

SOUTH GULF COVE WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 28, 2013 - Regular Meeting
9:00 a.m. – Building Construction Services Conference Room

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

Absent: Richard Redican (excused)

County: Chuck Mopps, Tara Musselman, Judith Nothdurft, and Ray Slade

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

A roll call of members was taken that established a quorum was present.

The minutes from April 9, 2013 were unanimously approved as written.

Water Quality Presentation

The sequence of the Agenda was changed to allow Jon Hubertz and Jim Thomson from Charlotte Harbor Environment Center (CHEC) to give a presentation on the water quality test results from the South Gulf Cove (SGC) canals. The water quality testing program was initiated in 2009. There are five sampling stations and the samples are collected quarterly. The sampling parameters include Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Fecal Coliform, Dissolved Oxygen, Salinity, pH, Station Depth, Secchi Depth (water clarity), Air/Water Temperature, Wind Speed/Direction, and Cloud Cover. The Water Quality PowerPoint Presentation will be sent to the Committee and posted on the SGC Waterway MSBU website.

Old Business:

- Lock Status – Mr. Slade reported that the EHM technician will evaluate the SGC Lock the week of 6/10/13 and provide recommendations to the lock's operational problems. The Committee requested that the EHM visit be advertised as a SGC Waterway Advisory Committee field meeting, so that all members could participate. Ms. Nothdurft will work with Mr. Slade to arrange this. Mr. Slade conveyed that the lock is on a delayed timer as a safety precaution due to it crushing a boat in the past. The lock openings to increase the water levels have been unsuccessful due to the winds coming out of the north. There are no openings planned for this month.
- Turning Basin Survey – Mr. Mopps reported that the project went out to bid. The Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) resulted in eight or nine responses. Johnson Engineering was selected. The contract has been to Purchasing and is awaiting final signature from the County Engineer. Mr. Mopps included a survey of the Access Channel along with the Turning Basin in the Scope of Services. This will allow surveying the entire system going to the lock so that it can all be dredged at the same time instead of piecemeal. A survey of the Turning Basin and Access Channel will start any day. Dredging under a depth of 3 ft. may be an issue regarding the small tooth sawfish. There are no mangroves within 75 feet, which is beneficial. The project may qualify for US ACOE blanket permit.
- Access Channel Dredging – There was discussion that the channel dredging is currently permitted for 5 ft. mean low water level. A permit to dredge deeper can be applied for, but it would be a whole different permit process than the current project. The depth of the lock is 8 ft. and is the controlling depth. The channel may be able to be dredged to 6 feet. Mr. Mopps suggested conducting the current project for turning basin and access channel for 5 ft. and then consider dredging deeper possibly through the West Coast Inland Navigational District (WCIND). Mr. Mopps recommended that Ms. Nothdurft forward the Resolution for WCIND from the 5/28/13 BCC Agenda.

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- Mangrove Trimming - Mr. Mopps reported that the Mangrove trimming was done very well.
- Trout Creek Project/Butterford Waterway Bridge Repair - There was a large amount of red mangrove growth at Trout Creek. Mr. Mopps inspected the area with Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the agency was very impressed.
- Mr. Brosmer reported some inconsistencies between the Budget and the Activity Budget breakdown. Ms. Nothdurft will follow up on these questions.
- Mr. Bick noted there was no funding for Parallel Lock in fiscal year 2015 budget and asked why. Ms. Nothdurft will follow-up.

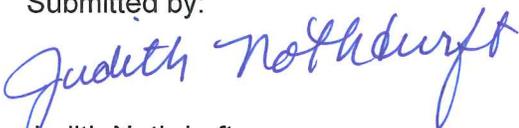
New Business:

- Activity Report – Distributed for review and questions.
- There was discussion regarding the spraying of the canals for Chara. The Committee stated that Mr. Hunter's crew was very responsive and the job was very well done. They asked if the Pest Management crew was using the herbicide as two years ago. Ms. Nothdurft will follow-up.
- Signs for Waterways -There was discussion regarding signage to identify the waterways. The Committee suggested using seawalls to mount the signs with the owner's permission. Seawalls cannot be drilled. A painted template could be used on the seawalls; however the weeds would grow and block the visibility. The Committee suggested a sign the size of a street sign and requested the estimated cost of the signs. Many areas don't have seawalls, but it was suggested to start with the areas that do. Ms. Nothdurft will follow up on if the signs can be placed on privately owned seawalls and the cost.
- The Committee would like to get clarification for the County's stand on clearing mangroves in the greenbelt area in Section 94 of SGC along the Lagoon and then issuing permits to build a dock at lots (some lots don't have houses on them). In some cases, the owners of the docks have been fined. There is concern that this violates the 1994 South Gulf Cove Covenant to set aside land (15 - 20 ft.) along the water's edge to establish a greenbelt area for common use. Also, if there are several docks, this may require an idle zone. The Committee would like to know if removal of the mangroves and building docks in the greenbelt area is legal. Ms. Nothdurft will follow-up on this.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Submitted by:



Judith Nothdurft
Public Works Department

