

Captiva Community Panel
MINUTES
June 9, 2015

Attending: Dave Jensen, Sandy Stilwell, Jack Cunningham. David Rohn (phone), David Mintz (phone), Jay Brown (phone), Mike Boris, Jerry McClure

Audience: 15

Meeting convened: at 9:05 a.m. Reviewing the May 10 minutes, corrections were requested on page 3 (dumpster comments were not Mintz) and page 5 (should be Jeff Shuff from Tween Waters, not Jeff SSIR). They were unanimous approved as amended.

CEPD: *Administrator Kathy Rooker:* Meeting in Crows Nest tomorrow. No meeting in July. District is looking for firm to do study of Blind Pass for management plan. Where is erosion happening, what steps can be taken to cut down erosion, cost of options. Work to keep the pass open, look at maintenance, cut down on erosion, have state adopt management plan. Discussion of process and shortlist. Interviewed three finalists, ranked finalist for BoCC consideration. Top firm was CB&I/CPE. Will take regional approach to passes in general. Sanibel open to listening to all the options and the science behind them. *Brown:* Any constituencies who don't want to see this happen? *Rooker:* Sanibel open to all options, no objections yet. *McClure:* Noticed small groin on Sanibel side, new? *Rooker:* Always there, just uncovered by erosion. *Cunningham:* BoCC approval, next step? *Rooker:* Will start study once authorized. Could take up to nine months to complete. Presentation of findings to follow, so could be a while until something is actually done. Build support and educate, then go back to BoCC and FDEP to help with cost. *Rene Miville:* Will this interfere with 2016 dredging plans? *Rooker:* Don't see that. *Miville:* No structures allowed on Sanibel by comp plan, could circumvent by calling it emergency repair. Going to BoCC rather than TDC. *Rooker:* TDC funds county beach efforts.

CFD: No report

LCSO: *Sgt. Mike Sawicki:* Nice to be back. Not much going on right now. Lull before summer starts. Hurricane prep, time to think about it is now. Working with parks to clarify rules and iron out problems. *Mintz:* Signage issues? *Sawicki:* Turner Beach is county property, some conflict with Sanibel rules since they manage it. Dog amenities in place, creates confusion.

Utilities: *Assistant County Administrator Doug Meurer:* (Jensen intro)... committee background offered, wanted someone to speak who knows more about subject than we do. Had sent questions in advance...key factors to consider whether to pursue sewer. *Meurer:* Background on prior efforts with Sanibel. Three components – collection, treatment facility, discharge of treated water. Key factors: Public good, right thing to do for water quality issues. Referendum to show support and establish system to create utility. Or mandate, like Keys went through due to water quality issues. No choice but to establish authority. Perception or reality of water quality issues. Also, septic takes land, removing frees up property for additional uses. Agreement of service area customers. *Brown:* How do you assess community support? *Meurer:* Petition or vote. County sponsored MSTBU to set up collection system, 50% plus 1 vote. *Boris:* Property owners vote? *Meurer:* Yes. *Stilwell:* Development impact, limits on construction? *Meurer:* Size to serve community. Standards of community have to be met during planning review. *McClure:* City participation? *Meurer:* Would have to approve if they have capacity. *Brown:* Conversations with Kevin Ruane about this, very positive about tie-in to Sanibel.

Jensen: Throughout state, perception or mandate driven? *Meurer*: Bonita Springs Utilities good example, private not for profit utility. If county service area does not reach to area where people want service, people can form their own. *Jensen*: Science behind that? *Meurer*: Wish there was, example of Lehigh Acres. Science can show contaminants, but had to prove it's septic causing the problem. *Cunningham*: Do existing septic systems have to be removed if sewer is installed? *DM*: Yes, it's required. Vacuum system might work better on flat terrain, does not always require joining it. State statutes might not apply for that, would need to check. *Cunningham*: What happens to system? *Meurer*: Removed or filled in place to avoid collapse. *Brown*: Taxing district to create system, would pay for collection and connection. How is each individual owner connected, part of district or individual responsibility? *Meurer*: Pay proportionate share to connect to Sanibel, assign annual cost for maintenance and repairs. Additional charge from city for capacity usage. MSTBU is one mechanism, better choice might be to form utility, monthly billing for services. *Mintz*: All of island connected, or parts of island. Or not considered. *Meurer*: South Seas would continue its utility, other properties would connect.

Cunningham: How to determine cost? *Meurer*: Consulting engineer would look at elements of system, develop an estimate of probable cost before any referendum or petition? *Cunningham*: Who pays for studies? *Meurer*: Depends on financing mechanism, county has engineer and cost could be folded into taxing unit. *Cunningham*: If not goes forward? *Meurer*: Responsibility of who forms utility. *Stilwell*: Is fee based on demand or usage. *Meurer*: All single-family homes pay same connection fee, monthly fee is based on usage. *Brown*: Any idea of range of cost? *Meurer*: Hesitate to throw out a number, it will be remembered. Cape Coral expansion cost \$20K per household... half for sewer expansion, so \$10K. *Mintz*: Keeping and improving existing septic systems, any argument? Policy reason not to go forward? *Meurer*: Resistance by any individual to prevent majority support. *Miville*: County easement/ROW left? Can it fit within ROW? *Meurer*: Yes. *Miville*: Other utilities, electrical? *Meurer*: Yes. *Jensen*: Issue where there is no ROW left along road. *Sherell Sims*: Excited to have gotten to this stage, concern over water quality. Are we sure that private systems are adequate to serve customers? *Stilwell*: Optional or mandated? Some may want to connect. *Nathalie Pyle*: Cost to individuals... \$20K per household. *Meurer*: \$15K? *Brown*: Amortized or lump sum. *Meurer*: Paid all at once or spread out over years. If utility, they will borrow to build and bill over time based on payments. *Brown*: Cost discussion...

Hullar: Distance to connect affects costs. *Meurer*: You are responsible for cost of connection, some defined limit but don't know what it is. *Brown*: Cost of septic vs. sewer over time? *Meurer*: One way to look at it. Discussion of pros and cons. *Rohn*: Installation impact on property values? *Holzheimer*: Who can mandate other than a referendum? *Meurer*: DEP due to water quality. *Mintz*: Criteria? *Gooderham*: Who can manage system if utility? *Meurer*: Need to look at it. Lee County Utilities could look at it, FGUA, role to take over distressed utilities. Lehigh, NFM, South Seas, U.S. Water operates system. County can take over system at any time for cost of debt. *Mintz*: If tied to Sanibel, would we have representation, or fee for service? How long to construct a collection system? Funding sources besides residents? *Meurer*: Sanibel... bulk service customer, rate for quantity that goes to their system, no representation. Length of project... Design and construction 4 year effort. Funding... depends, if not mandate, not likely. If mandated, sources available. Will check. *Hans*: FGUA distressed.. case with South Seas? *Meurer*: Part of larger purchase of operator, would not break it up so FGUA bought them all. *Hullar*: Study done by panel years ago, need to bring that back for discussion. No contamination shown from septic systems. Discussion.

?: Requirement for septic maintenance? *Meurer*: No, state effort was shot down. Discussion. *Stilwell*:

Commercial owners are required to maintain regularly, individuals are not. *Miville*: Water quality... weakness made in surrounding water a lot of movement. *Jensen*: Did test ground water. *Miville*: With septic everything goes to groundwater. Is it monetary or quality of life decision? *Rohn*: Can we hear from septic community? *Mintz*: Discussion with Sanibel? *Brown*: Next step to discuss at panel level how to proceed. *Cunningham*: Need to hear both sides of the story, we all have septic out here. Look for septic expert to discuss issues. *Meurer*: Bob Himschoot? *Rohn*: Enforcement area could be interesting. *Stilwell*: Dept. of Health person? *Hullar*: Need facts to make decisions. Examine that report to determine where we are, look back at data. *Stilwell*: Panel discussion. *Jensen*: Committee will come back next meeting to recommend ideas.

LCEC: *Dennie Hamilton, Tricia Dorn, Karen Ryan*: Presentation by Hamilton. Service issues on Captiva unacceptable. Nonprofit investor owned utility, your fees help fund operations, excess is returned to membership. Equity ownership account and cash returned to customers. Distribution cooperative, do not generate any electricity. 1913 services on islands. Reliable service balanced against lowest cost and quality customer service. Power starts in Cape Coral, to Pine Island. Three water crossings to Sanibel substation. Single line to Captiva from there. Limited alternatives to where we can put power lines on the island, in ROW mainly. Challenge to get support on the island due to traffic and crowds, keep things necessary out here when possible. Reliability... system average interruption duration index. Discussion of service improvements and issues. Explanation of service issues recently. Things we can look at to increase response time and location of facilities/poles.

Stilwell: Underground in certain locations? *Hamilton*: Can look at that. *Stilwell*: Whose responsibility will that be? *Hamilton*: Look at cost, reliability and repair, best thing for our membership. *Jensen*: If Captiva was willing to pay more for increase service, is that possible? *Hamilton*: Rates have to be the same throughout area by PSC, limited opportunities to charge more in certain areas. *Jensen*: Technology to warn you if a certain number of properties are out? *Hamilton*: We often know when there is a problem beforehand. *Rohn*: Would burying lines improve reliability and on an island is it a good idea? *Hamilton*: Finding issues, saltwater intrusion, wind issues. Cost of service is biggest issue for us. Open to looking at underground if sewers are being considered. *Brown*: Individual owners burying lines? *Hamilton*: Estimates available and we do work. *Hans*: If residents could pay for improvements, wouldn't rate be left untouched? Discussion. *Brown*: Massive economies if done with sewer project? *Hamilton*: Maybe not massive, but yes. Coordination an issue. *Cunningham*: Unit to pay for lines all up front? *Hamilton*: Number of options, we're not in financing business. *Hullar*: Discussion of background, issue was size of taxing unit included South Seas. *Hamilton*: Discussion of recent service efforts. Replacing Matlacha Pass line, a 3-year project.

CFD: *Chief Rich Dickerson*: Dedication for former volunteer this afternoon. Got Certificate of Occupancy for new station, move in tomorrow if possible. Planning a July 11 grand opening tentatively, plus open house in March every year for seasonal residents. 60th anniversary this year, David Rohn is working on it for us.

Mangrove: *Cunningham*: Background on mangrove removal. State permit allowed work to be done. Discussion of state/county/COE options. *Hullar*: Current language is not as weak as it sounds. Has some legal basis. *Brown*: Long process to get permission to remove mangroves. Will be fined for removal if not done right. *Cunningham*: No one was aware of it, is the issue. *Brown*: Description of process... plan, removal, mitigation. *Mintz*: Plan states need for protection, but county and panel is not engaged in any requests. *Brown*: Ask panel be noticed about any mangrove removal by COE and FDEP. *Cunningham*: Letter to DEP and COE. *Mintz*: Reference policy. *Cunningham*: Write letter to

both agencies, requesting to be noticed on any request for removal of mangroves on Captiva Island prior to a decision. *Cunningham/Boris. Brown:* What is best way to be noticed? *Gooderham:* Letter and follow up with specific people. *Rohn:* Mitigation not done on Captiva. *Gooderham:* One issue at a time, work on notification first. *Hans:* You get noticed, then what? *Cunningham:* Evaluate situation and make recommendation. *Hans:* Have to have a criteria. *Brown:* Description of hearing process he'd like to see. Unanimous approval. *Mintz:* Palmflower letter? *Cunningham/Brown.* Letter to COE, numbers don't add up, need hearing, impact could be greater. *Cunningham:* CCA is also writing a similar letter. Unanimous approval.

Hurricane: *Doris Holzheimer:* Meeting Thursday, to talk admin matters and efforts and plans. *Sawicki:* Have current letter on file with CFD and LCSO. *Hans:* CEPD did a good brochure on beach impacts. Brochures for timeshare owners to update them on hurricanes. *Cunningham:* On website and agencies. *Ann Bradley:* Also at library or contact Lee EOC.

Finance: *Cunningham:* Sent out meeting notes. Planning another letter, events in fall and spring. "Welcome Back to Captiva" event in late October, a Lady Chadwick cruise and Tween Waters dinner; minimum \$100 per person. Will set meeting in late July to work on letter and invites. Then look to do South Seas event in December/January (tentative), dinner and drinks at Kings Crown. Invites will be sponsored by island orgs to fund payment. Hope to raise \$17,500 at each event to stay on track for annual budget, plus \$15K from letter. *Mintz:* Letter needs to be updated, addresses were wrong. Would like to account for each event in terms of donations to track results. *Hans:* Fro timeshare owners, can track moves and use email. *Mimi Schwartzel:* Follow up with specific businesses?

Communications: *Cunningham:* Restarting CCA newsletter, include panel points. Reference minutes in newsletter.

Financial: *Gooderham:* County reimbursement planned, awaiting necessary paperwork to submit.

Plan: *Max Forgey:* Mary Gibbs and Pal O'Connor retired in May. Interim successor is Dave Loveland, from Lee DOT. Mary named the new Estero Community Development Director as of yesterday. Consider Oct. 30 for symposium on land use. From ordinary citizen to professionals and local govt people. Description of sessions. Will be held at Miromar Design Outlet. \$40 including lunch, contact me for details and reservations. *Cunningham:* Mintz should attend.

Other biz: *Jensen:* Recycling bins. County lets contracts for new bins and garbage bins. Continuity for service. *Mimi Schwartzel:* Is there an ordinance about when people have to bring in garbage cans? *Gooderham:* I think so, but it's not enforced. Move August meeting to bring in FGUA person?

Mangrove letter: Request public hearing to explore mangrove impacts based on the Captiva Plan policy to protect mangroves to the greatest extent possible, and look at options to minimize any impact to the wetlands and mangroves on the property in question.

Adjourned 11:30 a.m.?

-- *Ken Gooderham, administrator*