

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Port Richey Watershed

September 20, 2016 – Regency Park Library, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey, Pasco County

The following is a summary of the Port Richey Watershed meeting held on September 20, 2016.

Introductions, Meeting Purpose and Background

Ms. Karen Lowe (CDM Smith), the facilitator for the meeting, welcomed the group and introduced key attendees including Commissioner Mike Wells (District 4), Commissioner Jack Mariano (District 5), Michele Baker (Pasco County Administrator), and Don Rosenthal (Pasco County Assistant County Administrator for Development Services).

The purpose of this Watershed Task Force meeting is to increase knowledge of the Port Richey Watershed and to allow County staff to work together with residents to improve stormwater management systems within the watershed. The County is seeking the involvement of local residents in the development of potential solutions. The results of this effort will provide recommendations to the County Administrator for potential projects/solutions.

Ms. Lowe reviewed the meeting format and the agenda. The presentation was followed by breakout sessions which allowed residents to interact with a designated County Project Manager to review progress on specific issues and identify any additional areas of concern. The maps developed during the prior Port Richey Watershed meeting (March 16, 2016) were used for discussion of previously identified issues and actions taken, and also to identify any new areas of concern.

Comments, Questions and Discussions

A summary of discussions, noted issues, and responses, are part of 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 Mr. Gordon McClung and Mr. Paul Dean (Stormwater Management).

The Port Richey Watershed covers 5.9 square miles and contains a unique coastal ridge. There were eleven areas noted to have historical flooding concerns within this watershed (see [PowerPoint](#)). A graphic showing the rainfall amounts and rainfall intensity distributions recorded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) during Hurricane Hermine was presented. The results of the damage assessment

following Hurricane Hermine were also presented. There were areas of major damage noted within the Port Richey Watershed.

Recent activities completed by the County to address the flooding concerns included the purchase of Magnolia Valley golf course properties, establishment of a Magnolia Valley Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBUs), repairs to the Magnolia Valley electric pump, and discharge and pipe replacement at Hollyridge. Pipe replacements at Valley Court are scheduled. The County continues to pursue funding opportunities and to develop and evaluate potential future projects.

Mr. Paul Dean (Stormwater Management) reviewed the funding mechanisms available for stormwater maintenance and capital improvement projects. Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBUs) provide funding for capital projects and off right-of-way maintenance. The process for project identification and MSBU funding was reviewed.

Information presented included the County's current level of service for maintenance activities, primary maintenance services provided, the total miles of each type of system, the average amount of maintenance activities crews are able to complete each year, and the number of years to maintain existing stormwater assets within Pasco County.

Attendees were asked to join the designated County representative assigned for specified areas within the Port Richey Watershed. Attendees were present for the following specific areas:

- [Holiday Hills / Gainsboro Pump Station](#)
- [Magnolia Valley / Autumn Lane](#)
- [Suncoast Mobile Home Park / Ridge Road](#)

The following is a summary which was provided to attendees for each area following the breakout sessions.

Note that the item numbers noted for each area (Holiday Hills / Gainsboro Pump Station, Magnolia Valley, Suncoast Mobile Home Park / Ridge Road) 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.

[Holiday Hills / Gainsboro Pump Station](#)

1. Pump Failure, Property Acquisition and Sewer Back-up - Comment was made that before Tropical Storm Colin the pump was operated to pre-drain the retention area but this did not occur with Hurricane Hermine. To be proactive with any storms, pre-draining needs to be considered.

There was discussion regarding the County installing a hard pipe (underground permanent pipe, instead of a soft (flexible) pipe placed temporary on top of the

ground during pumping operations, then removed) down Pegasus Avenue to the north of the pond to facilitate emergency pumping.

A contract for sale has been executed for purchase of the property at 6342 Hyperion Drive adjacent to the existing retention pond.

The proposed project in Holiday Hills will improve conditions by reducing the duration of flooding in the subdivision.

The project includes:

- The addition of a pump station that will convey water from the retention pond to the drainage ditch at the northern border of the subdivision.
- The installation of piping from the existing retention pond to the north.
- A control structure at the boundary between the north and south basins to prevent inflows from the northern basin to the southern basin.
- A number of new ditch bottom inlets placed primarily along Pegasus Avenue to collect stormwater and direct it to the northern drainage ditch.

The County will need to acquire the parcels adjacent to the retention pond and expand the retention pond.

It was noted that the proposed project would reduce the duration of flooding. It is still recommended, where funding opportunities exist, that homes within the area be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation plus freeboard.

The following questions were noted during the meeting regarding the proposed project:

- a. Would clearing the vegetative growth from the side of the roadway assist in the runoff draining from the fronts of properties?
- b. Would reconstructing Pegasus Avenue from the existing pond to the northern drainage ditch improve the stormwater runoff?
- c. What can the vacant lot at the northern end of Pegasus Avenue be used for after the project is complete? Would the County consider a neighborhood park or a community garden?
- d. What funding is available? The County will be applying for SWFWMD Cooperative Funding and any Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs that become available.

Residents also noted that the sewer line backed up and sent sewage into some of the structures. Residents would like information regarding what occurred and what can be done to prevent this in the future.

2. Discharge ditch at the north end, under US 19 and around Gulfview Square Mall - There was discussion regarding the need for maintenance of the discharge ditch, especially under US 19 and around the mall area. There is debris and sediment within the ditch that impedes the flow. This item will be added to the Double Hammock Watershed action items list.

Mitigation Information - There was general discussion regarding mitigation programs that may be available. Mitigation practices such as elevation, relocation, installation of flood barriers, use of flood resistant materials and backflow preventers on the sewer lines were discussed. Residents interested in mitigation are encouraged to call the Office of Emergency Management at 727 847 8137 or Customer Service at 727 847 2411.

Magnolia Valley

The following follow-up discussions were for areas previously identified on the maps during the March 16, 2016 meeting –

- a. Summer Tree Lane (Previous map dot 14) - Residents discussed continuing road flooding on Summer Tree Lane with water coming from the back of lots in the area of Sequoia Drive/Osteen Road and Autumn lane.
- b. RJ Kielty Plumbing site at Osteen Road and Massachusetts Avenue (Previous map dots 7 & 11) - There was concern raised over the height of the fire station and the fill being placed for the RJ Kielty site. It was noted that the building is designed to one foot above floodplain and that an additional area was being provided to offset the fill. County has reviewed construction plans to make certain the ditch along the property drains back to the inlets connected to Massachusetts Ave. Group discussed replacing the manhole tops with grates or inlets to alleviate flooding in the paved area by the fire station.
- c. Residents inquired when the construction along Holly Ridge would be complete. County noted that it was hard to pinpoint a schedule due to the rainy conditions, however; it is anticipated that construction will be completed before Thanksgiving.
- d. Betula Drive (Previous map dot 12) – County advised that the flooding was due to a crushed pipe which was being replaced.
- e. New Development (Previous map dot 1 & 7) – Discussion included continued concerns regarding offsite water from Massachusetts Avenue, Little road, areas south of Massachusetts Avenue, and subdivisions to the

east of Magnolia Valley all sending water into the Magnolia Valley area. Mr. Gordon McClung (County) reviewed the flow path, the wetland and drainage retention areas. The surrounding areas naturally drain into the Magnolia Valley area. New developments are required to contain and treat any additional stormwater generated as a result of the development.

- f. Pipe maintenance and/or replacement (Previous map dots 14, 22, 10, 25, and 23) – Mr. Gordon McClung (County) reviewed the breakout maps explaining the upsizing of pipes / removing cart path in areas as well as the maintenance of existing pipes, and replacement of failed pipes to alleviate flooding.
- g. Knoll Drive (added dot 50) – residents were concerned that water was still standing in the northwest corner. They inquired about other possible routes for the water to go to the pond and asked why flows could not be rerouted to the depression in the south – map dot 52.

[Suncoast Mobile Home Park \(MHP\)](#)

The attendee for this area had attended the prior Port Richey Watershed meeting and no new areas of concern were added to the map. Discussions at this breakout session provided an update of the previously noted concerns.

Mr. Dean provided an overview of the Magnolia Valley MSBU which was created to purchase the Magnolia Valley golf course property, the existing pump house, and to repair the existing pumps. Residents included as part of the MSBU are those property owners whose stormwater flows to the golf course area and utilizes the pumps. The golf course purchase price was \$1.8 million and the pumps and pump house are anticipated to cost \$1,000,000. This project was cooperatively funded with the SWFWMD contributing \$950,000 and \$50,000 from Pasco County for the pumps and pump house. Pasco County paid half the cost of the golf course property (\$900,000), and the residents within the MSBU are being assessed to cover the remaining \$900,000 for land cost. The anticipated cost to MSBU participants is \$28 per year for 15 years, however, final assessments must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Any MSBU assessment will be added to the tax roll each year.

Ms. Lowe asked attendees their thoughts regarding the 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, date, and time of the meeting.

The County will research issues noted during this meeting and will provide real-time updates via the County's website and e-mail. To allow adequate time for County staff to follow-up on the issues previously noted and noted during the meeting, the group agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled after the new year.