

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Pinellas - Anclote (East) Watershed

**January 25, 2017 – Land O' Lakes Community Center,
5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes, Pasco County**

The following is a summary of the Pinellas-Anclote (East) Watershed meeting held on January 25, 2017.

Introductions, Meeting Purpose and Background

Ms. Cece McKiernan, the facilitator for the meeting, welcomed the group and reviewed the purpose of the meeting, the meeting format and the agenda.

The purpose of this Watershed Task Force meeting is to enhance our collective knowledge of the Pinellas-Anclote (East) Watershed and to allow County staff to work together with residents to improve storm-water management systems within the watershed. The County is seeking the involvement of local residents in the development of potential solutions. This effort will result in recommendations to the County Administrator for potential projects/solutions.

Ms. McKiernan noted that 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 Pinellas-Anclote (East) Watershed meeting (April 28, 2016) to identify areas of concern for additional investigation, and the list of action items 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 verbatim quotes and may or may not represent the group's view as a whole.

PowerPoint Presentation and General Discussion

An action-item spreadsheet was provided to attendees by Mr. Donald Carey (Stormwater Management).

The Pinellas-Anclote (East) Watershed covers approximately 45 square miles and lies partially within Hillsborough County. Flooding problems have been noted within Sierra Pines, Meadowbrook Estates, Lake Como and along Leonard Road.

The County partners with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and has shared responsibility for the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

for the Pinellas-Anclote (East) Watershed. The County has ongoing efforts to evaluate storm-water system maintenance within Sierra Pines. Pipes were recently vacuumed and the SWFWMD has been actively working with the Turnpike Authority to clear the flow way and remove dead vegetation and debris from under the Suncoast Parkway overpass. There is also a current pipe construction/replacement project at Linda Lane.

The County has been and continues to work with the developer of the Northpointe Mettler-Toledo site to eliminate potential for offsite flooding impacts. The full Anclote model was reviewed to view overall impacts and the developer has added floodplain mitigation ponds in addition to the storm-water ponds.

The County, partnering with SWFWMD, has an ongoing watershed management program which includes working with FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The updated FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps have been completed. Potential risks and impacts from proposed new development are evaluated on a continuous basis through the permitting process.

Meadowbrook Estates has dedicated easements for storm-water ditches but there is no active homeowner's association (HOA) to coordinate needed maintenance activities. Sierra Pines does not have dedicated storm-water easements and there is no active HOA to coordinate needed maintenance activities. A potential solution would be to create a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) for Meadowbrook and Sierra Pines. An MSBU provides a mechanism to allow the County to collect funds via an assessment to benefiting residents. The County would use those funds to provide the stormwater maintenance activities for the MSBU area. The County would also need to obtain the maintenance easements within Sierra Pines to allow for the maintenance activities.

Residents do have a voice as to whether or not a MSBU is created. A vote would be initiated and the results would be presented to the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. Note that non-voting residents are not counted as a "NO" vote. Also note that the final decision to create an MSBU is after public hearing by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. The MSBU can be written to provide for specific maintenance activities per area.

Residents may also opt to form an HOA and to perform their own maintenance. Often, this is a less costly option for residents.

Breakout Sessions:

Although there were three breakout session stations for the various locations (see PowerPoint presentation) within this watershed, all meeting attendees were from the Meadowbrook and Sierra Pines area. Attendees were asked to join the designated County representative.

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

Note that the item numbers noted for each station correlate to dots that can be found on the maps (click on Station name to link to the respective map) which provide the specific location for that item.

Sierra Pines / Meadowbrook – [Map #1](#), [Map #2](#)

- I. Ballantrae drainage goes under Highway 54 to the south and then into the ditch at the beginning of Meadowbrook. There is no flow through the ditch. The County has previously sprayed the vegetation in the ditch. The County currently does not have the easement needed to clean the ditch. Can the County ask for an easement over the ditch on the property to the west? Donald Carey to follow-up with resident at 17350 Riverstone Dr., Lutz regarding the request for an easement which will allow for cleaning.
- II. When Highway 54 was widened, the ditch along the south side of Highway 54 was constructed for attenuation of runoff. Sediment removal is needed in the ditch along Highway 54 and this area stays dry and flows get diverted through Meadowbrook. The SWFWMD has been working with the Parkway Authority who will be cleaning the pipe section under the Suncoast Parkway later this week. There is a lot of development going on the other side of the Suncoast and SWFWMD is ensuring pipes under the Suncoast Parkway get cleaned.
- III. Country Lane at Driftwood Lane (NE corner) is not in the flood zone but water flows into resident's yard at 1320 Country Ln., Lutz. There is a pipe on Country Lane that needs to be cleaned. Donald Carey to review.
- IV. Resident at 1725 Oakwood Court expressed concern about the new Mettler-Toledo dewatering to the north. The developer appears to be adding fill and residents are concerned about flooding. The SWFWMD and County will follow-up. The developer's model showed no adverse impacts and is constructing floodplain compensation ponds. Residents want to know who will make sure it will function as intended and will be maintained. SWFWMD permit compliance can be contacted for enforcement.
- V. Resident at 17135 Gunlock Road - Water is back flowing into Meadowbrook.
- VI. Resident at 1125 Sierra Pines Blvd. Water flows onto Sierra Pines and appears to be coming in from the east. The historic water flow maps were reviewed. There is a need to get more water out of the neighborhood.

- VII. Reviewed previous issues noted as #26. Grey areas on the maps represent wetlands. Development within wetlands is very expensive and typically cost prohibitive. Donald Carey reviewed flows through the North Pointe property.
- VIII. Reviewed previous issues noted as #14. Donald Carey reviewed the flow paths through the Bexley area and the SWFWMD confirmed that the flow path is to the North. Resident inquired if a bypass canal has been considered and would like an update for action item #14.
- IX. Reviewed previous issues noted as #27. The potential illegal fill noted at the last watershed meeting at Eagle Lane (See Map Items #10 and #27) have not been addressed. County to send information to John Powanda for follow-up. Residents requested an update be provided for Items #10 and #27 after additional investigation. Significant water flows were noted on Eagle Lane.
- X. Water was noted to be standing on the property at 17135 Gunlock Rd. by the border with the Mettler-Toledo development. Property is now becoming a wetland as the water has been standing for an extended period of time. Resident had a pasture that was once dry where he could farm. Now the land is too wet due to stormwater not being able to flow out of the area. Resident claims that the neighbor has clogged up the ditch causing his land to be wet year round. Resident wants to find out how to get his land back either from the county or by other means.
- XI. Reflection Blvd. – There is a noted blockage under the road. The SWFWMD reported to have investigated the clogged pipe leading from the wetland.
 - Resident looked at the maps at the meeting and was curious if she is in a flood zone since it looks like it on the maps. Her home was never in a flood zone before. She does not have flood insurance. County to send of flood map information to resident at 17916 Eagle Lane, Lutz.
 - Resident at 17350 Riverstone Drive, Lutz would like to get a copy of the 2014 flood map.

Attendees rejoined the general meeting and Mr. Donald Carey provided a summary of discussions during the breakout session.

Commissioner Kathryn Starkey welcomed the group and noted that an update for the Mettler-Toledo construction was provided in the latest newsletter update. The SWFWMD will conduct a site visit at the Mettler-Toledo development site regarding dewatering activities. Cleaning activities for the Suncoast Parkway are being coordinated by the Parkway Authority and are approximately 2/3 complete.

Mr. Terrence with Tampa Bay Water (TBW) provided an overview for the current and historical wellfield pumping activities. Pumping was decreased from past levels to restore the natural hydrology of the area. Currently TBW rotates pumping activities

among the various wellfields based on permitted operations and continuous monitoring. It would take years of increased pumping to significantly draw down wellfield groundwater levels and decrease the water table in a specific area. Pumping plans are reviewed continuously and TBW has piezometers that are continuously monitored. Pumping rotations are planned weekly and are posted on the TBW website. Pumping activities depend on rainfall. TBW is not permitted to over pump or to create negative wetland impacts. Water demands and storm-water flooding are cyclic and will continue to cycle.

Residents noted that the Villa Rosa neighborhood (south of the wall) was pumping water off of their flooded roads. The SWFWMD confirmed that an emergency pumping authorization is required for pumping activities. Emergency authorizations are assigned a number and are tracked by SWFWMD. Resident stated it would be good to be able to track emergency pumping authorizations on SWFWMD's website.

New developments are not permitted to send storm-water off-site at a higher rate in post-development than the rate that was already flowing off-site at pre-development. New developments are required to build at higher elevations due to the updated permit requirements concerning the height of finished floors. Storm-water from development north of Meadowbrook flows south via the 54-inch pipes under Highway 54. Sierra Pines and Meadowbrook have no storm-water ponds as they were constructed prior to the current storm-water rules.

Some residents reported that there was no historic flooding on Eagle Lane or in Sierra Pines until the Villa Rosa neighborhood was constructed. Residents suspect that the storm-water drain pipes to Villa Rosa do not really function as intended. The SWFWMD and Hillsborough County are both participating in the ongoing storm-water model updates. Once the models are updated and integrated, impacts can be more readily determined.

There is a process for new development and permitting with plans reviewed across multiple agencies. There are also established watershed models available to engineers to use when planning for new development.

The County will continue to look at opportunities to purchase properties during BMP evaluations to create additional storm-water storage opportunities. Available storm-water storage in ponds is limited by the high groundwater table. Any new ponds would need to have a large surface area to create enough storage.

Ms. Cece McKiernan asked 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. Residents requested meeting be scheduled every 3-4 months.

The County will research issues noted during this meeting and will provide real-time updates via the County's website and e-mail.