

PORT LABELLE UTILITY SYSTEM

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

November 5, 2007

Tour of the New Water Treatment Plant

Chairman George Davis called the meeting to order at 12.30 p.m. on November 5, 2007 at the new Water Treatment Plant, 6002 Cedarwood Parkway, Port LaBelle. Roger Greer, PLUS Director gave a tour through the new water treatment plant.

Call to Order

Upon completion of the tour, the meeting was moved and reconvened 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; John Capece, Southern DataStream, PLUS Advisory Board Facilitator; Kevin Thomas, CHL Holdings, Inc. representative and Rock Aboujaoude, Rock Enterprises.

Review the Minutes from the September 17th, 2007 Meeting

Motion to accept the Minutes as presented for the September 17th, 2007 meeting was made by Paul Samerdyke and seconded by Han Mouthaan. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Roger Greer, PLUS Director, reported that for the month of September the new water plant was producing water.

The water plant usage for September 2007 was:

Total	10,676,800 gallons	Last Year	11,619,700
Average	344,413 gallons per day	Last Year	374,829
Max	393,400 gallons	Last Year	427,100

Wastewater treated for October 2007 was:

Total	11,923,000 gallons	Last Year	6,359,000
Average	385,000 gallons	Last Year	205,000
Max	463,000 gallons	Last Year	324,000

October meter sets were: 4 Meter Sets 0 New Requests 80 Outstanding

Roger noted to the Board that the large increase in wastewater treated is due to the Water Plant concentrate stream. Shane Parker, Hendry County Engineers Office, John Capece and Roger are working on the DEP Permit application for WTP Concentrate Bypass of WWTP. At this time, the process is awaiting results of the sampling that was done in order to proceed ahead with the Permit.

Roger also reported to the Board that the Water Service Letter had been issued for the Port LaBelle Marina as requested by Cliff Miller. John Capece noted that he has continued conversations with Cliff Miller concerning the project.

Water Consumption Data

John Capece provided graphs for the water consumption and wastewater treatment plant loads, stating that we have been operating at approximately 340,000 - 350,000 gallons per day with the peak being under 400,000 per day. The usage has been about 10% below average usage per household, representing active conservation efforts of residents.

The wastewater side has also been stabilized. The average wastewater load has been less than 400,000 gallons per day. John also reported that the Water Plant concentrates are being tracked and current results are showing 29% of the total permitted capacity.

John noted the discussions with DEP regarding the WTP Concentrate Bypass of WWTP by sending the reject water directly to percolation ponds system. The DEP regulations primarily concern limitations on chlorides, while PLUS reject water is largely enriched with calcium and magnesium hardness, which at this time are not parameters of concern to DEP.

The issue of future deep well injections systems for the City of LaBelle was discussed. Utilizing deeper aquifers for water supply would produce highly concentrated saline reject water. PLUS will be discussing potential joint efforts with the City of LaBelle regarding future demand growth and infrastructure.

Expansion of the water use permit for the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant was discussed. PLUS will need to submit a certified engineering report for capacity rating of the plant.

Hendry County 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan & Port LaBelle Population Study

John reminded the Board members that Mike Coates of SFWMD notified us of the need for submitting a new water use permit application by November, 2007 and a water supply facilities plan report and Supply Plan by January 2008. A draft of the plan was produced by the Hendry County Engineer's Office and Tetra Tech, Inc. and submitted for review to John Capece, who then worked with Roger Greer and Shane Parker on revising the report. These were then submitted to Vince Cautero, Hendry County Planning and Development Director, to review and submit the plan to SFWMD.

The Port LaBelle Population Study was provided as documentation to the Planning Office along with the Boyle Engineering Analysis for Hendry County planning for delivery of services. Ultimately, the Planning Office requested elimination of the Boyle Analysis from the Submittal Packet. The population study report is available online at PLUS website.

SFWMD Water Use Permit Application

John Capece discussed the failure of the South well, which failed as a result of age and deterioration. The failure appears to have been triggered by the rehabilitation process that was intended to improve the performance of the well. The well casing was obviously already near failure and the cleaning process simply accelerated what was already inevitable. Roger Greer noted to the Board that the South Well is the smallest and oldest well of the PLUS system. The casing of the 8-inch diameter well has grout showing. At this time it has the largest pump available for that size well. We had initially drafted the application with the assumption of 2 wells producing 560 gpm, anticipating addition of a third well at 560 gpm, with an approx. raw delivery of 800,000 gpd. Two wells of 560 gpm will not be sufficient to supply the 1.2 mgpd plant.

We are faced with the choice of either building 2 new smaller wells or 1 larger well. The North Well has a 14" casing with the capabilities to produce 1500 gpm. If we could construct another well as large as the North well and upgrade the pump at the North Well to 850 gpm, we could deliver 1.2 mgpd.

The possible use of the Upper Floridan (Lower Hawthorne) Aquifer was discussed. Roger Greer explained to the Board that using the deeper (800-foot) aquifers rather than the current Sandstone Aquifers (300-foot) would require different membranes to handle the greater concentration of salts. We would also need a deep well injection for the concentrate water. Such a well disposal system would be very costly (\$ 4-5 million). Additional monitoring and modeling of the Floridan Aquifer can be implemented as part of the approval process of the permit. The additional data might resolve the issue whether the Sandstone Aquifer can support our future water demands or whether we will have to transition to the Floridan.

A Recommendation was made by Paul Samerdyke and seconded by Han Mouthaan to submit the application for 1.2 mgpd with 2 wells producing 560 gpm and a third well producing 850 gpm for 20 years. Recommendation was unanimously carried.

Banyan Pipeline & Network Construction Project

Roger Greer reported that all the construction and testing has been completed.

Canal Crossing Issue

John Capece presented an article from Hendry-Glades Sunday News regarding issues of the canal crossings for discussion. No solution has been reached between the County and

Joint Trust. Kevin Thomas agreed with the article saying that the Joint Trust and County had not yet agreed to any compromise.

Canal 2 Dipping Vat Arsenic Assessment

John reported to the Board that the arsenic testing results are not available yet. He also confirmed that he would prepare a report and send by email as soon as the results are delivered. If the process drags on much longer then the contractor may have to remobilize to complete the work, resulting in more charges to the County.

Other Issues

Board members discussed details on organizing a ceremony for dedicating the Water Plant Completion and a Banyan Village ribbon cutting. The ceremony would include special recognition of Harold Reecer for his years of service & dedication to the Board.

The Board Members discussed the open seat on the Advisory Board and asked when a new appointment might be forthcoming. No information was available on this issue.

John Capece provided information regarding a 1700-acre citrus grove in Glades County across Hwy 80 from Banyan Village. SFWMD and the State of Florida are planning to acquire the property for a water treatment facility (as a water quality component to the C-43 reservoir project) at a cost of \$37 million. A specific design for the treatment system has not been developed. John further discussed cost analysis for agricultural conversion of land to water storage and water use permit eliminations regarding purchasing citrus land & storing water, which could easily exceed \$100 million.

Roger Greer reported to the Board regarding efforts to recover costs of errors and omission within the two infrastructure projects (WTP and Banyan). After verifying with the County Attorney Mark Lapp, Roger will be working with Danny Nelson to create a list of errors and costs. The County Attorney will then prepare a letter to Craig Smith & Associates.

The discussion returned to the water use permit. John Capece explained that waste water reuse by area agricultural operations may play a role in our negotiations with SFWMD for the new water use permit. On the issue of conservation, John noted that our previous and current water consumption patterns are the lowest in our region on a per capita basis, so the conservation programs should not be a major concern since all reasonable goals and expectations have already been achieved. Nevertheless, PLUS will continue to stress the importance and methods of conservation to its customers.

Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board will be Monday, January 14, 2008 at 1:00 PM. George Davis, Chair adjourned the meeting.