

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed

March 07, 2016 – Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, Starkey Environmental & Education Center, Pasco County

The following is a summary of the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed meeting held on March 07, 2016.

Arrival, Sign-In, Greetings, and Introductions

Ms. Michele Baker (Pasco County Administrator) welcomed the group and introduced key attendees. Commissioners Mike Wells (District 4) and Jack Mariano (District 5) were in attendance and addressed attendees to thank them for their attendance and willingness to participate in the watershed meeting. Commissioner Kathryn Starkey (District 3) also later joined the meeting. Ms. Cece McKiernan, the facilitator for the meeting, welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting format and agenda. She noted the various maps that were on display around the room for use throughout the meeting with specific area maps located at four tables for use during the breakout sessions.

Comments, Questions and Discussions

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

PowerPoint Presentation and General Discussion

A PowerPoint presentation was presented to attendees by Ms. Joella Schultz (Stormwater Management).

The purpose of this Watershed Task Force meeting was to increase knowledge of the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed and to allow County staff to work together with residents to improve drainage systems within the watershed. The results of this effort will provide recommendations to the County Administrator for potential projects/solutions.

The Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed covers 171 square miles and extends into Hernando County. Noted problem areas for flooding include the Winding Creek Subdivision, Griffin Park, Rocky Sink, Lake Worrell, and Yellow Lake. Recent activities completed by the County to address the flooding concerns included the installation of hard pipes on Youth Lane and on Scenic Drive (behind the movie theater). These pipes will be used to convey stormwater during future emergency pumping activities. A drainage improvement project was also completed at the Eagleswood Condominiums within the Beacon Woods development to the north of SR 52.

Maintenance activities within the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed included closed circuit TV pipe inspections, drainage ditch cleaning, [Pipe Replacement Projects](#), and pipe maintenance at numerous locations. The comments received during the previous watershed meeting and ongoing noted concerns are tracked via the County's GovQA system. Follow-up for noted concerns have included phone calls and site visits.

There are ongoing mapping activities and watershed studies for the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed in progress which have resulted in preliminary flood mapping. The mapping will be used to determine levels of service and for best management practices evaluation. A model calibration is currently in progress for the Double Hammock area which also includes the Yellow Lake outfall.

A list of future projects was reviewed (PowerPoint presentation). Attendees were asked to join the designated County representative assigned to one of the four stations each designated for the following specific areas:

- [Yellow Lake & Cranes Roost](#)
- [Lake Worrell](#)
- [Beacon Woods](#)
- [Crescent Forest / Winding Creek – Jumping Gully / Orange Land](#)

At each of the stations the residents and County staff marked areas of concern on the respective maps. The following is a summary of the identified concerns from each breakout session:

Note that the item numbers noted for each area (i.e. Yellow Lake & Cranes Roost, Lake Worrell, Beacon Woods, etc.) correlate to dots that can be found on the maps (click on the links for each station to view the respective map that contains the numbered dots) which provide the specific location for that item.

[Yellow Lake & Cranes Roost](#)

1. Yellow Lake Drive- Resident indicated that the pipe size may be too small and was installed at a higher invert than prior to replacement.
2. Hilltop Drive - Resident provided the location of an existing pipe. Staff will review internal information to verify the location, function, and maintenance of the pipe. This is part of the Double Hammock Watershed.
3. Behind Walgreens on Little Road (southeast corner) - Residents indicated concerns with pipes being too small and large amounts of debris clogging up the outfall structure. Are there alternatives to get water out faster, before larger problems begin? Resident requested a cleaning plan for the structure to remove debris.
4. Youth Lane- Residents requested an emergency pumping plan. Hard pipe has been installed at this location by the County to allow for rapid pumping in emergency situations. County will provide map of planned pumping.

5. Scout Lake – Resident requested a gauge to monitor water before June (prior to the summer rain events).
6. Ridge Road- Residents would like staff to review the pipes under Ridge Road which convey water from Lake Worrell to Rocky Sink for size/inverts to determine if modifications would provide flood benefit in small and large events.
7. Behind Publix Super Market at Shoppes of Golden Acres - Resident proposed that some of the water leaving Publix be transferred into stormwater pipes to take it out to the gulf instead of water going into retention ponds.
8. Because many septic tanks were impacted by the 2015 storm event, the residents would like their water quality tested in Yellow Lake.

Lake Worrell

1. Creston Ave/Brookwood Drive – Resident inquired as to when the drainage ditch will be constructed. Flooding has been noted five times within the last two years.
2. Cameo Drive – Area has been under water for 90 days. Flooding has been noted five times within the last two years. The home is not flooding but the yard and street are.
3. Sunrise Lane – Resident noted his mobile home is flooded and his tenant stated that the county wants to buy the property. Resident noted willingness to sell his property.

Resident asked whether dredging behind homes on the west side of Bass Lake Drive was permissible and whether it would be effective. Felt that solution is to get dirt out for water to flow.

4. Bass Lake Drive - Historically, two culverts were found with trash and garbage in them. There is an issue with a lot of water drainage. The Cranes Roost development is causing drainage problems. When it rains the lake gets high and then takes a long time to drain.
5. Rocky Sink - Resident noted that the sinkhole has a great deal of trash in it e.g., multiple cars have been found in the sink. When was the last time the sinkhole was inspected/cleaned? This has been a problem area for over 30 years of frequent flooding and resident felt this may be a maintenance (e.g. cleaning) problem.
6. Garden Lake – Resident noted that her yard floods and her driveway floods up to her neck. Wants to know whether the stormwater utility fee will provide sufficient funding to fix this issue.

7. Crescent Forest – Resident noted that the gates on the culvert at Sycamore Drive were closed when storm came and were opened too late.

Beacon Woods

1. North of Beacon Woods Dr. and East of US 19. There is a submerged pipe and the weir is always under water. Not sure what service the pipe is for.
2. There is a concern regarding future development in the wetland area on the north side of Hwy 52 in the area of Bear Creek Nursing Home. How are things going to be permitted to ensure no flooding?
3. Clearbrook Lane –The stormwater drains are backing up causing street and yard flooding. Residents have photos available if needed.
4. Beaver Creek Loop – The nursing home abutting the back of the homes constructed a retaining wall. Is this contributing to flooding? Was it constructed for erosion control?
5. Greylock Lane – The culverts were noted to be old and may need maintenance.
6. Leisure Beach Area – Across from Beacon Woods Dr. There is a ditch west of US 19 that was previously cleaned by the FDOT. May want to watch for regrowth of excessive vegetation.
7. Majestic Blvd. – There are exposed conduits and a water pipe. Not sure who owns the conduit but it may be Withlacoochee Power.
8. Clock Tower Parkway – Flooding noted on the road at Forest Glade Drive.
9. There was also general discussion regarding Round Sink, the Bear Creek overflow canal which was built in the early 1970's, and area sinkholes/underground caverns. (Not on map.)

Crescent Forest / Winding Creek / Orange Land

1. Crescent Forest Boulevard Flooding – Citizen noted that a good segment of the north part of this road flooded. Staff observed that the 100-year flood map showed the area to have a certain risk of flooding during a 100-year storm.
2. Crescent Forest Boulevard – Citizen noted that at least one structure flooded on the north side of Crescent Forest Boulevard along the westerly side of that road.
3. Ross Lane Flooding - Road flooding was also noted for a portion of this road.
4. Crescent Forest Neighborhood - The operable structure on Sycamore Drive (County Structure No. DHC-857) did not appear to have been timely opened. Staff noted that according to the County's schedule, it appears that all of the

gates were open during the flood. However, staff explained the structure has an operating schedule set by a Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Permit. County staff will review the permit for this structure and the operating schedule and follow the permit requirements.

5. Winding Creek/Jumping Gully Area - What plans are there for this area? Staff noted that the storage feasibility will be looked into as part of the Best Management Plan (BMP) analysis for the Watershed study (Pinellas/Anclote East). This typically involves studying the practical feasibility of what any such storage could add to flood protection in the area and surrounding without adversely affecting upstream/downstream areas. In short, can it be done without flooding others?
6. Lowes Retention Basin – Resident noted that the basin was “dry” when there was water everywhere else.

Staff noted that the pond receives the commercial runoff from the development. However dry retention like that is typically designed to infiltrate (or percolate) the design runoff volume within 72 hours of rain. This could explain why not much, if any sustained standing water was discernible in the retention basin.

7. “Old” Driving Range - It was noted that an old driving range on the south side of Ridge Road, west of the Sycamore Drive intersection historically flooded. However, there was no discernible standing water in that area during the 2015 flood. What has been done in the past 5 years?
8. Orange Land Subdivision – Resident lives in Orange Land Subdivision Unit 3. This subdivision is located in the Pithlachascotee River Watershed, contrary to staff’s initial view that he was in the Double Hammock Watershed. Resident identified Lot No. 15 of the subdivision as having been vacant for some time, and thought it could serve a stormwater function and gave staff a copy of an old plat for the subdivision.
9. Ridge Road Culverts: The issue of higher water levels on the north side of the road, in the Lake Worrell system when the water level on the south side of the road was lower was discussed. Staff explained that the culverts were permitted by the SWFWMD, following their rules and the Florida Administrative Codes. Staff noted that it will not be practical nor permissible to have made the culverts so big as to drain the Lake Worrell area north of Ridge Road because that would flood other areas in the Rocky Sink area south of Ridge Road.
10. Maps Requested – Some attendees requested copies of the maps used during the breakout session.

Mr. George Romagnoli (Pasco County Community Development Director) provided an update of assistance programs and funding opportunities available through Pasco County to attendees. Literature for the programs was available to residents at the meeting.

Ms. Cece McKiernan asked the group for input regarding the meeting location, meeting format, and future meetings. Attendees liked the format and the opportunities for breakout session discussions specific to their respective areas. Attendees also liked the meeting location and date and time of the meeting.

The County will research issues noted during this meeting and will provide updates via the County's website and e-mail. To allow adequate time for County staff to follow-up on the issues noted during the meeting, the group agreed that future meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly basis. A meeting for the Port Richey watershed has been scheduled for later this month and a meeting for the Double Hammock watershed will be scheduled in the near future. In an ongoing effort to work with residents, the County plans to hold two watershed meetings per month for the various watersheds within the County.