

Pasco County

Watershed Meeting for Flood Impacted Areas

Port Richey Watershed

February 26, 2018 – Regency Park Library, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey, Pasco County

The following is a summary of the Port Richey Watershed meeting held on February 26, 2018.

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. Commissioner Mariano also welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their participation.

The purpose of this Watershed Task Force meeting is to increase knowledge of the Port Richey 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 residents in the development of potential solutions. The results of this effort will provide recommendations to the County Administrator for potential projects/solutions.

Comments, Questions and Discussions

A summary of discussions, noted issues, and responses, are part of 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. Resident questions and/or comments are noted in italic font.

PowerPoint Presentation and General Discussion

A PowerPoint presentation was provided to attendees by Mr. Mark Guttman (Stormwater Management).

The Port Richey Watershed covers 5.9 square miles. The following eleven areas were noted to have historical flooding concerns within this watershed:

- Suncoast Gateway Mobile Home Park (MHP)
- Magnolia Valley
- Holiday Hills Gainsboro Pump Station
- Dublin and Van Buren
- Aurora Drive
- New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, Congress Crossing Shopping Center
- Pond South of Belah Drive and East of Medlar
- Corporate Way Area
- Shady Acres Blvd.
- Washington St.

- Massachusetts Ave. and Van Buren St.

Recent activities completed by the County to address the flooding concerns include the continuing updates to flood mapping and repairs to the Magnolia Valley pumping facilities. Conceptual plans have been developed for the Magnolia Valley and Port Richey Alternative Outfall areas. The conceptual Magnolia Valley project would create additional stormwater storage and is a 50/50 cooperatively funded project with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

Is the County looking at additional potential funding sources for these projects?

Yes, the County continues to investigate additional potential funding sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Once the Magnolia Valley ponds are constructed, will the pumps still be needed?

Yes, the pumps are still needed to convey the stormwater collected in the ponds to the stormwater outfall location.

At the last watershed meeting, information provided indicated that the stormwater projects would require a one to two-year study period. It has only been 1 year and a project has already been defined.

The development of the project is currently in progress. The Magnolia Valley and Port Richey Alternative Outfall projects are currently cooperatively funded for design work by the SWFWMD as part of the Fiscal Year 2018 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI).

If the ponds are there to capture the stormwater, then why do you still need to pump the water?

If the ponds are already full and additional rainfall occurs, there is a chance that the ponds will not be able to contain all of the stormwater runoff. Part of the project plan is to get approval through the SWFWMD permitting process to proactively pump water out of the new ponds. This would create space within the ponds to contain the additional stormwater that would result from a new storm event. The permitting process will not allow pumping that would create negative downstream impacts (i.e. flooding in other areas) so there will be limitations on the permitted pumping operations.

Collecting 800 million gallons of stormwater into an area with sinkholes and limited permitted pumping does not seem like a good idea. Rebuilding the pumps to get them back to their intended operating capacity is good but allowing new development that creates additional stormwater runoff into an area already known to have flooding problems is not a good idea.

New developments are regulated by current storm-water codes which do not allow new developments to create negative storm-water impacts in the established design events.

New developments create a change in topography and have created flooding to surrounding properties; new developments should not be permitted to allow construction at higher elevations than the neighboring properties.

New developments are regulated by current storm-water codes which do not allow new developments to create negative storm-water impacts in the established design events, with alterations in impervious area and topography, e.g., are considered.

The prior pumping was allowed to keep the Magnolia Valley golf course to stay in business and created downstream flooding.

The County has purchased the old golf course and this area will now be converted to stormwater storage. This area will not revert to a golf course in the future. Further, the County has an interest in mitigating/preventing flooding, and will operate the storm system accordingly.

Are the planned projects working from downstream to upstream or vice-versa?

The Magnolia Valley project is upstream but this project will create storage to mitigate downstream flooding.

What about the other areas in this watershed that are known to have flooding?

The Port Richey Alternative Outfall project will look at potential alternate flow paths to allow storm-water flows to more readily reach their outfall (the Gulf).

For spring fed lakes, where does the water go to?

For water bodies that have no overland outfall (closed basin), the water volume is reduced through percolation and evaporation.

What about the stormwater pond stagnation issues that are occurring? The stagnated water creates odor and insect issues. Are there any plans to address water treatment?

The Magnolia Valley project would provide treatment as well as attenuation.

To ensure that specific areas of concern were identified and documented for follow-up, residents were asked to approach the maps that were on display throughout the meeting room and talk to County staff individually. The following summary reflects those specific concerns which will be reviewed for follow-up by County staff.

- Map Item 1a. Washington Street north of Massachusetts Avenue: two, 3-foot culverts stay full of water and are not draining. Resident has contacted the City of New Port Richey but has gotten no resolution. (Garry Jennett)
- Map Item 1b. Osteen Road and Autumn Lane: culverts are clogged and need cleaning. (Garry Jennett)
- Map Item 2. Salt Springs culvert appears to be undersized. (Jeremy Harding)

- Map Item 3. Whole Note Acres: flooding due to neighboring properties being constructed at higher elevations. Concern regarding flooding from the Magnolia Valley pumping. (Gabriella Banks)
- Map Item 4a. RJ Kielty Development: storm-water from this development is flowing into the neighborhood stormwater system and is creating flooding. (David Pfaff)
- Map Item 4b. Magnolia Valley Drive Pond: pond is stagnant with no outfall. Pond is creating a mosquito issue and contains alligators. This pond overflows and routinely floods the homes across the street (homes behind 7501 Cumber Drive). (David Pfaff)
- Map Item 4c. Betula Lane: repetitive street flooding and impacts to adjacent homes in this area due to the pond routinely overflowing even in small storm events. (David Pfaff)
- Map Item 5a. West side of Osteen Road: asphalt flume requires inspection. (Judy Osteen)
- Map Item 5b. Osteen Road mosquito ditch: the mosquito ditch appears to have been filled in which is creating flooding in this area.

Ms. Cece McKiernan thanked attendees for their time and input. The County will continue to follow-up on open investigations and projects. Future meetings will be scheduled but residents can always reach out to staff between meetings.