

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Double Hammock Watershed

September 28, 2016 – Elderly Nutrition Building, 8600 Galen Wilson Blvd., Port Richey, Pasco County

The following is a summary of the Double Hammock Watershed meeting held on September 28, 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 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 Double Hammock 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 will be followed by breakout sessions which allow residents to interact with a designated County Project Manager to review progress within a specific area and identify any additional areas of concern. The maps, which were used during the prior Double Hammock Watershed meeting (April 11, 2016) to identify areas of concern for additional investigation, and the list of action items that was developed to follow-up on identified areas of concern will be utilized during tonight's 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 and Mr. Paul Dean (Stormwater Management).

The Double Hammock Watershed covers approximately 13 square miles and includes a coastal ridge. Areas known to be impacted by flooding include Timber Oaks; Ironbark/Greybirch Ponds; Jasmine Lakes Estates (Outfall System); Pineapple Lane; Gulf Highlands at US 19; and Ranch Road.

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 was also presented. There were no areas of major damage noted within the Double Hammock Watershed.

The County has several ongoing projects within the Double Hammock Watershed ([see PowerPoint Presentation](#)) and has completed pipe replacement projects at Mimosa Drive, Peppertree Lane, and Island Harbor Drive. Maintenance activities included the vacuuming of the stormwater inlets and pipes. The comments received during the previous watershed meeting, conducted on April 11, 2016, and ongoing noted concerns are tracked via the County's GovQA system. Follow-up for noted concerns have included phone calls and site visits.

The County has an ongoing watershed management program which includes working with FEMA and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Current activities include evaluation for the Level of Service and Best Management Practice (BMP) analysis.

There are ongoing mapping activities and watershed studies for the Double Hammock Watershed in progress. The Double Hammock Watershed is currently in the Model Development and Verification Phase which will result in preliminary floodplain mapping. After these tasks are complete the watershed model will be used to determine levels of service and BMP analysis. Potential risks and impacts from proposed new development is evaluated on a continuous basis through the permitting process.

Mr. Paul Dean (Stormwater Management) reviewed the funding mechanisms available for stormwater maintenance and capital improvement projects. Funding for capital projects and off right-of-way maintenance is provided via local Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBUs). The processes for project identification and MSBU funding, including a Timber Oaks example, were 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 projected to be required to maintain existing stormwater assets within Pasco County.

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

- Jasmine Lakes Estates and Vicinity
- Ironbark / Greybirch Ponds
- Timber Oaks and Vicinity
- US 19 / SR 52 Vicinity

The following is a summary of the identified concerns from each breakout session:

Note that the item numbers noted for each area (i.e. Jasmynes Lakes, Timber Oaks, etc.) correlate to dots that can be found on the maps (click on the website links to view the respective map that contains the numbered dots) which provide the specific location for that item.

[Jasmine Lakes Estates](#)

6. 10315 Oleander Drive, Port Richey - Canal partially running through their parcel is privately maintained and the canal rises high into the yard during various storm events.

Several solution paradigms were explored including: MSBU concept, home owners hiring a contractor directly, replacing the head wall and/or placing a skimmer on end of the pipe, giving easement to the County.

Group also talked about spraying the weeds around the canal, impacts of raising the stormwater utilities fee to fund capital improvement projects.

7. 10331 Oleander Drive, Port Richey - Resident requested that Julian and Janet Weglarz be his point of contact.

[Iron Bark / Grey Birch Ponds](#)

1. Three residents, whose homes are located on the north side of the Ironbark Pond, were interested in the plan to abate flooding in the neighborhood. The proposed project plan for this area was reviewed. Residents were aware of the interim connection to the Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB), and noted it helped this year. The couple expressed concern regarding the conceptual design, as it could involve them having to move, since their home is one of those that cannot be saved. They were placed in contact with Kevin Guthrie who discussed mitigation possibilities with them. They will pursue that possibility with him.

[Timber Oaks Community](#)

2. Residents expressed concern regarding the current project. Residents had previously understood that the County would be assuming maintenance of an existing swale and pond on the east side of the golf course area behind the Linkside Condominiums. Resident noted that the swale was not shown as being included for County maintenance in the final plans.

County Administrator Michele Baker and Mike Garrett addressed the concern and County staff was requested to contact the design Engineer of Record to discuss the design and determine if the culverts proposed in that area take in the water from the swale and if the drainage is separate or co-mingled.

It was noted that even if the county mowed the area once a month, there was nothing that would prevent the HOA from mowing more frequently if they wanted to do so.

US 19 / SR 52 Vicinity

1. Residents felt that that the main issues from rains depression seem to be Colfax Drive, Ashwood Drive, Crystal Lakes, and Scallop Drive.
2. The Ashwood area and 3-4 blocks of surrounded areas are flooded even at the highest point. Residents noted that Wednesday September 28, 2016 was the first day the center of the road was visible. A tank truck was on Scallop Drive which was flooded due to runoff from Ponderosa Avenue and Fox Hollow, etc. Public Works ran out of barricades to put on the flooded roads and had to order more.
3. Residents noted that the County has been dumping water at the nearby school and retention pond. There was 30 inches of water last year and lots of dumping in the canals in the area.

Kevin Guthrie noted that the rain gauge off Zimmerman Road indicated 20-inches of rainfall and that a 3 to 4-foot storm surge was noted.

4. Residents noted that when the pumps were in place last year, the water only came close to garages but this year water went to the houses. The Gulf Highlands Drive pump needs to be set up earlier to protect the houses.
5. Crystal Lakes always has water in it because it is a natural lake that is spring feed. A noted potential solution to improve the neighborhood and alleviate flooding was for County to purchase the property at Colfax Drive and create a park and lake.

County noted that the groundwater, underground rivers, and sandy soils will continue to contribute to the stormwater in this area. Funding sources will need to be identified for long-term capital improvement type projects (i.e. force main and pumping).

6. A resident noted potential broken pipes and that the area needs to be checked for nonfunctioning drainage pipes.
7. Resident noted that kids are throwing trash into drains and ditches which is creating clogging issues. The potential relocation of the McDonalds in this area may help to reduce the trash situation.
8. Commissioner Mariano inquired into the possibility to transfer water from San Marco Drive out to the Gulf of Mexico. A resident noted that the pond behind San Marco Drive is supposed to run into Sun Haven Drive for the new development built last year.

Cindy Jolly reviewed the preliminary flood maps with the group and explained water flows and the water ponds in this area.

9. Residents suggested County create another natural area for stormwater retention.
10. County is looking at potentially purchasing two homes using Community Development funds. The purchase would be used for short time living arrangements. These lots would then be available for a future stormwater project.

The President declared Pasco County a disaster area which will allow for more funding programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Project funding may allow for reimbursement of up to 75% of eligible cost.

Residents may apply for assistance to elevate homes or apply for government purchase of homes. The County does look for opportunities to purchase homes to allow for reclamation of the natural stormwater flows or to create new retention ponds.

11. The Crystal Lake pumps will eventually have a connection pipe which will take stormwater to the Gulf. Residents requested County develop and share a long-term plan including additional stormwater storage opportunities. It was noted that the stormwater erodes lime rock under the roads.

The dry season, winter time and through June, are when the projects may hypothetically be started. Citizens want to know how realistic this proposed project is, how long it will take to complete, and how it will be funded.

12. Citizen Gulf Highlands President – resident at 11539 Meredith Lane, Port Richey would like to publish this information to give the neighborhood an idea of potential resolutions.

The group reconvened after the breakout sessions. Ms. Lowe ask attendees 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 will be scheduled after the new year.