

STORMWATER ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 12, 2005, 3:00 p.m. meeting
Conference Room 4
Sarasota, Florida

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Nieskes, Chairman
J. P. Marchand, Vice Chairman
John Finnimore
Frank von Allmen
Norm Siegel
Judy Johnson
Hal Simon
Kosta Dietrich
Calvin Kendig
Herbert Kaufman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Theresa Connor, P.E., General Manager, Water Resources
Jon Kramer, P.E., Acting Watershed Manager
Sherri Pape, Principal Budget Management Analyst, Watershed Management
Chris Schiller, EI, Sr. Technical Specialist, Watershed Management
Jacqueline Beshore, Senior Secretary, Watershed Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rick Winters, City of Sarasota.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES:

The minutes were accepted as written.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public in attendance at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Connor noted that the Stormwater Department historically spends about 90% of the Operating Budget. The Board is looking to reduce the operating budget to more closely

reflect this fact. It was noted that there are opportunities to get additional budget money as needed out of the fund reserve if there is not enough in the existing budget.

Comments on the budget discussion included the following:

- Mr. Finnimore noted a possible discrepancy regarding the Stormwater Management detail expenditures and the Operating Expenditure summary page. Ms. Pape stated that perhaps grant monies might have been reflected in one of the totals and she would verify the figures.
- Ms. Connor fielded questions regarding Stormwater Management that involved fluctuations in salary costs between FY04 thru FY06 that occurred with several Staff vacancies. She noted that salary costs could go down because the Board is looking to increase efficiencies.
- Providing increased efficiencies in addition to sharing resources and technology will reduce costs while maintaining the level of service.
- Money in the fund reserve can only be used for the reason it was collected. Surplus funds may be used for unexpected storms or emergencies. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is the watchdog for how reserve money is spent.

Overall the group expressed favorable comments regarding the budget. One suggestion was to fund and update computer software to increase technical capability.

A motion was made and passed to support and accept the budget as written with clarification on discussed expenditures, reserves, and a statement to justify filling the numerous vacant positions. Therefore, the budget letter should include the salaries of the numerous vacancies. Mr. Nieskes would draft the letter to the Board and provide copies to committee members for their review and input prior to the next scheduled meeting.

A DRAFT of the new proposed Stormwater Ordinance; amending Ordinance No. 94-066 was distributed to the committee for their review and discussion at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The *APOXSEE, the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan*, was distributed to the group. Ms. Connor explained that every 7 years the Board reviews the current plan. A new chapter, Watershed Management, contains rewritten text on sanitary sewers, storm and surface waters, and potable waters. Theresa proposed a future joint advisory group meeting with the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee to discuss the topics of joint interest and concern to each group. It was proposed to have the joint meeting on June 9th.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

Ms. Connor reported that the Board has approved the St. Armands Project, which includes 5 pumps and 2 generator stations. She also introduced Jon Kramer, the acting Stormwater Manager, who will be attending future meetings.

Judy Johnson shared information regarding a future meeting of the Southern Watershed Leadership Conference.

Kosta Dietrich presented the committee with a certificate from CYD (Community Youth Development), for SEUAC's commitment to Sarasota County teens and being a great community partner.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. The next meeting, a planned joint advisory group meeting, is scheduled for Thursday June 9, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., Falcon Room.