

MEETING NOTES
WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 18, 2012
10:00 a.m. at San Casa Conference Room

Attendees: Laren Armstrong, Henry Killion, Glynn Perkins, Granville Pennypacker, Stanley Plizga, and Scott Schermerhorn

County: Judith Nothdurft, Joanne Vernon, Sandy Wright

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

- Status of Committee members' terms was reviewed noting that Mr. Armstrong's term was renewed on July 24, 2012 and will expire on July 24, 2015. There was discussion regarding this being Mr. Armstrong's 3rd term. Ms. Wright stated our records indicate this is the 2nd term and will research the original appointment date. Terms can be extended beyond the 3 term limit with the approval of the BCC when there are no other applicants.
- There was discussion regarding the meeting notes from the June 12, 2012 meeting, page 2 bullet 3 should be changed to read as follows:

There was discussion regarding the responsibilities of the West Charlotte Stormwater Utility vs. the Street & Drainage MSBUs. The last cleaning of the weirs was charged to the Englewood East MSBU. Ms. Vernon will investigate. Swales in Rotonda are the responsibility of the Street & Drainage MSBU. It is Ms. Vernon's understanding that the main Rotonda River is considered West Charlotte Stormwater's responsibility with the finger canals being the responsibility of Street & Drainage. A legal determination has not been rendered; however, if they feel it is required, the Committee can pay to have legal work performed to determine the responsibility between the Street & Drainage Committee versus the West County Stormwater Utility Committee.

The meeting notes will be reviewed for approval at the next Committee meeting

- There was further discussion regarding responsibilities of the West Charlotte Stormwater Utility and the Rotonda West Street & Drainage MSBU Committees.

Old Business:

- Ms. Vernon explained the status of the three requests for maintenance from the last meeting. Research showed that the last repair of the weir was funded by West Charlotte Stormwater Utility Unit and not Englewood East as previously thought.

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- There was discussion regarding the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. Ms. Nothdurft stated that the Committee agreed on the Budget at the last meeting. The changes that the Committee requested were made. The Budget was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) last Thursday for their review and approval. Ms. Nothdurft will send the final copy of the Budget to the Committee.
- There was discussion regarding having \$2.5 million carried over in the Budget. Ms. Nothdurft stated that the Committee raised the assessment during the 2007/2008 fiscal year due to projects running out of money. The Committee can lower the assessment rate during the 2014 fiscal year. Ms. Nothdurft explained that Fiscal Year 2014 will be the beginning of a two year budget cycle and that should be taken into consideration if an assessment change is going to be discussed. Ms. Vernon and Mr. DeMello stated that they don't know of any future major projects besides the Newgate Waterway spoil removal. Ms. Vernon would not speculate on a final cost of that project at this time; however, she is expecting it to be substantial. There are funds available to cover the cost of this project. Mr. Pennypacker recommended that the project be done as soon as possible while funding is available. This will give the Committee the funding knowledge necessary to start planning for the 2014/2015 budget years.
- There was discussion of areas that are not navigable during the dry season that may need dredging. The Committee agreed to document problem areas around the main Rotonda River only (not finger canals) and bring their findings to a future meeting for discussion.
- There was discussion regarding what services the residents of Rotonda are receiving from payment into the West Charlotte Stormwater Utility Unit. The community is the main funnel for the Lemon Bay Watershed. Ms. Vernon agreed that the Rotonda River is really a major drainage ditch. She stated that the river could be added, however in the past they typically do not show canals or "rivers". The release of water through the Buck Creek area may require future funding. Ms. Vernon stated that the future permitting of stop boards at Buck Creek will more than likely not be allowed by the State. She will check to see if vegetation removal downstream from Buck Creek is necessary at this time. Mr. DeMello said that M&O can remove the stop block boards located in the river at Boundary Boulevard to allow drainage for now. The boards can be re-installed later. M&O will charge the MSBU for the work. Mr. Perkins made a motion to make the necessary repairs/adjustments to the storm water control structure on Buck Creek to restore it to an effective working system. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schermerhorn and passed unanimously. The control structures need to be maintained. Ms. Vernon stated she would take a look at the structure to see if it will need to be replaced in the near future.
- Rotonda River Grass Carp – Before grass carp can be put into the water, there must be barriers installed at all input and output points to keep them from escaping the system. This is a State requirement. Mr. Plizga reported that the contact at Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is Rhonda Howell. The first step to get approval for grass carp is an application with the second being a permit. Mr. Plizga gave a copy of an application to Ms. Nothdurft. There is currently an active permit that was issued to the HOA. That permit can be referenced when applying for another permit which should be issued to the County.

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It may be possible to transfer the existing permit to the County to take over. Mr. Plizga has a list of contractors that supply grass carp and some of these contractors also construct barriers. Mr. Schermerhorn made a motion for the County to pursue the acquisition of an active permit for grass carp to be put into the Rotonda River. The motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong and passed unanimously.

- There are no other projects that the Engineering Department is working on. There was discussion regarding the pepper bushes in the Newgate area that were previously controlled by spraying. Since the spoil removal is going out to contract, Ms. Vernon will insert a vegetation portion into the contract. This will also cover the Gillot Area.

Citizen Input:

- Ms. Ireland stated that San Domingo is moving along nicely. There are no other areas of concern at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the San Conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.