

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Sept. 14, 2021

Attending: Jay Brown, Tony Lapi, John Jensen, Rene Miville, Bob Walter, Ann Brady, Bruce McDonald, Linda Laird, Mike Kelly, Mike Mullins

Audience: 12

Meeting convened at 9:02 a.m. Following introductions and a roll call, the Aug. 10, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (Jensen/Laird).

CFD: *Pawul:* Driveway access initiative starting, properties where vegetation or gates prevents us from accessing property if there is an issue. Up to owners to provide access, sometimes don't know we can get down those driveways. County effort to make all gates accessible, will send information on options to forward to list. Pink Heels video. October, selling T-shirts for pink cancer drive. Explanation. Good to see it slow down after a few busy months. *Brown:* Verizon update, they're touted their solution installed in the fire station. *Pawul:* Loaner unit has been an in-building solution, connects to our network. Cell reception is great around unit, but it doesn't help islandwide issues. *Brown:* Any progress on a helicopter landing area? *Pawul:* Movement, but very slow. Looking at a platform-type solution in mangrove area which is unbuildable otherwise. Choices are disturbing mangroves or residential areas, something is going to be affected. *Miville:* Land on wider beaches. *Pawul:* Another option, have three options now but starting conversation as option in the future. Space could be enough, but may not be OK landing on sand. Creates quite a dust storm when landing on vacant lot.

CEPD: *Brown:* Appreciate follow through on getting details about the Collier USACE project. *Jennifer Nelson:* Reached out to Steve Boutelle and Dr. Michael Savarese, explanation of findings and response to Corps proposals. *Brown:* Summary of project. *Nelson:* Summary of findings. Interior as well as Gulf coastline. Meeting with Collier County commission member tomorrow. Maybe collaborate with them once Southwest Florida Compact gets up and running. *Laird:* Copy me on such issues as well. *Nelson:* At Sept. meetings, approved millage (same, 2.3% increase in budget). New initiatives planned, looking at hiring lobbyists in Tallahassee and DC, work on strategic plan. Project under way, booster pump has been on and off over last eight days, what actually moves the sand to the beach through the pipeline. Thanks to Chief Pawul and Lt. Sawicki for help in testing booster. Next beach area is Tween Waters, doing walk-ahead today. Chance to meet with owners to talk through process. Had calls from some rental agents about inability to get to the beach. Access to beach limited when heavy equipment is working in an area, but it's usually 300-1,000 feet to sand bridge over pipeline. Worried about keeping people safe during construction. Direct people to website with questions, special page for project. *Brown:* Anything new on total tab for owners? *Nelson:* Still at \$18 million now, did discover in pre-construction survey done due to storms lost a lot of sand. Not to exceed 3.1 million additional sand and planting costs. *Miville:* Explanation of differences, lost 135,000-175,000 cubic yards due to storms, also phenomenal deal on sand encourages us to go green in construction and design. Not \$3 million to Captivans, less than 50% of that pursuing other grants. Might be net neutral. Very positive response. *Nelson:* Looking forward to strategic planning, initiative and SLR legislation. *Miville:* Savarese could be a good ally, believes in more action and less studies. Discussion.

Septic water quality: *Brown:* Background of studies by SCCF, David Tomasko TKW and Kimley-Horn. *Doug Eckmann:* Presentation (see Zoom video). Findings of various studies and nitrogen loading. Added FGUA but not South Seas due to study area. Supposed to have 24-inch separation from drainfield to

groundwater levels, but that's considered a minimum – 42 inches more standard. At least 40% of current systems in the Village don't meet the 24-inch recommendation, and most of the lots are smaller than state standards. Walked through how FDEP calculates nutrient load vs. calculations by SCCF and Tomasko. *Mintz*: Occupancy is too low for the reality on Captiva, would need to be recalculated for funding purposes. *Laird*: Lots of vegetation on Captiva, which should take up nitrogen. Too small a factor to include here? *Eckmann*: Not sure, if they use fertilizer it neutralizes any benefit. Sanibel thought they'd solve problem by using reclaimed water, but plants didn't take up enough nutrients to avoid nutrients getting into the environment. *Laird*: More lush vegetation, different geology. Don't know how much people fertilize. *Mintz*: Heavy in Village by landscapers. *Walter*: What is source of irrigation water in Village and Captiva Drive? Well or IWA? *Mintz*: In Village, IWA. *Brown*: Well water may not support vegetation due to salt content. *Eckmann*: Finish. *Mark Thompson*: Introduction by *Brown*. Presentation (see Zoom video). Measure nutrient load at point it enters groundwater, not Pine Island Sound.... State waters by statute. We don't know because we did not test to the level necessary to identify and measure plumes. *Mintz*: Septic vs. stormwater runoff in nutrient levels, septic to sewer areas. *Thompson*: Not confident. Looked at levels in dry season, less runoff. Impaired water for nitrogen and chlorophyll around Captiva in Pine Island Sound. DEP will set minimum levels for area in 10 years? Will do their own calculations and look at sources, septic an easy target. 48% nitrogen load from Captiva from septic systems. Will work from existing data first, SCCF and K-H research will be sources. *Mintz*: Numbers from FGUA plant, using water for irrigation. *Thompson*: In 2010 data, I think. In calculations from K-H and ESA, literature estimate. DEP will eventually develop its own numbers to figure out how to target sources. Septic sources can be engineered out, stormwater is harder to reduce due to inability to treat. Remove septic, will see decreases in inorganic nitrogen we see, chlorophyll will be lower. Might take sampling to detail decreases, will be hard to see immediately. Impact within a kilometer of shore.

LOSOM: *James Evans*: Introductions, background on presentation. Paul Julian, SCCF & Conservancy hydrological modeler, from FDEP with Everglades background. *Evans*: Part of much larger watershed, Kissimmee River feeds into the lake and excess water can go east (St. Lucie), west (Caloosahatchee) or south (Everglades). LOSOM is 10-year plan for lake management by USACE. Presentation (see Zoom video). Politics, east vs. west coasts, impact of climate change (drier dries and wetter wets) can mean too much water in the summer and not enough in the winter. Impact on red tide blooms, blue-green algae and other algae affecting out coastline. Extended discharges in 2018 devastating for habitat, had \$47 million economic impact on Sanibel and Captiva alone. Balance of keeping lake levels at a safe height vs. having to release water east and west. Ran through impacts of various LOSOM alternatives, Alternative CC was best but still put too much impact on west coast. Looks backwards not forwards in modeling. Legislative delegation needs to fight for Caloosahatchee. Not putting water supply first. Reduce damaging discharges to Caloosahatchee. *Mintz*: James has been the sole source for data fighting for us, point person supply information and technical expertise. *Evans*: Effort needs more political; support, asking communities to step up in a big way. Attack all sources, do the work in our backyard, but LOSOM will have the greatest impact on our water quality. Keep pressure on east coast to support Everglades projects.

LDC: *Mintz*: BoCC 9/21 hearing on code amendments, believe it will be passed and code will be done. Meeting with Ruane 9/22 to cover issues... funding, Roosevelt, ordinances, rental control, iguana, Blind Pass bridge. Sidewalk, may have problem with two if the six property owners. Speak to Johnson on options. Gas blowers – Naples and Sanibel have taken action to ban them.

Wastewater: *Brown*: Project timetable, expects work to be done by November meeting, engineering and costing. Apportionment methodologies, workshop in mid-October with Kimley-Horn. Equal distribution or measure of usage.

SLR: *Laird:* More detailed review of different adaptation alternatives. Need more detail on advantages and disadvantages. Asked SCCF SLR point person Carrie Shuman to participate in committee meetings, hard structures vs. Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF) options.

Development: Will work on new letter to go out in fall.

Financial: Handout in packet.

Brown: Ron Gibson involved in a serious accident, now in a Fort Myers hospital. *Lapi:* Nominating Committee met once, will meet again in early October and will bring a slate to the October panel meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

-- ***Ken Gooderham***

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