

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Nov. 9, 2021

Attending: Jay Brown, Bruce McDonald, Mike Mullins, Ann Brady, Linda Laird, Bob Walter

Audience: 16

Meeting convened 9:02 am, introductions and roll call. Oct. 12 meeting minutes approved (Mullins/Laird) unanimously.

LCSD: Lt. Mike Sawicki, Deputy Chris Lusk: *Sawicki:* Out on extended medical leave due to back surgery, out for a few months. Will be replaced by Lt. Dan Leffin, experienced officer. Very blessed to have him. *Lusk:* Put his contact phone and email in Chat. Contact if necessary. Increase in visitors, increase traffic enforcement on the island. More registering golf carts with Dept. of Motor Vehicles, makes them a low-speed vehicle, consider them as a car, same rules apply. Car seats for kids, seat belts required, act and park as if in your car. Home Watch and maintenance people coming to house to get ready for owners, using property afterhours for fishing etc. Not always with permission. Review expectations of use by others not property owners. No major incidents, just minor misunderstandings. *Sawicki:* Confusion when we stop low-speed vehicles. Require driver's license. Without license or suspended or revoked license, a criminal offense. If in a crash, have to report as unlicensed, not good for person or insurance. *Mintz:* Still have to have license for golf cart. *Sawicki:* Just changes punishment, county vs. state law. More severe punishment.

CFD: *Chief Jeff Pawul:* Golf carts convenient, but can cause problems, accidents can be pretty severe. Many medical evacuations due to injuries. Structure fire few weeks ago. Call 911 first before you try to deal with fire, not fire station or rental company. Traffic picking up, be careful with holiday cooking. *Brown:* Verizon status? *Pawul:* Same as last meeting, no progress.

CEPD: Nelson: Meeting highlights: Application for new commissioner. Explained process. Link up today on website until Dec. 31. Appointment and interviews at January meeting. Application includes requirement to serve. *Brown:* Email planned? *Nelson:* End of today we hope. To complete Harry Kaiser's term, ends at the end of 2022. Munt: Project update: Beach fill 600 feet from end of project, complete tomorrow. Hagerup lot, reopening before Thanksgiving. Dune plantings, commenced a few weeks ago, making progress. People not observing boundaries, ordered signs to keep people off new plants, also looking at fencing all along beach. *Laird:* Barriers to make them more obvious. *Nelson:* Great Lakes Dredge & Dock putting together bid on ropes and bollards. Signs at , all along island. People asking about dune plantings, wait and see if we need any additional ones. Board directed to staff to Aptim to propose on coastal resiliency. Want to be clear on roles and responsibilities. Will be done in conjunction with SLR Committee. Three months to develop proposal. Discussion. MUNT: Not closing access points, just signs as a reminder. MM: Ropes and bollards very effective, fencing not a good option. Looked at plants left at end to make available to community, did not order specific plants for that. *Laird:* Working on adaptation strategies now, discuss with panel and community. *Brown:* Meeting on good integration with CEPD and panel. *Nelson:* Thanks to Pawul and Sawicki for assistance with this project.

LOSOM: *James Evans, SCCF:* LOSOM and impaired waters presentation. Final phase of modeling, 240,000 models from USACE. Benefits weighted to east coast at first. Honing in on final runs for LOSOM schedule. Comparison with CC and no action models. *Mintz:* Options still pending, doesn't look to be significant difference to Caloosahatchee River Estuary (CRE)? Reason to fight for better plan?

Evans: Can live with them all, two that perform better for CRE. *Mintz:* When do you expect a decision? *Evans:* Nov. 16 Corps to present to public and team. *Laird:* Will red tide be lessened? *Evans:* Yes, reducing nutrients. Reduce nutrients and volume of water. Plan CC would have increased volume, even with retention projects coming on line. Presentation of flows chart. Better chance for optimal flows to CRE most of the year. Shows shared adversity in this plan, not seen in CC. Drastic improvement. Degree to which we received damaging flows. *Brown:* Corps has listened to us and developed more balanced plan? *Evans:* Absolutely, heard us loud and clear. Made progress, but need to keep pressure on all the way to the end. *Brown:* Feedback from east coast on plans? *Evans:* Trying to get back to where it was. Felt rug was pulled out from underneath them. *Walter:* We know how they feel. *Mintz:* Any reason to believe USACE would go back to something other than eight plans. *Evans:* Some push to move back towards CC plan. CC might not have passed NEPA test, may be why they moved away from it. *Mintz:* Do we send letter thanking them for listening and supporting beneficial plans? *Evans:* Would have to turn it around quickly before Nov. 16 meeting. Others have already commented on behalf of west coast. *Mullins:* Shared adversity important, everyone won't get what they want. *Evans:* Shared prosperity, a lot more benefit than LORS-08. St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) still has more benefit that CRE does. *Walter:* Better plan for the entire state of Florida. *Evans:* Except for Lake O, seeing more extreme events. LORS-08 was lake plan. *Brown:* Outstanding news. Can you update on Nov. 16 meeting at December panel meeting. *Evans:* Yes, amazing team effort. *Brown:* Thanks for all your work on behalf of Southwest Florida. *Evans:* Everyone working together. Impaired waters designation for Pine Island Sound (map link in Chat). Impaired for chlorophyll, based on too much nutrients (nitrogen or phosphorous). Discussion. Also exceeding levels adjacent to refuge. Got enough data in the database for Florida DEP to make impaired assessment. Nothing we've done recently, legacy nutrients. Also for fecal coliform adjacent to Captiva. *Brown:* Human or wildlife? *Evans:* Both, from rookeries and from wildlife. Natural source. Focus on anthropogenic sources. *Mintz:* Blue green algae tied to chlorophyll, not evident? *Evans:* Algae are fresh water species, limited by phosphorus. Not nitrogen. Coastal waters, limited by amount of nitrogen. *Laird:* Numbers for refuge vs. Captiva, deductions? *Evans:* Water quality is throughout watershed, not just our islands. Influence from landscaping, times when bacteria from watershed overwhelms the system. *Brown:* Expect any actions from DEP from designation? *Evans:* Depending on if they deem it a priority waterbody, proceed with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. Would then develop BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan), don't know yet. (Brady leaves.) DEP Moved forward with Sanibel Slough plan. Community would need to embrace plan. *Laird:* Do we want to be a priority? *Evans:* DEP could decide outside influences overwhelm local need, community needs to work on its own. *Brown:* Advocate them to make us a priority? *Laird:* Source for funding. *Evans:* Yes, tool to get funding. Good thing to fund conversion from septic to sewer. Priority to develop TMDL vs. priority to address water quality issues. Opportunity to bring much needed attention and funding.

Sewer: *Brown:* Introductions. Kimley-Horn has finished cost estimates and design for collection system. Overview of design and costs for various elements. Still waiting on Sanibel costs and access fee, still need interlocal agreement with Sanibel and county. Design is done but a lot of work left to be done. *Doug Eckmann, Kimley-Horn:* Presentation. Rough estimates for demo of package plants outside SSIR. Force main to Turner Beach lift station, \$2.275 million. Collection system connect to that. Tween Waters and Estates collection, low-pressure system, 209 parcels, cost \$6.87 million. Includes a 20% contingency, includes average cost of septic abandonment (\$5,000 per parcel). Village gravity system, two new lift stations plus abandonment, \$6.8 million for 267 parcels. *Laird:* Sunset Captiva processes waste for other parcels. *Eckmann:* Aware of other properties, accounts for those. *Mintz:* Includes businesses? *Laird:* Residential vs. commercial benefits. *Eckmann:* Need to refine calculations, commercial treated differently. *Mintz:* Only using average costs right now, no determination on how to apportion costs.

Audience question: Line not following Captiva Drive. *Eckmann:* Issue with drawing a straight line, not reality. *Mintz:* Costs for estates vs. village about the same. *Eckmann:* Explanation. TBE is costs from city of Sanibel to increase Turner Beach lift station, build another force main to connect at Sea Spray, not sure what number will be. *Brown:* Sanibel will be starting study soon to determine modifications. Recap of components. Roughly \$18 million with 20% contingency. *Laird:* Impact on water quality when we do this? *Brown:* Presented at last meeting. SCCF and K-H estimates quite similar. Discussion. *Brown:* Amount of nitrogen we will not be putting into the coastal water with this system. *Evans:* We know what we produce now, it will not be going into waters with this system. *Brown:* Improvement in water clarity expected. Benefits to water quality plus loss of septic function due to SLR. *Mintz:* Also what public funding could be available. \$40 million in county set aside from federal funds. Some state funding for conversion as well, plus possible funding from federal infrastructure bill just passed. Our project is in a perfect place for possible funding, would affect overall costs. Legacy nutrients? *Eckmann:* Abandonment doesn't remove nutrients, will disperse in soil over time. Effluent from irrigation had nitrogen impact. *Brown:* Question of South Seas participation. Concerns about long-term viability of FGUA plant. Had lengthy meeting with new owners of SSIR, discussed possibility of joining new system. They plan to stay with FGUA for foreseeable future. *Mintz:* Keep lines of communications open. (Brady returns.)

Break.

LDC: *Mintz:* Updates, LDC amendments approved in September. Will develop first draft of summary of changes to go out to community. To panel before next meeting. Meeting with county Monday to review ordinance process to amend. County prefers one-size-fits-all approach, will have to work with staff on getting this done. Golf cart ordinance ready to go. New SSIR owners will transition from gas to electric carts on property. Will affect cart usage on rest of Captiva. Hold off on cart ordinance until we see how SSIR goes. *Walter:* Digitally connected. can track bad drivers, can prevent carts from going where prohibited. Working with HOAs and management on transition. *Brown:* Charging stations? *Walter:* Infrastructure on property to charge, asking HOAs to provide that as well. Discussion. *Walter:* Designated parking possible.

Nominating Committee: Extend deadline for submissions from community, send out notification.

SRL: *Laird:* Adding APTIM to meetings, special meeting next week to discuss roles and responsibilities. Two grants applications pending, hear back from FDEP Nov.-Dec. timeframe. Heard there were 600 submissions this year. *Brown:* When is Integral study done? *Laird:* End of month, have modified that, will find out in December meeting. Then present that to community and get feedback.

Iguana: *Mintz:* Working on interlocal agreement with Sanibel. Vendor ready to proceed, Commissioner Ruane working to navigate agreement. Example of Boca Grande, needed funds and had to go to MSTU. Ruane wants to be consistent with approach. A lot of iguanas around with no trapping. Discussion.

Development: *Brady:* Letter moving forward. Will go to Brown next before distribution. Out right after Thanksgiving. Discussion of finances. Look at events in new year for high-end donors. Fix website for donations to CCP, not CPOA.

Captiva Drive: *Mintz:* After discussion at last meeting found two panel members knew property owner with issues, will reach out and explain process. Engineer will create rendering to show what walkway will look like. Discussion.

Govt. Affairs: *Mintz:* Roosevelt Channel agreement in process of being approved, report next meeting.

Blind Pass: *Brown:* LCSO still looking at safety issues. No action.

Future issues: Review. Carts progress discussed already. Rentals, county interpretation concurs with 7-day minimum. Will work on education of community and rental agencies. *Brown:* Possible action on serial abusers. *Brown:* Captiva Concerned Citizens letter to renters and agents, develop guidelines for rental properties. Offered support of panel when they want it.

Gooderham: With next meeting in person, will have to go back to quorum checks to comply with bylaws. Hybrid meeting plans under way, will have to debug and develop process as we go.

The meeting adjourned (Walter/Laird) at 11:35 a.m.

-- *Ken Gooderham*