

MID CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 21, 2012

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

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

County: Dawn Harrison, Karen Bliss, Tara Musselman, and Sandy Wright

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and membership attendance. County staff was introduced.

Minutes: The minutes from the June 7, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after changing page 2, bullet 3, sentence 4 to read 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.

Unfinished Business:

- Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway Study – Ms. Bliss from the Engineering Department stated that the algae removal and dredging will not require a permit and should be through the Purchasing process by the beginning of 2013. Installing two re-charge wells will cost approximately \$100,000 which is under the threshold that requires BCC approval. Ms. Bliss will verify the cost of the wells with the contractor. One of the re-charge wells will be located at the McGuire Park the other will be located at the NE corner of the lake. There was discussion regarding a SWFWMD Study. The study must be done a certain way to determine where the algae bloom came from. It is a more in depth study that will be modeled after study's performed in another lake that experienced similar problems. If the study is done, it will prove to SWFWMD that the County is watching closely to remedy the problem, making SWFWMD more willing to participate in funding. The Study is estimated to cost \$70,000; however SWFWMD has agreed to pay 50% leaving the Committee responsible for \$35,000. Ms. Bliss recommended the Committee budget \$50,000. The request for funding must be filed with SWFWMD by October 1, 2012 to get the 50%. The 50% funding could take as long as a year to be approved. The Committee would like to see more information regarding the study before making a decision on the approval of the funding. Ms. Bliss will forward the information to Ms. Harrison within the next two days to forward to the Committee members. The Committee agreed to meet in 10-15 days to vote on the funding after they have had an opportunity to review the documents. Mr. Tucker made a motion to table the discussion until then. The motion was seconded by Mr. Logan, and passed unanimously. The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday September 5, 2012 in the Public Works conference room at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the information provided and vote on the study. Ms. Bliss discussed the algae removal and the dredge and answered questions from the Committee and Citizen's regarding the source of the water coming into the lake, water levels, and where the algae bloom came from. Mr. Tucker asked that Ms. Bliss include an estimated time line along with the study information. A timeline for the project won't be available until the project goes out to bid.
- Deep Creek Desoto Ditch – Ms. Musselman from the Engineering Department stated that the plans and bid specifications should be available and ready for staff review by the end of this week. The cost of a 40 foot greenbelt would be tremendous. There is a proposal to allow the canal to be part of the greenbelt. Adjusting the easements would allow the County access and would eliminate the need to rebuild the greenbelt. DEP may require a permit; however there is hope that it will be considered maintenance which would eliminate the permit requirement. The County has to get approval from Deep Creek HOA Section 23, the Condo Association, and the School Board to adjust the easements.

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There is a 10 foot anchor required to install a mat. Ms. Musselman passed around a picture of a finished site. Work would likely begin at the north end due to its condition. The work will be done on the west side only. The east side doesn't have as much growth or the development that is on the west side. Ms. Musselman agreed to forward the bid specifications to Ms. Harrison to distribute to the Committee as soon as they are available to her. The project would likely take 4-6 months; however without viewing the bid specifications, this is only an estimate. There was discussion regarding the funding and budgeting for the project. Ms. Harrison stated that there is money in the Budget and the projects that are pending are not of a critical nature; if additional funding is needed it could be taken from another project that could be postponed. There was discussion at the last meeting regarding work being done sufficiently. It was verified that the contract was only for invasive species by the Engineering Department; however Ms. Harrison will double check. After the project is done, the County will be responsible for maintaining the banks of the canal. There was discussion regarding resident complaints that may take place, and the esthetics of the greenbelt after the project is complete. The Committee agreed that the properties should come first and esthetics second. The Committee stated that information should be distributed to residents regarding ways to be proactive to ensure this condition doesn't happen again. Ms. Musselman agreed to attend an HOA meeting to answer resident's questions after the bid specifications are complete.

New Business:

- Mr. Tucker asked for a status on storm water at various locations that do not fall within this Unit. Ms. Harrison stated that the areas in question are the responsibility of the Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Advisory Committee. Mid Charlotte Stormwater Utility Advisory Committee is only responsible for major ditches and not the secondary drainage ditches.
- Mr. Vieira stated that the members were asked at the last meeting to visit sites where work is scheduled to be done. Committee members agreed that there are no easy ways to detour around the two locations in question. Ms. Bliss stated that the cost to do a bypass bridge to eliminate the need for detours would be approximately \$100,000 each. A change order would be required due to the design phase being at 90% currently. Mr. Logan stated that \$100,000 is a small amount to pay to prevent detours through residential neighborhoods for long periods of time. Mr. Logan made a motion to have the Engineering Department get an estimate of the cost for the design and construction of a temporary bypass bridge to eliminate detours. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tucker and passed unanimously. Ms. Vernon agreed to provide an estimate to the Committee for discussion at the September 5, 2012 meeting.
- Ms. Harrison discussed the current ordinance residency requirements and the requirement to have one resident that resides on Suncoast Blvd. being very limiting. Mr. Logan made a motion to change the ordinance to require one regular member at large, one from Deep Creek, one from Harbor Heights, one from Northwest Port Charlotte and the alternate member to reside within Greater Port Charlotte. The motion was seconded by Mr. Petrone and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be scheduled at the special meeting scheduled for September 5, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.