

SOUTH GULF COVE WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 18, 2012

10:00 a.m.in the San Casa Conference Room

Attendees: Ron Bick, Clarence Brosmer, Joe Giraldi, Tom Ireland, Richard Redican, and Ralph Young

County: Barry DeMello, Matt Logan, Judith Nothdurft, Sandy Wright

Guests: Walter Graham

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Young was introduced and welcomed to the Committee.

Minutes: The minutes from the April 3, 2012 were unanimously approved as written. The minutes from the April 25, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after changing the date of the April 4, 2012 meeting minutes to read April 3, 2012.

Old Business:

- Activity Report - The Activity Report was distributed and reviewed. Changes to the format of the report were discussed.
- Budget Report - The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget was distributed and reviewed with the changes requested by the Committee. There was discussion regarding the Feasibility Study amount in the 2013 Budget, Ms. Nothdurft explained the funding to the Committee.
- Status of Lock Issues/Repairs – Mr. DeMello met with Integrated Fire & Security Systems regarding an analysis of the lock. The receiver was replaced. The whole system went underwater during Tropical Storm Debby requiring further repairs and battery replacement. Mr. DeMello has scheduled Integrated Fire & Security to come back on site for further testing late in the day next Monday to allow for Committee members to be present. It was stated that to properly test the system it must be done from a boat. The whole system and the frequency from the remote controls will be tested. Mr. DeMello stated that he contacted a company about the lock cleaning maintenance. The estimate was for \$27,000. It is now with the purchasing department and will be sent out for bid. This maintenance will include hand scraping and cleaning. Mr. DeMello has purchased underwater cameras to use for documenting the stages of the work. The bumper strips and ropes will be replaced at the same time as the cleaning.
- There was discussion regarding the lack of line of site when approaching the lock from the river side. Pepper plants can be removed, however mangroves can only be trimmed and may require a permit to do so. Mr. Logan stated that since there is a line of site problem, it may be exempt from the DEP permitting process. Mr. Logan will check with DEP and report his findings back to the Committee.
- Feasibility Study – Mr. Logan distributed a 23 page report provided by Southwest Engineering and Design, Tetra Tech and EarthBalance. Mr. Logan explained the report and stated that it identifies 3 locations that would be the easiest areas to permit, impacts, possible mitigation requirements, lock design options, and cost breakdown. The cost of the actual installation of the lock was not included in the report. There was extensive discussion regarding the report.

SOUTH GULF COVE WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 18, 2012

Page 2

Mr. Logan stated that several agencies showed up for the meeting; many more than was anticipated and some present via phone. It was overwhelmingly apparent that the agencies did not want this project to go through. The report shows some of the agencies and their many concerns with this project. There are numerous layers of State and Federal agencies that have jurisdiction over the area. The area is provided the greatest level of protection due to it being located in a State Park Buffer Preserve. The recommendation at the end of the report states "the possibility of an additional lock in the southern portion of the interceptor lagoon is not a feasible project and should not be pursued by the MSBU. If increased boat traffic and the size of boats are restricted by the existing lock, a parallel lock constructed at the same location as the lock in the north end, would be a viable alternative".

New Business:

- Navigation Light - Mr. Bick worked with Ms. Nothdurft regarding the replacement of a red light on a green channel marker. The Engineering department will be replace the light by the end of next week. Green marker #1 will get a new light. The charts will have to be corrected after the replacement is complete.
- Vegetation Removal – There was discussion regarding vegetation growing at the ends of the canals. The Committee agreed that the property owners are responsible for the removal from the seawall in towards the center of the canal, 25 feet. The County is responsible for the area from the seawall to the right-of-way on the lots where the canals terminate at the County right-of-way. Mr. DeMello stated that he will open a work request to address those areas. This work will be charged to the Street & Drainage Committee. The Committee agreed that they should not be responsible for cleaning in the water at the end of the canals, stating it would set a precedence that would have all canal front property owners wanting the canals cleaned located at their properties, by the Committee.
- Docks & Piers at St. Paul Linear Park – Mr. Bick attended a Community meeting where items were pointed out to him to be brought up with the Advisory Committee members. There was discussion regarding docks and piers at the Park. The Committee agrees that they should not have to fund the maintenance for parks after they are installed by other entities. Mr. Redican stated that the only area he could stop the building on was the greenbelt. The Committee reviewed the map showing the area. Docks, piers or seawalls are not allowed in areas east of St. Paul Linear Park; this is a drainage area and the Committee should not approve any construction in this area.
- Boat Launch – There was discussion regarding the installation of another boat launch within South Gulf Cove per the Community Plan. The Committee agreed that another launch is not and will not be necessary until the existing launches are used to their capacity.
- There was discussion regarding the millage rates remaining flat and the county needing funding for their Budget. Mr. Ireland stated the Committee should identify projects to be associated with their reserves to prevent the County from taking the MSBU funds and using them for other items. It was explained that MSBU funds can't be used to fund items outside of the Unit boundaries and for other MSBU areas.

SOUTH GULF COVE WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 18, 2012

Page 3

- It was stated that County land outside the locks has been put on hold. The Cattle Dock Proposal land area to be used for parking was placed on hold by the BCC.

Citizen Input:

- Mr. Graham stated that he was the original engineer that worked on the General Development Corporation (GDC) project when it was designed and developed. He stated that the major canals were dredged to a 5 foot depth and have buried connector pipes under them while the finger canals were dredged to a 4 foot depth at the end tapering to a 5 foot depth where they terminate into the major canal. This design was created to provide a flushing action for the water to drain into the lagoon where it would be cleaned naturally. The lagoon provides various forms of treatment. A lot of the canals have been built over by residents. If the Committee were to dredge the whole length of the finger canals to 5 foot, it would violate the original permit and Consent Order that was filed with the Department of Environment Protection by GDC. Mr. Graham provided a copy of the original Consent Order. Ms. Nothdurft made copies and distributed them to the Committee members. GDC is now owned by the County. The Consent Order states GDC and its successors, which leaves the County responsible for this Consent Order. Mr. Graham strongly recommended that the Committee not condone anything that goes against what is stated in the original document as it would be grounds for litigation. He offered to make himself and copies of the original documents available to the Committee if they had any questions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the San Casa Conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.