

MID CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 7, 2012

9:30 a.m. in Eastport Campus Training Rooms

Attendees: George Kearns, Bob Logan, Ben Petrone, and Steve Vieira

Absent: Douglas Tucker (unexcused)

County: Dawn Harrison, Joanne Vernon, and Sandy Wright

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and membership attendance. County staff was introduced.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 8, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway Study – The Engineering Department has received approval from the Board of County Commissioners to begin the design and permitting necessary to remove the algae and install recharge well systems in the Sunshine Lake. Ms. Vernon has a conference call scheduled with the consultants to discuss the scope of work for the project. She explained the actual start of the project will depend on the permitting process. The DEP and SWFWMD are aware of the situation and the severity of the problem. The Engineering Department is working with all agencies in an attempt to get additional funding. Warning signs were posted after the last meeting. There was discussion regarding the funding since the consultant's original estimate was \$1.5 million. Concern was expressed about project funding being taken out of the District's budget. Structure Program funds will be used to help fund the project.
- Deep Creek Desoto Ditch Study – The scope of the original project was to remove invasive species of vegetation, relocate gopher tortoises and provide hydro-seeding where necessary. This work revealed severe erosion problems. The area of most concern is at the north end of Navigator Road where several homes are at some level of peril. One property has approximately 15 feet of yard left. There was discussion regarding jurisdiction issues between the property owners and the Association. Ms. Vernon stated that the ditch is owned by the County which makes it the County's responsibility; however, the County will need right of entry in order to complete the project. There is an onsite meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2012, between the M&O and Engineering Departments to discuss the project. All houses will be assessed and prioritized based on the severity of their need. Some areas may need to be cleared in order to be assessed. The Committee wants the job to be done properly and realize that these initial steps are a quick fix until the project is underway. This is a large expensive project that could take 2-3 years to correct. There are processes in place that must be followed in order to protect the citizens and the environment.

The presence of gopher tortoises and scrub jays will have to be taken into consideration and their habitats will be roped off so the work can continue away from any burrows. There was discussion regarding the water flow in the ditch. Residents were assured that the water is flowing; if it weren't there would be flooding. The original project was not to address the water flow but to remove invasive vegetation. It wasn't until the vegetation was removed that the erosion became obvious. This problem has existed for at least 5-6 years with discussions stalemated between two MSBU's; neither wanting to fund the project.

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The Advisory Committee was not staffed until 2010 and has only been working on projects since then. Residents were asked to identify problem areas such as Sunshine Lake and the Desoto Ditch. The loss of property will be addressed first. Mr. Vieira was thanked for taking a kayak trip up the ditch and for his tenacity in getting the problem addressed.

- Gulf Course Drain – Erosion is coming from under the pipe which will be lined. The project will be funded by the Deep Creek Street & Drainage MSBU.

New Business:

- Budget Reports – The budget reports were distributed for review. There was discussion regarding critical items being placed on hold to enable funding for the Sunshine Lake and Desoto Ditch projects. If the cost of the projects is higher than expected, Structure Funds will be used for additional funding.
- There was discussion regarding upcoming structure work. A map was displayed indicating the areas that will be affected. Detours and rerouting of traffic will be required. Mr. Vieira made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting and asked that the committee members be supplied with a copy of the map, and members were urged to visit the intended sites of the detours so that the issue can be discussed in detail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Logan and was passed unanimously.
- Items for the next meeting agenda:
 1. Budget
 2. Detours

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the East Port Campus Training rooms. If the room is not available on that date, the meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2012. Ms. Wright will advise the Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.