

PORT LABELLE UTILITY SYSTEM

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

September 17, 2007

1) Call Meeting to Order

George Davis, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on September 17, 2007 at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers, first floor, Hendry County Administrative Building, LaBelle, Florida. Members present were: George Davis, Han Mouthaan, Paul Samerdyke and Ricky Bass. Others in attendance were: Roger Greer, PLUS Utility Director; Linda Murray, PLUS Assistant; Danny Nelson, Tetra Tech; John Capece, Southern DataStream, PLUS Advisory Board Facilitator; Cliff Miller, West Glades Consulting Services; and Kevin Thomas, CHL Holdings, Inc.

2) Report on BOCC Appointments & Election of New Chair and Vice-Chair

Roger Greer, PLUS Director noted to the Advisory Board that the Hendry County BOCC has reappointed George Davis, Paul Samerdyke and Ricky Bass to the Board, representing Hendry County. The director noted that still pending is one appointment to represent Hendry County replacing Harold Reecer, Chair, who retired from the board at the conclusion of his most recent term of service. Han Mouthaan had been previously re-appointed by the Glades County BOCC.

George Davis was nominated to serve as Advisory Board Chairman by Paul Samerdyke; seconded by Han Mouthaan. Paul Samerdyke was nominated for Vice-Chair by Han Mouthaan; seconded by Ricky Bass. The vote for Chair and Vice-Chair was carried unanimously.

3) Review the Minutes from the July 30th, 2007 Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as presented for the July 30, 2007 meeting was made by Han Mouthaan and seconded by Paul Samerdyke. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Director's Report

Roger Greer reported water and wastewater plant operations data.

Waster treatment plant output for August 2007 was:

Total	9,805,700 gallons	Last Year	10,627,400
Average	316,312 gallons per day	Last Year	342,819

Max	411,600 gallons	Last Year	414,700
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Wastewater treated for August 2007 was:

Total	12,048,000 gallons	Last Year	7,519,000
Average	389,000 gallons	Last Year	243,000
Max	696,000 gallons	Last Year	590,000

August meter sets were:	4 Meter Sets	3 New Requests	84 Outstanding
September to date has:	1 Meter Sets	0 New Request	83 Outstanding

5) Water Consumption Data

John Capece provided graphs for the water and wastewater projections, noting a slight difference in the numbers provided by Roger Greer. John stated that water consumption rose in August, yet we are still below all other southwest Florida utilities on a per capita consumption basis. John explained that the increase in waste water treatment plant load was due to (1) the seasonal water high water table causing seepage into our sewer lines and (2) the water treatment plant concentrate waste stream. The wastewater plant is handling the additional volume of infiltration within our permitted capacity.

Roger Greer reported to the board that he has recommended to Ron Zimmerly, Hendry County Grants & Special Projects Director, that the BOCC rescind the PLB water restrictions declared by the county, given that the new water plant is operational and can now meet PLB demands. PLB would return to being governed only by the SFWMD water use restrictions, which apply equally throughout the county, not just within PLB.

6) Water Treatment Plant Construction Update

Roger Greer reported that at the last Hendry County BOCC meeting several project change orders had been approved. The first request was for the installation of a variable drive system on the well pumps. The contractor has been given approval to order the equipment, noting an approximate 12-week delivery time. Roger also reported problems with the chlorine pumps being too small. Those pumps will need to be replaced due to insufficient capacity of the existing pumps. They are currently running at 100 percent.

The board asked about the cause for the errors in water plant design specifications, how they passed USDA and other reviews, whether it was affected by the changing of engineering firms or other factors. The complexity of the issue will require review by the County Attorney regarding the resolution of costs associated with the various changes.

Danny Nelson reviewed with the board the various design changes, and start-up issues, including plant location, building exterior design, concentrate discharge pumps, well-

pump pressure specifications, and booster pumps. John Capece requested Danny send to him by email the well pump pressure specification documents that were included in the bid packages received by the contractors.

Paul Samerdyke moved and Han Mouthaan seconded a motion to recommend that the County pursue recovery of expenses from the contractors related to engineering design and installation/oversight errors that are being experienced in the water treatment plant construction processes. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

7) Banyan Pipeline & Network Construction Project

Danny Nelson reported that today should be the last day that contractors lay pipe, excluding the dipping vat area and the canal crossings. Pipe testing has begun. The contractor has installed a couple of wells to pressurize and test the water pipes. Cleanup will begin next month. Earlier projections of rock excavations required to finish out the job have proved reasonably accurate. Danny noted water issues with the groundwater in the southeast area of Banyan Village. The water table has been as high as one foot below ground level, even during the relatively dry rainy season.

George Davis said this high water table issue may affect timing of sewer installation. John Capece requested copies of the contractor's working maps referencing the rock and water table depths. These maps will be useful in determining where PLUS should have the Health Department make example determinations of septic tank and drain field elevation specifications.

8) Canal Crossing Issue

Danny Nelson reported that there is no progress to report at this time. Shane Parker is working with Hendry County Administration & Attorney and he is working with Johnson Engineering to resolve the issue.

Kevin Thomas addressed the board regarding his discussion with Mark Lapp, Hendry County Attorney on Friday, September 14, concerning the meeting Mark attended with the Joint Trust on Thursday, September 13. An oral agreement has been reached. The culvert will be pulled on Airport Sears so no discharge will enter the C1 Canal. Upon completion of the work and an inspection by the Joint Trust (within the time lines specified) for approval the Joint Trust has agreed to sign off on the pipeline easement. The work and approval is estimated for completion within a month.

John Capece told the board that he held a series of meetings with County officials advocating they consider accepting the Joint Trust terms and quickly act to remove the problem culvert, if the findings of Johnson Engineering demonstrated no adverse impact to Airport Sears drainage (no additional flooding). Unresolved issues between the County and Joint Trust regarding three larger pipes intended for installation at the same

location as part of a drainage master plan could be resolved at a later time. Such a compromise would allow immediate completion of the Hwy 80 pipeline necessary to provide water service to Banyan Village.

Danny Nelson reminded the board members that the contractor (Forsberg) has already demobilized in that area and additional costs could be incurred in remobilizing to complete the work that has been halted by the Joint Trust issue. Danny noted that inspections would begin next week to prepare project completion punch lists. A simultaneous completion of the Hwy 80 pipeline and Banyan Village pipe network is expected by the end of year.

Roger Greer told the board that Ron Zimmerly, Hendry County Grants & Special Projects Director, had obtained a grant for \$50,000 to pay for automatic flushing devices for PLUS. The devices have been purchased and received. Some of the flushing devices will be used in Banyan Village to assist with the flushing of the transmission lines and maintaining sufficient chlorine residual levels within the lines.

9) Canal 2 Dipping Vat Arsenic Assessment

Danny Nelson told the board that the dipping vat issues have been approved by DEP with additional testing and noted safety concerns. Shane Parker, Hendry County Engineer, is looking into the safety issues concerning the dipping vat work environment. The authorization to begin work has not been given by Hendry County at this time.

John Capece reported that DEP approved the supplemental sampling plan, but that Shane Parker has subsequently negotiated a cost savings change in the sampling requirements, reducing costs from (\$15,000 to \$5,000). Shane sought the reduction in sampling scope at the suggestion of Kevin McCarthy, Hendry County Commissioner. DEP has given approval for the pipe installation to proceed in parallel with the sampling task. The only potential unresolved issue might come from the landowner, depending upon the outcome of the testing. The soil and concrete will need to be removed for final disposal. If the test results come back showing high arsenic levels in the debris pile soil then we will need to notify the landowner.

10) New Water Service Requests/Applications

Roger Greer reported that Cliff Miller had submitted his application for water service to a high-density development in the marina area. A meeting with Shane Parker, County Engineer; Mark Lapp, Hendry County Attorney; Roger Greer, PLUS; and Cliff Miller is scheduled for September 18, 2007 to discuss his application.

Cliff Miller addressed the board concerning his request for a utility services capacity letter. Cliff is working with the State and needs a response from PLUS in advance of his October 16 deadline to submit documents to DCA. The development agreement can be

done at a later date. At this time he only needs a letter of service indicating that PLUS is planning for the capacity to serve the marina development. Cliff assured the board the members of his development understanding that letter conditions will include DEP granting a permit for the concentrate water to by-pass the wastewater treatment plant and SFWMD granting a permit for an increased water use allocation. In addition, a development agreement will have to be processed through the County Attorney.

John Capece noted that the assessed costs for providing capacity and service could be determined at a later date.

Ricky Bass moved and Han Mouthaan seconded a motion to recommend that the County/PLUS send a letter in response to Cliff Miller's service request (capacity/intent to serve letter), as long as any such letter is distributed to Advisory Board in advance and they state no objections to the letter. Any expression of objection will require the letter being held over to the next Advisory Board meeting for further consideration. Three primary points that should be included in the letter are that the service commitment would be contingent upon (a) PLUS receiving a water use permit from SFWMD for 1.2 mgd from the sandstone aquifer; (b) PLUS receiving a DEP permit adjustment allowing the WTP concentrate to bypass the WWTP, and (c) the developer payment of fee(s) to offset costs of infrastructure improvements resulting from WTP concentrate to bypass the WWTP, and PLUS activities to provide service. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

11) Port LaBelle Population Growth Study

John Capece provided each of the board members a copy of the population study done to provide documentation for our water use application. The model study forecasts a finished water demand of 760,000 gpd in 2017. This gives us a sound statistical basis to request an allocation of 1.2 mgd raw water. John noted that any expansion of the PLUS service area would require revisions to the model.

12) SFWMD Water Use Permit Application

John said he is still reviewing the water use permit application that Moctar Siddo, Hendry County Engineer had drafted. It requests 1.8 mgd, which is our water plant's maximum "output" capacity. The associated raw water input is 2.6 mgd. That document has been revised to request 1.2 mgd, the 10-year projected raw water demand from the Sandstone Aquifer, accompanied by an indication of our eventual transfer to the Floridan Aquifer upon reaching 0.9 mgd finished water demand threshold.

The questions to be answered before finalizing our application are: How much water do we request? Within what period of time will we be required to transition to the deeper aquifer? What is our source...is it part of what is regional sandstone or an isolated

aquifer, as suggested in the Murray report? Can we improve our chances for application approval if we develop a water reuse program?

Danny Nelson explained that he is concerned we may not get approval from SFWMD beyond the current allocation of 0.3 mgd, but agreed that we should request an allocation sufficient to supply the 0.9 mgd treatment plant. Danny discussed the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan and restrictions on water supplies and told the board that a crack has been found in the South Well casing at approximately 120 feet down. Resolution options for this problem will need to be considered before continuing with a third well design or consideration of wells into a deeper aquifer.

Cliff Miller suggested requesting the maximum water allocation required for our treatment plant when submitting the application. John Capece will be discussing the recommendations and strategies with Shane Parker, Hendry County Engineer.

13) DEP Permit application for WTP Concentrate Bypass of WWTP

John Capece reported that an application for bypassing the waste water treatment plant with our concentrate stream has not yet been completed. Danny Nelson said that he and Roger Greer contacted Dr. Ahmadi at DEP to apply for the new permit. At the present time the concentrate goes into the wastewater plant for processing.

The county is looking at using the discharge ponds for disposal of the water treatment plant concentrate. Charles Duval of DEP has been called for answers to questions regarding testing requirements and the approval process. Roger noted that the effluent ponds were built at the same time the wastewater plant (1983).

14) Other Issues

Paul Samerdyke moved and seconded by Han Mouthaan a motion to recommend the Hendry County BOCC acknowledge Harold Reecer for his continued years of service & dedication to the Advisory Board. John Capece stated that this recognition could be part of the new water plant and pipeline completion ceremonies.

The next scheduled meeting will be the Monday, November 5, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

15) Adjourn

George Davis adjourned the meeting.