs to the Committee at the next meeting.
- There was a lot of discussion with thoughts and ideas expressed on how to resolve the problems and the depth of the water. The Committee will be sent the consultant's report as soon as it is available to allow time for the members to review the recommendations and costs. Ms. Vernon stated that the Committee will be able to ask the consultants questions. Mr. Tucker stated that this type of problem has been addressed in other areas of the County.

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- There was discussion regarding the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) decision to spend \$9 million in the Parkside area. The MSBU is willing to contribute to the Sunshine Lake Study; however, once the algae problem is fixed, there should be a maintenance plan put in place. The MSBU should not be permanently responsible for the maintenance costs.

### **New Business:**

- Desoto Canal - Ms. Vernon stated that there are many complaints of erosion, now that the canal has been cleared of all overgrown vegetation. Ms. Vernon requested approval for up to \$50,000 from the MSBU to fund a survey to address the severe erosion to the canal slopes. The survey will include the full length of the canal which is approximately 2 miles. Photos of the canal were passed around for review showing that significant work will be required to address the issues. This canal hasn't been maintained in years. Removing the growth has revealed the severity of the erosion problem. There is a fence behind the Deep Creek Elementary School that is hanging in the air. Ms. Vernon stated that the survey will identify the worst areas. Engineering will put together a phased plan to address the worst areas first.
- There was discussion regarding the funding for a cleanup plan. This project came in well under budget. There will be funds left over that may be available for the cleanup. The survey with recommendations and costs will be given to the Committee for review.
- There were questions and discussion regarding the materials that could be used to repair the Desoto canal slopes. The Committee doesn't want this to be a temporary fix. Engineering stated that they will have the consultant look at the different options available. The most economical will be used. The use of Geo Mat was discussed. The use of this product has demonstrated very favorable findings. It was used three years ago on a previous project and is still holding.
- Mr. Kearns requested an explanation of a disbursement for \$148, 951 that was present on the February 28, 2012 BCC meeting agenda. Ms. Nothdurft stated that \$136,146 was for the clearing of the Desoto ditch by Cross Environmental Services. The balance was for the various structure improvements.
- There was discussion regarding the funds for the NPDES permit. The funds are received from all three of the County's Stormwater MSBU's.
- Ms. Nothdurft passed out the budget and activity reports for the Committee's review.

### **Citizen Input:**

- Citizens from the Deep Creek area expressed concern over the backyards falling into the Desoto canal. Residents stated that there are 51 houses being impacted. The citizens are concerned about the upcoming rainy season and the possibility of the collapse of the slopes becoming worse. They were advised to report any immediate drainage, collapsing or sink holes to the main Public Works number at 575-3600.

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- There were questions regarding the elimination of the canal by installing pipes for drainage. This would prevent further maintenance on the canal. Engineering stated that this would not be allowed and reiterated that the worst areas will be addressed first.
- There was discussion regarding the drainage pipes along the side of the road in Section 15. Ms. Vernon stated that the replacement of metal pipes is going ahead of the paving project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.