

# Project Meeting Minutes

Date: December 18, 2015

Project No.:

Project Title: Anclote East BMP – Sierra Pines

Meeting: **Sierra Pines Residents – Stormwater Issues**

Meeting Date: December 10, 2015

Location: 17409 Driftwood Lane, the home of Linda Hoskins

Attendees: Sierra Pines Residents & David Sua, Joella Schultz, Chuck Wilson (Pasco County)

Company	Representative	Phone	Fax / Email
Pasco County Stormwater	David Sua, PE	727-834-3611	<a href="mailto:dsua@pascocountyfl.net">dsua@pascocountyfl.net</a>
Pasco County Stormwater	Joella Schultz, PE	727-834-3611	<a href="mailto:jschultz@pascocountyfl.net">jschultz@pascocountyfl.net</a>
Pasco County Stormwater	Chuck Wilson	727-834-3611	<a href="mailto:cwilson@pascocountyfl.net">cwilson@pascocountyfl.net</a>

Purpose: The meeting resulted from follow-up site meetings associated with GovQA investigations from the September 21, 2015 Pinellas Anclote (East) Watershed Meeting. A citizen and resident of the Sierra Pines Community (Ms. Diane Kointz) had requested the presence of County staff at a meeting at a residence to hear their concerns. This occurred after residents learned of the County's pending efforts to form a watershed outreach task force to discuss stormwater management issues broached by citizens. County staff attended to listen to resident's information related to stormwater issues as well as to provide feedback to residents on the County's processes, as well as discuss the status of possible upcoming projects and related procedures to complete projects related to the Sierra Pines community and the Pinellas Anclote East Watershed project, as a whole.

## Discussions:

### 1. Quarterly Resident Outreach Meetings:

- When it became clear the citizens desired information from the County on their particular drainage problems, staff informed them that Pasco County will be initiating quarterly meetings with residents to take in resident feedback and provide updates to residents related to the stormwater projects by watershed. Letters to residents who attended the last Watershed Meeting are anticipated to be mailed out in the coming week. These letters will be requesting volunteers for the purpose of forming a resident focus group for the watershed. It is anticipated that many of the residents that attended the 12/10/2015 meeting will become part of this group; however, a smaller group of people would probably be preferred. It was contemplated that the outreach Task Forces will begin meeting in January of 2016. The following issues were mentioned by the citizens:
  - A. There was an allegation put forward that although some had reported drainage problems in the past, there was no follow-through on the part of the County.

- B. There are pipes in the County's roadway rights-of-way that need maintenance.
  - C. Roadside ditches in the roadway rights-of-way allegedly need maintenance.
  - D. How will the County pay for any future drainage improvement projects in their neighborhood as well as in the overall watershed. This issue came as a follow-up from a discussion on the District's cooperating funding for watershed models.
  - E. Residents expressed that they would like to see nearby development cease. The county explained that land owners are allowed to develop their property as long as they meet permitting requirements of SWFWMD, Pasco County, and other applicable agencies.
2. Responses to Complaints: The County's GovQA complaints logging program was explained to the citizens. One particular citizen was aware of it and indicated she knew how to access it. Staff explained citizens can phone in their complaints and County staff would log them in, and have a tracking number for future reference. The system is set up so investigating staff will be able to see what was done with the complaint, and the information is available for public review:
- Following the September 21, 2015 meeting, the comment cards provided by citizens were entered into the County's tracking system - GovQA. The County staff contacted each resident who filled out a comment card and visited the site when appropriate to determine causes of issues and to investigate resident's questions.

### 3. Short Term County Activities

Based on resident feedback at this meeting, especially regarding allegations of a lack of maintenance of drainage infrastructure in our rights-of-way, David Sua, P.E., Chief Project Manager, designated Chuck Wilson, Certified Engineering Inspector II, to initiate a maintenance evaluation of the Sierra Pines Neighborhood starting the week of 12/14/2015. This will be done in coordination with our Public Stormwater Operations Division staff. Significant maintenance issues noted within the County's right-of-way will be input into GovQA and assigned to the Operations Department for review, ranking and possible follow-up, depending on funding availability. Possible examples of ways to improve the observed problems include mowing, pipe cleaning, debris removal, blockage correction, possible replacement of failed pipes, as well as possible illegal filling of the County's drainage flow-ways. NOTE: As of 12/14/15, Chuck Wilson had commenced dialogue with the Stormwater Operations Division on the Sierra Pines subdivision.

### 4. Long Term County Activities:

#### Pinellas Anclote East Watershed

- Staff discussed long range drainage possibilities in the watershed and how local citizens' input could be used in the process. When the absence of easements was discussed, the citizens indicated a willingness to discuss with their neighbors to grant access to areas where drainage facilities could be located, outside of the County's existing rights-of-way. They were apprised of, and some acknowledged awareness of past problems County staff had experienced with legal access to private property while other's had refused to grant easements that could facilitate the County's efforts at drainage improvements in the past. The citizens' expressed willingness to help county staff in this light was a positive step.
- Staff advised the citizens that the Pinellas Anclote East watershed study has been completed. This study determined flooding extents for the 100 year 1-day storm event (12 inches of rain). Additional Storm Events were processed for the 3-Day (15.5 inches), 5-day (17.0 inches), and 7-day (19 inches). The majority of the stormwater systems are designed to handle the 1-day event. It should be noted that the recent 2015 rain event provided 17-24 inches of rain in this area.
- The County is currently working with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to draft a contract with an engineering consultant for Best Management Practice (BMP) analysis. The BMP projects include preliminary/conceptual designs to reduce regional flooding within the Pinellas Anclote East Watershed. Staff explained that this effort typically involves design scenarios and their potential impact on flood abatement.

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- Sierra Pines will be one of the areas evaluated for BMPs. The BMP process involves locating and evaluating areas with structural and roadway flooding, modeling of proposed drainage solutions, and generation of conceptual drainage improvement plans. A few examples of these improvements include: increasing pipe sizes or quantities, easement acquisition, parcel acquisition for conveying water or constructing stormwater ponds, and elevation of roads to increase access ability.
- The projects developed in the BMP process will be ranked according to a cost/benefit analysis. Projects selected for construction will undergo final design and permitting with the Water Management District and other regulatory agencies. Funding sources will be identified, as may be available, to construct these projects including cooperative funding from regulatory agencies such as SWFWMD as well as residential special assessments.
- Regarding the citizens' curiosity regarding how the County intended to pay for possible future flood abatement works, residents were encouraged to attend in person or watch online the upcoming Pasco County Governing Board Meeting on December 15, 2015 for additional information presented by County Staff on efforts to create Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) which could enable the county to fund construction projects.

Pithlachascotee Anclote Conservation Effort (PACE)

- Regarding the Pithlachascotee Anclote Conservation Effort (PACE) project, staff noted that it is not yet clear how the Sierra Pines area would fit in that project. However, the Federal Government (US Army Corps of Engineer) had agreed to perform a preliminary investigation based on the County's application to them. This Federal response resulted from input from Congressman Bilikaris's office. The PACE project is currently in the Watershed Study phase. Staff will let the residents know more, as details become available in the future.

**Action Items:**

1. Pasco County

- Respond to any remaining resident GovQA comments,
- Complete a Maintenance Evaluation of Sierra Pines Evaluation within Pasco County rights of way,
- Complete Contract through SWFWMD for the BMP Evaluation, and
- Mail letters for the next Watershed Meeting. Note: In the near future, the County's website will be updated to reflect updates on drainage issues and/or projects in the watershed.

2. Sierra Pines Residents

- Provide support to Chuck Wilson for the completion of the Maintenance Evaluation: Provide access to properties and information as necessary and assist in communication with additional residents in regards to this effort.
- Return mailing cards included with the Watershed letter to indicate interest in participating in the Watershed Focus Group.
- Attend Watershed Meetings when possible as they occur.