STORMWATER ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 14, 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
Calvin Kendig
Kosta Dietrich

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Hal Simon
Herbert Kaufman
Judy Johnson

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
Tom Maroney, Administrative Asst. III, Drainage Operations
Sandra Gonzalez, Technical Specialist, Watershed Management
Lauren L. Torres, E.I., Project Manager, Watershed Management
Hassan El-Hout, Technical Specialist, Watershed Management
Jacqueline Beshore, Senior Secretary, Watershed Management

OTHERS PRESENT:
Rick Winters, City of Sarasota
Stephanie Dunham, SWFWMD, Brooksville, FL.
Eric Anderson, Thomas Ranch employee

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

MINUTES:
The minutes of June 9, 2005 were accepted as written.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
Eric Anderson stated that there have been instances of severe flooding located on River Road since early June 2005 this year; a repeat occurrence from prior years. Because River Road is considered an evacuation route, and approximately the largest rain event had been less than 1-½ inches, Mr. Marchand thought the Level of Service (LOS) was
compromised because water was encroaching on the roadway. Mr. Anderson provided maps for committee viewing to enhance their understanding of the Ranch’s concern of poor drainage. Mr. Anderson expressed the Ranch’s willingness to work with County Staff and address the LOS issues. It was noted that River Road is a flood prone non-state road with no current CIP program. Ms. Connor suggested having a City engineer attend the proposed meeting of County Staff and Thomas Ranch representatives that might be set up in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no items in the Old Business section.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Maroney, discussed the Public Works Emergency Operations Center and explained his role under an emergency activation and related his experiences during last year’s busy hurricane season. The EOC is compliant with federal government guidelines in providing a high level of safety and communication during emergency support functions. A question was posed regarding the use of private citizens being used to help during a future storm event and it was acknowledged that volunteers might be utilized in future emergency operations.

There were brief introductions of new attendees before Stephanie Dunham, SWFWMD, began her agenda item. Ms. Dunham offered information about model reviews being done by SWFWMD, in collaboration with Sarasota County and the City of Venice. The models are used for permitting and regulatory compliance. Many factors are examined during model review including hydrologic aspects, parameter use, and soil and floodplain mapping characteristics. The model depicts terrain, infrastructure (culverts, bridges, etc.), for a basic understanding of how water flows in the watershed.

Ms. Connor added that 75% of SWFWMD permits are for swamps. She stated that because terrain can change, models should be updated at least every 5 years. This would represent a financial commitment from Sarasota County. Development reviews should include both SWFWMD and Sarasota County. Additionally, a model review would consider both volume and timing criteria as part of the process. Mr. Marchand voiced feedback on the modeling effort and how they offered the best available data for new subdivisions’ review. This would allow a move forward for acceptance of the District’s procedure.

Ms. Connor distributed the Interoffice Memo: Amending the Stormwater Ordinance. This memo explained the modification of definitions within the Stormwater Ordinance. The definition modification will allow creation of a CIP program that will address the outstanding extraordinary maintenance issues that exist. This is the first step in getting to an extraordinary maintenance program for repair and renewal of stormwater infrastructure that has met its useful life. It will utilize reserves in the operations’ account and transfer them into a CIP fund. Legal has been very very clear on the fact that this modification does not address level of service issues. A graphic was distributed with the memo that clearly depicts proposed CIP areas for the Stormwater Ordinance Amendment. Theresa

Stormwater Environmental Utility Advisory Committee
Minutes of July 14, 2005
Page 2
confirmed the highlighted areas on the map are merely the first step in addressing certain areas of infrastructure maintenance. A motion was made and passed to accept the memo and support the recommendation for approval of the amendment with a letter to the BCC.

**INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Nieskes presented a Certificate of Recognition, signed by the BCC, to STAR member Kosta Dietrich, for his service on the committee. It was noted that Kosta had renewed his application on SEUAC for an additional term.

Mr. Nieskes shared with the group an article from the Englewood Sun that discussed a change in Stormwater policy. Theresa Connor stated that North Port City Commission has a project to develop their canals as a source of drinking water supply.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Thursday August 11, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 4.