

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee River Watershed

November 14, 2016 – Elderly Nutrition Building, 8600 Galen Wilson Blvd., Port Richey, Pasco County

The following is a summary of the Bear Creek / Pithlachascotee River Watershed meeting held on November 14, 2016.

Introductions, Meeting Purpose and Background

Ms. Cece McKiernan, the facilitator for the meeting, welcomed the group and introduced key attendees including Michele Baker (Pasco County Administrator) who welcomed the group and thanked attendees for their participation.

The purpose of this Watershed Task Force meeting is to increase knowledge of the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee 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. McKiernan reviewed the meeting format and the agenda. The presentation was 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 Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed meeting (March 07, 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 was utilized 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 Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee Watershed covers 171 square miles and extends into Hernando County. Noted problem areas for flooding include Cranes Roost (Yellow Lake/Lake Worrell), Beacon Woods, Winding Creek Subdivision, Orange Land, and the

Crescent Forest area. The comments received during the previous watershed meeting, held on March 07, 2016, and ongoing noted concerns are tracked via an action item list and the County's GovQA system. Follow-up for noted concerns have included phone calls and site visits.

Recent activities completed by the County to address the flooding concerns included the Yellow Lake baffle installation, coordination with SWFWMD for ditch cleaning at East Lake Estates, new pipe at Youth Lane, pumping operations to divert stormwater, and property purchases which were requested by residents (Winding Creek, Highland's Loop). Additional tasks in progress include new gage installations (Yellow Lake, Lake Worrell, Scout Lake), a drainage review for Ridge Road, scope development for Best Management Practices within the watershed, continued maintenance of existing systems such as mowing, road repairs and pipe replacement, and work through the Pasco County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP).

The County has an ongoing watershed management program which entails, among other items, working with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The County is currently analyzing the Level of Service and Best Management Practice (BMP) alternatives.

New projects that were developed based on resident input include an effort to combine the Bear Creek/Pithlachascotee watershed study results, update the stormwater models, and develop alternatives to improve drainage in the vicinities of Yellow Lake, Lake Worrell, Beacon Woods, Crescent Forest and Winging Creek/Jumping Gully. The County is also looking at properties located around the Yellow Lake lake bed for potential mitigation and reviewing locations that could provide additional stormwater storage capacity.

An overview of the general project cycle from conception through construction was provided and the funding mechanisms available for stormwater maintenance and capital improvement projects were reviewed. 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 Magnolia Valley example, were reviewed.

Ms. Baker noted that the County's stormwater assessment of \$57/ERU provides the funding for operation and maintenance (O&M) of the County's stormwater systems. It does not cover costs for O&M of privately operated stormwater systems which are the responsibility of the respective owner to maintain. Design and construction capital improvement projects need to be funded via other mechanisms such as assessments, grants, cooperative funding, etc.

Assessments are based on identification of which areas benefit from a specific project. Assessments have a 10- to 15-year payback period with minimal interest rates to assist lower income areas where an assessment may present a hardship for residents. There

was a recent proposal to increase the stormwater assessment but an increase in the fee was not approved by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners at that time.

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 to one of the four stations each designated for the following specific areas:

- [Yellow Lake & Cranes Roost](#)
- [Lake Worrell](#)
- [Beacon Woods](#)
- [Winding Creek/Buzzard Lake and Crescent Forest](#)

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](#)

No new areas of concerns were identified. The following were general discussion items during the breakout session:

- Residents in the Lake Worrell area observed the flooding this year was not as bad as last year, which resulted with water in their home, which they still were not living in after a year.
- Residents questioned the purpose of the pump at the Dollar General / Youth Lane, instead of rerouting water from Lake Worrell, it appeared to be sending water east under Little Road and through their neighborhood. Joella explained and showed them on an overall map the route the water takes before it eventually makes it to the Gulf of Mexico. She explained the pump, during severe rain events provided some flood relief by capturing water on the west side of Little Road and pumping it uphill back to the west along Youth Lane to a drainage retention area on the County's property, providing relief to Lake Worrell. The residents disagreed and said that at the last big storm it appeared the pump was sending it east.
- After reviewing the map, residents understood this would not be a quick fix, and wanted to be assured that something was going to be done.

Resident commented that Pasco County never came through their neighborhood when they were flooded and the only contact they had was from Red Cross.

Lake Worrell

The following previous action items and additional action items were discussed during the breakout session:

3. Main concern was cost of any projects that could potentially alleviate flooding in his neighborhood. Resident asked that Donald Carey make the list of potential projects available to him.
4. Resident reported that flood waters reached to within 100 feet of his house during the past two storms (July/August 2015 & T.S. Hermine) but had never previously gotten that close in his experience.
5. Citizen mentioned that there was a 50-acre parcel for sale encompassing Rocky Sink that may provide flood relief.
9. Seven Diamonds Mine area: Seven Diamonds mine is directly behind the resident's house. Resident is concerned that the mine may exacerbate existing flooding concerns.

Beacon Woods

The following previous action items and additional action items were discussed during the breakout session:

7. Why was this area not cleaned all the way? It was noted that a portion of the stormwater system is on private property. There is a need to re-establish the creek bed. There have been no noted flows in the creek for 11 months of the year.
10. Majestic Blvd.: Erosion noted at the pop out and sediment. Area may need bank protection and sediment removal from sinkhole to the bridge. Resident indicated they had a CD showing photos of issues within this area. Resident (Mr. Walking) was provided with a copy of the maps so that the photos could be correlated to a location. Look at replacing the berm or a new overflow.
11. Split Rail Lane: Road flooding at Yorktown Lane. Need to identify the outfall at this area.
12. Rivermill Drive & Fivay Road: Manhole cover behind homes on NE side of Rivermill Dr. and SW side of Fivay Rd. needs repair. See photos.
13. South of Clearbrook Lane: Was this area deeded to facilities management?
14. Pond west of Dearborn Drive and north of Danube Drive: Who owns this pond?

15. 8018 Bear Creek Lane – Resident noted that water stages there a lot faster now and the bypass canal is not helping. Can the creek bed be cleaned out? One suggestion offered was to make the creek level with the sinkhole. Residents are seeing increased water volume.
16. Connection and pipe from HWY 54 to west side of Bear Creek Assisted Living Facility. What is the pipe connecting to? Can County add a chain link fence to keep trash out of the creek?
17. Berm at this location was washed out.

Winding Creek/Buzzard Lake and Crescent Forest

1. (Seven Diamonds) Dr. Gills’ property: flooding at Mahoney Drive. The citizen fears that a Mining Permit recently filed with the County will redirect more water down the Pithlachascotee River.
2. Citizen stated that she is trying to buy new property and sell her current parcel to the County. She also feared that the Mining project may block surface water flows and impact her parcel. She was nominated for acquisition through the ELAMP Program.
3. Osceola Heights, Seminole Dr. and Minneola Dr. seem to be the biggest issue. The citizen resides at 11750 Seminole Dr. and wanted to know what the County can do to help her during flooding. She had to pump her own property because of her property’s being on a “B Maintained” roadway, referring to an area not maintained by the County. Flooding affects the front and side of her property. Resident shared photos from her cell phone. Resident felt that the water went down faster last year, but not so fast, this year. There is a connection to a pond by Chicago Ave.
4. Citizen noted that there is a vacant property at Seminole and Minneola Dr. Can this be used for additional flood retention?

A summary of the discussions at each breakout session was provided to attendees. Ms. McKiernan inquired as to 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 and 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 in approximately 4 months.