

MEETING MINUTES
MID CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 25, 2013 – Regular Meeting
1:30 p.m. at Public Works Conference Room

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

County: Dawn Harrison, Tara Musselman, Joanne Vernon and Sandy Wright

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 P.M. with a roll call of members that established a quorum was present.

The minutes from the June 4, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Business:

- Desoto Ditch – Ms. Musselman reported additional costs to the original contract will be approximately \$62,000. These costs will include \$30,000 for the permit and relocation of 19 gopher tortoises, \$12,000 to dig them out, and \$20,000 for the use of County staff and equipment. Using County staff and equipment will save on costs. A change order not to exceed \$12,000 will be submitted. This change order will not require BCC approval. The Purchasing Department doesn't feel the contract was detailed enough to make the contractor pay for the tortoise relocation and the contractor has stated they will not pay. There was extensive discussion and dissatisfaction expressed by committee members over the bid specifications not having the detailed language in it that would require the contractor to be responsible for these additional costs. County staff did not identify the omission of the details in the addendum during the review process. Mr. Brown suggested that the Attorney's Office be consulted on the matter for a legal opinion. Work to remove the tortoises should take approximately two weeks. The first burrow is 10 lots down from where the project stopped at the beginning of scrub jay season. The contractor should be able to commence work on August 5th and work concurrently as the tortoises are being removed, however, they will be required to work behind the tortoise removal. By August 26th the whole project should be able to move forward. The Committee would like to see the contractor on site as soon as possible. The rain has caused a delay and residents are becoming concerned.
- Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway – The water levels of the lake are higher now. The contractor has stated that the project is going smoothly but is moving slower than anticipated due to the removal of more algae and debris. They are currently on mile 7 of the 12 acre project. They have requested an extension to January 2014 and will be submitting a written request to the Engineering Department for review. Ms. Vernon conveyed that the grant funding from SWFWMD was approved. The Engineering Department met with the Purchasing Department regarding an outside party on retainer for testing purposes after the algae is removed to ensure it doesn't come back. There is no algae expert on staff with the County. The recharge wells will be installed as soon as the algae removal is complete. The Committee asked for the contractor to provide the amount of material removed so far. Ms. Vernon will follow up and report back.

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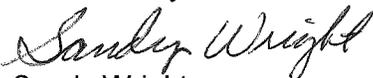
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- Flood Control Structures – The SWFWMD grant is being discussed between SWFWMD and County attorneys. The language must be agreed upon before proceeding with the bid process. The Forrest Nelson structure is next and should take approximately four months to complete. It should be out to bid in October with work beginning in the December/January time frame. The bypass issues have been worked out for the other structures.
- There was discussion regarding the extensive drainage work that was performed on Rampart from the entrance of Kingsgate to Kings Highway. The project is scheduled to be completed by the middle of August. The Committee asked where that water is going now. Ms. Vernon will follow up.
- Public Comments – None
- Financial Reports – The reports were distributed for review and questions. There will most likely be more funding rolled over to next year than was anticipated. There is no need to anticipate a rate increase in the future. There has been a lot of maintenance neglect in the past that should be kept up with moving forward.
- Committee Comments:
 1. Mr. Vieira stated that he is concerned over the additional \$62,000 on the Desoto Project.
 2. Mr. Logan stated it should be used as a learning experience and the fact that Engineering has already taken steps to reword all future contracts should ensure this won't happen again.
 3. Mr. Tucker stated that the Desoto Project has been on the radar for a long time and it has been known that there would be issues with tortoises and scrub jays.
 4. Mr. Kearns stated his concern over the \$62,000. Although this was a learning curve, he feels it is still an injustice to the MSBU.
 5. Mr. Brown stated that the contract issue should be taken to the Administration level.
 6. Mr. Tucker welcomed Mr. Brown to the Committee. He stated that he didn't apply to become a regular member due to time constraints and is content as an alternate.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sandy Wright
Public Works Department

