

MEETING MINUTES
ROTONDA WEST S&D and WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES
May 13, 2014 – Joint Workshop Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Rotonda West Community Center

Attendees: Bob Barrett, Susan Killion, Russell Kulp, John Peszko, Stanley Plizga, Scott Schermerhorn, Glynn Perkins, Henry Killion and Lawrence Harrod

Absent: Laren Armstrong (excused)

Guests: Sign in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. A roll call was taken that established a quorum was present.

Mr. Peszko explained the purpose of this special joint workshop meeting was to discuss backyard drainage and greenbelt drainage issues in Rotonda West Street & Drainage (S & D) Unit. This includes projects that are related to water run-off from the streets such as the case on Long Meadow Rd. The question is who should be responsible for funding projects such as this and should they be funded jointly by the Rotonda West S&D Unit and the West Charlotte Stormwater Unit. Mr. Peszko conveyed that if the golf course has drainage issues and if the issue is deemed a golf course responsibility, the MSBUs don't provide funding. Each project should be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine where the funds should come from. Mr. Peszko stated the Long Meadow Rd. project workers have done a fantastic job and it is almost complete. He would like to continue to use County Maintenance & Operations staff whenever possible, instead of going out to bid for contractors.

Citizen and Member Comments:

- Mr. Peszko stated that he looked at the drainage problem at Ms. Charlesworth's residence; it will need to be reviewed to see what is required to resolve the problem. The problem will be addressed.
- Ms. Charlesworth (Citizen Input) stated that she is worried about big machinery coming in and taking out all the big trees. There needs to be a buffer zone between her house and the golf course. If all the vegetation is taken out, her property value will go down. She stated that they are concerned about the water standing for long periods of time and that her husband is willing to volunteer to help with the project if need be.
- Mr. Elias stated that he wants to avoid the circular argument that has been going on for several years regarding the drainage issues. There are county-wide drainage issues and he feels this discussion may bring the subject to the forefront for resolution. He stated that the golf course drainage easements that abut the back yard property lines could be taken to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to have the County take them back over for maintenance, if the Committees supported such an action. He feels this issue would be the simplest to resolve since the golf course drainage easements were released back to the owner, Lemon Bay Golf Club, for them to maintain several years ago. Mr. Peszko stated he thinks it is an excellent idea for the County to take back the maintenance of the golf course drainage easements and he realizes it would come with a cost to the MSBU for the maintenance.
- Mr. Elias stated the greenbelts would have to be discussed separately because it is his understanding that they were never maintained by the County. Mr. Lyons stated the County did in fact maintain the greenbelts 5-6 years ago. He believes the greenbelts are the same issue as backyard drainage ditches abutting the golf course easements. The question should be if the County takes over the responsibility of the drainage ditches regardless of whether it is a backyard ditch or greenbelt.
- Mr. Perkins stated all the water goes to one central drainage ditch and he considers it all one issue; not separate issues. The county is responsible for drainage issues. He supports the county taking back the whole drainage structure in West County. There was discussion regarding access to a possible pipe collapse on the golf course. Mr. Kelly stated the county has replaced failed pipes on the golf course before. The golf course gives permission for necessary access to correct the problem. Mr. Elias and Ms. Vernon will work with the heads of the various groups to put together the verbiage to go to the BCC for approval. There may be issues that would keep the back yard ditches and the greenbelts separate; however he is not against making it one proposal. If access agreements to correct problems can be put into place, he wants to move forward.

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- Mr. Schermerhorn asked if Mr. Elias would be willing to spearhead both items. Mr. Elias stated that they are willing to spearhead anything the Committee agrees on.
- Mr. Plizga stated he feels it would be good for the County to be the focal point for drainage issues. He would like some clarification and more detail as what that would entail.
- Ms. Slater (Citizen Input) stated that South Gulf Cove has 55 miles of canals or storm water control canals. She would like for whatever is decided on with the Rotonda West S&D Unit be done consistently with other MSBUs stating that South Gulf Cove has a lot of greenbelt areas. Mr. Elias stated that currently he is speaking specifically about Rotonda West. Mr. Elias agrees with consistency; however the specifics of each unit would have to be examined individually.
- Mr. Elias stated that Public Works is staffed lower than they have ever been since he started in 1989. He is talking with administration to build more staff to be able to address maintenance issues. There are currently 270 drainage requests on back log.
- Mr. Killion stated that there is funding available in the West Charlotte Stormwater Unit to fund some of this work.
- Mr. Elias stated the budgets are two year cycles, and budgeting would have to be taken into consideration by the Units.
- Mr. Barrett agreed that any agreement would need to be looked at carefully due to cost issues.
- Mr. Stewart (Citizen Input) asked that the drainage issues continue to be looked at on a case by case basis until the costs and agreements are worked out. He doesn't know where the water is coming from but it drains into his back yard and that is his concern.
- Mr. Carroll (Citizen Input) stated he doesn't have a problem with back yard swales. He has a problem with projects being done and not completed properly; yet the county continues to pay the vendors. If the jobs are completed correctly he is fine; however if the project is not correct the contractors should not be paid until they make it right.
- Mr. Paine (Citizen Input) stated that each spring there is water lettuce growing in the Butterford Canal and asked why a device couldn't be installed to collect the lettuce. He asked that the members of the West Charlotte Stormwater Unit consider putting some funds towards the South Gulf Cove Waterway Unit.
- Ms. Slater (Citizen Input) stated there are 3 MSBUs in South Gulf Cove. The Street & Drainage Committee takes care of pepper trees etc., the Waterway Unit takes care of the canals and she again stated she would like to see consistency for all Units.
- Mr. Schermerhorn made a motion to support the County taking over the maintenance of the backyard ditches and greenbelts within Rotonda West S&D Unit; the motion was seconded by Ms. Killion and passed unanimously.
- Mr. Perkins made a motion for West Charlotte Stormwater Unit to support the motion to move forward with a county-wide solution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Schermerhorn and passed unanimously.

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- Mr. Killion stated he appreciates the County offering to help and offered to help set up a joint meeting with all the west county Units and the commissioners as they did last year.
- Mr. Elias stated there will likely be a need for additional meetings to work through road blocks.
- Mr. Barrett thanked and commented on Mr. Elias' availability in the past.
- Ms. Killion stated that when the MSBU initiated the Rotonda West Drainage Study, the committee got push back from the residents. She supports and thanks Mr. Elias for the two Units working together.
- Mr. Lyons thanks Mr. Elias for bringing this concept to the MSBU's.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sandy Wright
Public Works Department

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
ROTONDA WEST S&D AND WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEES
JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2014

MEETING TIME: 2:00 P.M. – Rotonda West Community Center

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM BECOMES
PUBLIC RECORD**

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