



Public Works Department

Stormwater Engineering Division
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MEMORANDUM

*ARC
12/9/19*

To: Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
From: Chad Butzow, P.E., Director, Public Works Department
Date: December 6, 2019

Subject: Summary of BOCC Work Session held October 31, 2019
Pearce Drain/Gap Creek Watershed Management Plan Project Alternatives

This memorandum is being issued for the purpose of summarizing and memorializing the discussion of stormwater issues during the subject work session.

The purpose of the work session was to share the flood mitigation alternatives for the two watersheds which are the result of the Board Approved Cooperative Funding Agreements with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

The two studies are the first of their kind for Manatee County that include flood mitigation alternatives. The flood mitigation alternatives were included as part of the Watershed Study at additional cost based on the significant flooding that occurred in both watersheds in August 2017 (end of August 2017 no-name storm). That storm was identified as a 50 year storm event.

The consultants for the watersheds were brought in to present their findings with respect to recommended flood mitigation alternatives. The presentations from the two consultants are attached for reference.

For Pearce Drain/Gap Creek, fourteen (14) alternatives were presented ranging in cost from \$6.5 million to \$77.5 million. Flood mitigation efforts focused on the Centre Lake Subdivision. The staff recommended option was a wall with a pump around Centre Lake which would effectively remove all 61 units out of the floodplain. A Cooperative Funding Agreement application was submitted to SWFWMD for FY2021 for the 50/50 cost share for the estimated \$8.4 million project. The merits of such a project was discussed and any further action will await the outcome of any funding that may be approved by the SWFWMD.

For Bowlees Creek, the analysis centered on what improvements could be beneficial to the Shady Brook area and generally areas referred to as Danny Drive along with areas south of Magellan Drive and west of 15th Street East. Costs for the flood mitigation alternatives ranged from \$2 million to \$42 million. Staff recommended an alternative option to address the weir structures in the Sara Bay Golf Course as a first step toward improvements. This option removes up to 33 structures from the 100-year floodplain including nine (9) structures in Shady Brook. A Cooperative Funding Agreement application was submitted to SWFWMD for the 50/50 cost share for the estimated \$560,000 project. The merits of the

project was discussed and any further action will await funding that may be approved by the SWFWMD.

While the focus of this work session was on regional scale projects the benefit of more local scale projects cannot be understated. Staff emphasized that significant benefits occur to the public as a result of even minimal flood stage reductions as cost savings occur based on improvements to the overall level of service.

The Stormwater Utility Fee also became a topic of discussion during the presentation related to funding mechanisms for these types of flood mitigation projects.

In summary, the two staff recommended flood mitigation projects are not yet funded and are conceptual at this time. Any further action on these projects await the outcome of any cooperative funding from the SWFWMD.

Please feel free to contact county staff for any questions or further discussion.

TRG/jh

cc:

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John Osborne, Deputy County Administrator

John Barnott, Director, Building and Development Services Department

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Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

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