

# **Pasco County Thousand Oaks/Trinity Oaks Problem Solving Task Force Meeting November 5, 2012**

## **November 5, 2012 – Emergency Operations Center, Pasco County**

The following is a summary of the Pasco County Thousand Oaks/Trinity Oaks Problem Solving Task Force (Task Force) meeting held on November 5, 2012. Copies of documents referenced during the meeting, agenda and attendees list will accompany these minutes.

### **Arrival, Sign-In, Greetings, and Introductions**

Michele Baker (Pasco County Chief Assistant County Administrator) facilitated the meeting starting with a welcome. Brief introductions were provided by all attendees. Please refer to the attached attendance sheet for a list of the attendees.

### **Questions and Discussions**

A summary of discussions, including questions and responses, are provided in this meeting summary. Specific questions are presented in italics. The contents of this summary do not represent direct quotes and may or may not represent the group's view as a whole.

### **Recap of Previous Meeting**

The meeting summary for the previous meeting, held on October 8, 2012, was distributed to previous attendees via e-mail prior to this meeting for review. There were no comments on the meeting summary.

### **Action Items Update**

#### **1. Drainage Basin of Special Concern (BOSC) Update (Engineering Services)**

The proposed BOSC designation language was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at the last meeting Board meeting. Prior to moving forward with the proposed BOSC, additional clarification will be added to better define the BOSC limits and level of service (LOS). The next steps to implementing the BOSC designation will be to present the final version at the next Development Review Committee (DRC) meeting and to hold two additional public hearings. The three proposed meeting dates are as follows:

- 1) Development Review Committee Meeting - November 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm – New Port Richey
- 2) BOCC Meeting - December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm – New Port Richey
- 3) BOCC Meeting - December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm – New Port Richey

*Will the regulations associated with the BOSC designation be retroactive to any projects already permitted?*

The intent is to ensure that future developments do not create any negative downstream impacts. Developments already permitted will be required to comply with the conditions specified in their existing permits.

*Will the new development at Starkey contribute new stormwater flows to Trinity/Thousand Oaks?*

If water from the Starkey development area flows into Duck Slough, it will be included in BOSC. The stormwater will need to be contained within the same basin.

*After the DRC hearing, what is the next step?*

At the DRC, the proposed BOSC will be open for public comments. After the DRC, two additional public hearings will be required which are proposed to be the following two BOCC meetings. The BOCC will open the hearing for any questions and at the end of the second BOCC will ask for a motion to approve the proposed BOSC designation. If passed, the BOSC designation would go into effect. The BOSC language includes a provision to remove this designation once the flooding issues have been resolved.

*How do you know when the flooding has been fixed?*

The County will have a list of the improvements that need to be completed with criteria for the level of service that will need to be met.

*What is different for BOSC criteria than what has been happening now?*

The County can request models to be evaluated using a broader variety of storm events such as 2, 10, 25, and 100-year storm events to determine impacts instead of just one storm event.

## **2. Completion of Maintenance on Private Systems in Thousand Oaks (SWFWMD) –**

Photos of home owner's association (HOA) maintenance projects were presented.

- The culvert under Little Road is clogged. Maintenance and clearing for this area are under the direction of the Master HOA.
- The weir in the Kinsmere area at Linebrook Drive has been cleared.
- The silt barrier at Torchwood Drive requires cleaning. A pipe at Torchwood Drive was crushed during maintenance activities. The SWFWMD will investigate the crushed pipe.

*What about the culvert under Torchwood Drive?*

The culvert is still somewhat submerged and needs to be cleaned. Maintenance for this culvert is the responsibility of the Master HOA.

### **3. Environmental Review of Wetlands Update (Stormwater Management) –**

The environmental review of the wetlands is in progress. The review is identifying maintenance activities that require either no or minimal permitting in addition to longer term projects that would require more time and permitting.

### **4. Discussion on Level of Protection to be Provided (Stormwater Management) –**

The current Best Management Plans (BMPs) were designed to provide a specified level of service (LOS). Homes were elevated to prevent flooding during a 100-year storm event which is equivalent to approximately 11 to 12 inches of rain falling within a 24-hour period. Tropical storm Debbie produced approximately 15 inches of rain within a 24-hour period, exceeding a 100-year storm event.

If a building permit was issued prior to 2001, the finished floor elevation was constructed at the base flood elevation. If a building permit was issued after December of 2001, the finished floor elevation was constructed at the base flood elevation plus 1-foot.

If a home is located in a flood zone, the mortgage holder requires flood insurance. For homes within a 100-year flood zone, a letter of map amendment (LOMA) can be issued which states that the home was constructed above the 100-year flood plain. Issuance of a LOMA will decrease the cost of flood insurance. LOMA letters were provided for the Thousand Oaks homes. Follow-up Note: Copies of the LOMA letters previously provided were resent to Ms. Pat Allen and also to Mr. Bill McCarty as requested during the meeting.

Although evacuation routes are constructed at the 100-year flood elevation, the County does not require other roads to be constructed at the 100-year flood elevation. If all roads had to be built up to 100-year flood elevations, excavation would be required elsewhere to offset the fill required to raise the roads. However, excavations are limited by ground water tables.

Neighborhood streets are constructed at either 25-year or at 10-year flood elevations. It is anticipated that streets constructed at 10-year flood elevation may be submerged under up to one foot of water during a major storm event. Roads can flood but should dry out (recover) and this is what did not happen within Trinity/Thousand Oaks.

*Would developers be required tell buyers of the potential for flooding?*

Yes, within the State of Florida, developers are required to include this information but it is often included in HOA educational documents which include a large volume of information. Thorough review may be required to find flood related documents.

*Torchwood Drive has been submerged under greater than 1 foot of water and is often not passable. How much time is acceptable before allowable flooding should be clear?*

There is no specific time limit and allowable downstream discharges cannot be exceeded.

Stormwater systems are designed such that discharges cannot exceed the pre-development conditions.

There are two problems occurring:

1. Houses flooding
2. Roads flooding and ponds not draining

If streets are flooded, then homes may also flood. The County needs to more accurately determine which homes had flooding within the home and how high the water got within the homes. The County will then obtain new surveys for these homes to confirm elevations.

It is important to remember that a 100-year flood event is not limited to only occurring once within 100 years. Storm events exceeding a 100-year flood event may require a separate fix. The problems due to the ponds not draining needs to be corrected regardless of other potential flooding solutions.

*How many 100-year storms have there been? We have had a lot of flooding.*

The flooding after Tropical Storm Debbie was created because ponds cannot empty in time to accept all the runoff. Flooding is also coming across the neighborhoods from west of Little Road. There has been no change in where water can flow. The flow of water is the same now as it was prior to development.

Once the updated model is completed, the County will use the model results to see what can be done for pond recovery.

The weir (to the west of Kinsmere Drive) is just starting to be visible. Any small additional rain will create new flooding.

It is important for the County to manage expectations. Catastrophic events will continue to cause flooding.

## **5. Duck Slough Drainage Improvement Recommendations from Adam Smith Enterprises, Inc. (Stormwater Management) –**

A report, Duck Slough Drainage Improvement, was prepared by Adam Smith Enterprises in October of 2012. The report provided an overview of activities (#1-#8) identified to help alleviate the flooding problems. An overview of these activities was provided.

Activity #1 – This is the area behind the CVS (Mitchell Blvd at Seven Springs Blvd) which will be evaluated for potential drainage improvements. Once the improvement is selected, work in this area may proceed as a separate project. Work in this area is required regardless of the selected project alternative for the Trinity/Thousand Oaks area. This area has already been viewed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and it is anticipated that it will also need an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit and require mitigation. Adam Smith Enterprises has some banked restoration credits but these may not be accepted by the ACOE.

*Can vegetation be cleared without permits?*

No, but the culverts have been cleared and are maintained.

Activity #2 – Report indicated clogged culverts at Davenport Dr but culverts are running clear at last observation.

Activity #3 – Report indicated clogged culverts at Lytton Dr. This is a private roadway and culverts are running clear at last observation.

Activity #4 – Earthen Flume/Berm replacement was recommended. The berm was removed in 2005 and this activity was permitted by the SWFWMD.

Activity #5 – This is the wetland clearing and is the same wetlands area indicated on the County's project alternatives map (see attached PowerPoint presentation). This activity would require permits from the SWFWMD and the ACOE.

*Is this the one that was previously permitted by ACOE?*

This is the area previously cleaned by Adam Smith but it would still need permits. The ACOE requires permits for maintenance activities within a wetland and may require wetlands offsets.

*Is the County still pursuing an ACOE permit?*

Yes, if this is the selected project alternative, then the County would pursue SWFWMD and ACOE permitting.

Activity #6 – This activity recommended clearing of the weir between Thousand Oaks and Trinity Oaks. This activity has been completed with all vegetation around the weir and 20 feet to each side was cleared. The left side of the weir is failing and sinking at the north side. The weir requires repair to be completed by the Thousand Oaks Master HOA.

Activity #7 – The culverts and weir on Little Rd were indicated to need clearing. The cleaning is tentatively scheduled for next week. After further discussion it was requested that cleaning be postponed.

To alleviate current flooding and prevent future flooding it will be imperative for Thousand Oaks to oversee and enforce required cleaning activities that are to be provided by the Master HOA. Cleaning is certified by the SWFWMD every five years but it should be done more frequently. The clearing used to be done annually. Keeping abreast of the required maintenance could solve some of the flooding problems.

The area between developments (Trinity Blvd and Heritage Springs) also needs to be maintained on a regular basis.

Activity #8 – Proposed swale to redirect flows around Trinity Oaks. A model of Brooker Creek and permitting will be required for this activity.

*Can the water be kept on Trinity Blvd?*

This flow is not included in the Duck Slough Model. It would be better to not run through Thousand Oaks. This project will also involve coordination with Pinellas County and may take more time than other project options. There have been discussions to ask Pinellas County to clear outfalls to allow water to leave Thousand Oaks faster. The SWFWMD will follow-up and encourage cleaning by Pinellas County.

## **6. Project Alternatives Review (Stormwater Management and Engineering Services) –**

Until the updated model showing the current conditions can be completed, it is difficult to select a specific project alternative.

*What is included in the updated model?*

The model update included the ten completed BMPs with updated survey information. It will allow the County to look at current conditions and to determine if the 100-year flood elevation is currently being met. When the model is ready, the County can review current the LOS provided with BMPs that have already been constructed. The model assumes that the ponds have recovered but will allow the County to look at how faster pond recovery can be achieved.

*How bad is the silt on the pipes at Torchwood?*

These pipes appear to be heavily silted. The model assumes that pipes are clear but does consider vegetation.

All drainage structures have been surveyed and are correctly placed in the model. The ponds are modeled as a slough system. Transects at various locations have been included to define elevation changes but a continuous profile is not included. Florida Design Consultants did walk the wetlands to identify areas where saddles occur.

The entire Duck Slough Basin is included in the model update. Survey was updated within the lower model area where a majority of elevation errors were noted. The model will be able to determine if flooding can be alleviated through maintenance or if a bigger project is needed. The identified alternatives will be modeled to determine how they perform in the model and what impact they can provide to alleviate flooding.

*Are there other alternatives that need to be modeled?*

Due to the time constraints to select a project, there are limitations on the number of concepts that can be modeled.

The Activity #1 behind the CVS is part of the updated model but can be separated into a stand alone project. An alternative evaluation will begin for this area after approval is received from the BOCC on November 7th.

*If an ACOE permit is needed, this can take years. Why not focus on maintenance?*

The County is focusing on maintenance and the SWFWMD is also following-up. The County is also looking at sections within the wetlands (within activity #5 area) to clear high/dry points. However, the County does not have an available maintenance crew and would need to hire this work out.

The residents/HOA can do hand clearing but this will not help much and any digging will require a permit. Hand clearing is not a long-term solution. The County does want to pursue all available options.

*Is the project that is being proposed going to stop the flooding?*

This goes back to the LOS determination. There are catastrophic events that will create flooding regardless of any new projects. The model results will determine if 100-year flood elevation will or will not result in flooding. The information will need to be placed into smaller more digestible information to decide what the solutions will be and run other storm events in the model to determine the results.

For those homes where water entered the home or the garage flooded, the County will dispatch a survey team to get corrected elevations. This additional updated survey information and verification for the depth of water inside the structure will also help to validate the model. Depth of flooding should be measured where the top of the standing water was and not include water that “wicked” up walls. The HOA representatives agreed to provide flooded property contacts to Mike Garrett.

*If the model shows that water is coming in from the east and is creating the flooding, then what?*

County will then look at appropriate alternatives to deal with this situation.

*If the wetlands are brought back to original elevations then why are permits required?*

All clearing activities will require permits.

To get the ponds back to their original elevations, pumping and force mains may be needed.

Developments east of Heritage Springs are also seeing a lot of water coming in from Gunn Highway. There is concern that the new permitted developments will increase the water flows.

*What flows are assumed to be coming into the area in the model?*

A demonstration of the model can be provided to the group. The conditions being modeled are the 2005 conditions based on constructed BMPs and other permitted developments. The model development is limited by time constraints. The County could opt to bring the model up to 2012 conditions but this would be a long-term effort.

*Is it realistic to use 2005 as the model base?*

The model base will be used to model what is happening now. Time is the constraint and County can use this model in the short-term to quickly identify solutions. The model can be updated in the long-term as needed. The Anclote Basin, west of the Suncoast Parkway, is scheduled to be modeled but this would take two years to complete. This is the most expeditious way to proceed.

If the culverts under Little Road are cleared, then water flows into Trinity Oaks and Thousand Oaks will increase. The sooner water gets flowing, the faster it will clear the area. If the culvert is clean, it would be even worse. We need to find way to get it out of Trinity/Thousand Oaks before letting it in at an even faster rate. The SWFWMD will defer required cleaning of culverts until flooding has subsided.

The ACOE has been contacted and has been provided continuous updates on the various options under consideration.

### **Meeting Logistics**

The next meeting will provide an overview of the updated model results. To allow time for completion of the updated model, the next Task Force meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at this same location (Pasco County Emergency Operations Center). In addition to the materials typically provided in advance of the meeting (agenda & meeting summary), a summary of the model results and summary matrix for the various project alternatives with an accompanying map were requested.