

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

April 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners met in a workshop session in Commission Chambers at 2:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF WORKSHOP BY CHAIRMAN JEFF GOLD

Chairman Gold advised that the workshop was scheduled this afternoon to discuss the Marion County Master Wastewater Feasibility Analysis and Utilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Jeff Gold, District 3; Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1; and Commissioner Michelle Stone, District 5. Commissioner Bryant, District 2, arrive shortly after the meeting commenced; and Vice-Chairman Carl Zalak, District 4 appeared via Webex shortly after the meeting commenced. Also present were County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Angel Roussel.

The Deputy Clerk was in receipt of a 76 page Agenda packet to follow along with the PowerPoint presentations.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

1. Marion County Master Wastewater Feasibility Analysis – Jody Kirkman PE, Environmental Services Director

Terri Lowery, Jones Edmunds & Associates (JEA), referred to the 32 slide PowerPoint presentation included in the Agenda Packet and advised that the Master Wastewater Feasibility Analysis project was funded by a grant provided by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to 9 Counties in the State, with Marion County being one of them, for the purpose of developing the State required Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System (OSTDS) Remediation Plan. She stated the technical and financial analysis, as well as the public engagement, were requirements of this study.

Ms. Lowery stated the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act was part of 2016 Legislation, which reviewed 30 different springs for impairments. Any spring that receives 20 percent (%) or more of its nutrient load from septic tanks will be required to follow this OSTDS remediation plan. She advised that Rainbow Springs and Silver Springs were greater than 20%, noting the Rainbow Springs was at 20% and Silver Springs was 29%. Ms. Lowery advised that the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for both the Silver and Rainbow Springs were under challenge since the Legislation passed, but were recently settled in favor of DEP. This means the regulations can now be enforced, but it is unclear what the timeline will be for that enforcement. She stated the BMAP for both

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springs were consolidated in 2018, noting part of the process was to determine the main contributors (septic systems, fertilizer, cattle and horse farms) and establish the priority focus areas (PFAs).

Ms. Lowery stated an OSTDS Remediation Plan is required for both Rainbow and Silver Springs, noting per DEP the BMAP implementation is intended to be a 20 year process with defined cumulative nitrogen reduction milestones. She opined that this is not something the County will be able to achieve in 20 years, but is something that will have to be dealt with in perpetuity to maintain the health of the springs.

Ms. Lowery addressed the requirements of the OSTDS Remediation Plan as outlined in the Legislation. There must be options for repair, upgrade, replacement, drain field modification, the addition of effective nitrogen-reducing features, connection to central sewer systems or other action. The project must be cost-effective and financially feasible to reduce the nutrient impacts from OSTDS. She stated there has to be a priority ranking for each project and a public education plan has to be in place to provide area residents with reliable, understandable information about OSTDS and springs.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Ms. Lowery advised that the decreasing flow rate was considered by DEP when setting these goals.

Commissioner Bryant arrived at 2:44 p.m.

Ms. Lowery commented on the cost differences between centralized and decentralized systems.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Ms. Lowery advised that, in general, a quarter acre lot could not accommodate an In-Ground Nitrogen-Reducing Biofilter (INRB) system due to the amount of land mass required for the biofilter area.

Ms. Lowery stated there is a monthly fee with a centralized system, but there are also ongoing costs associated with decentralized system such as inspection fees, monthly electric, regular pump outs, and mechanical repairs. She advised that the nitrogen removal is approximately 9 pounds per year with a centralized system and roughly 5.5 pounds with a decentralized system.

Ms. Lowery advised that not every area will be right for centralized sewer, noting OSTDS density, known subdivisions, vacant versus nonvacant, proximity to the springs, proximity to utility infrastructure, anticipated growth and existing projects were all considered while identifying the Priority Project Area (PPA). She stated the planning level costs across all PPAs is roughly \$35,000.00 per parcel. The top 5 PPAs will cost approximately \$28,000.00 per parcel.

Ms. Lowery advised that this subject is a huge focus in the State Legislature and is something that will be addressed for years to come in the State of Florida, noting Florida has 6.5% of the United States (US) population and a little over 12% of the Country's septic tanks. She stated 5 different areas have been identified and prioritized in Marion County. The County would have to remove 1,798 septic tanks per year to meet the BMAP requirements, which is not feasible.

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Ms. Lowery advised that the new growth coming to Marion County would change the amount of nutrient load going to the springs.

Ms. Lowery stated 5 different areas of the Silver Springs BMAP were identified, noting all the areas selected are within the Silver Springs BMAP due to the lack of infrastructure around the Rainbow Springs BMAP. She advised that the Utilities Department will have further discussion with the Board regarding that infrastructure at a later date.

Ms. Lowery commented on the different types of public outreach efforts made during this study, noting Marion County had more public involvement than seen in other Counties. A

survey was conducted and a small response was received, but as a result of the survey it was determined that an area around Lake Weir has significant interest in septic to sewer. Lake Weir is outside the PPA for Silver Springs, which will make funding challenging.

Ms. Lowery advised that if cost was not a factor most people do prefer a centralized system and recognize that that everyone will have to participate in this process. She stated a lot of the feedback identified this as a Countywide issue.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Ms. Lowery stated the survey response rate was typical to that of other Counties, noting many people do not come out until it is impacting their neighborhood directly.

Commissioner Bryant advised that the Save Lake Weir organization has been very involved in the process. She stated she would like to see a larger sampling for the public education component, but understands this was all done during COVID-19.

Heather Encinosa, Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, addressed the different funding options: 1) current sources; 2) future sources; and 3) conceptual sources. Current revenue sources include general ad valorem taxes, the Communication Services Tax, Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Independent Special Districts, utility fees, or Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU).

Commissioner Stone questioned if an MSBU is something that can be done across the entire County. Ms. Encinosa advised that it would be difficult from a legal perspective because the benefit is not a special benefit to the residents, but is a special benefit to the assessed property. She recommended a study be performed to determine any negative impact prior to moving forward with a Countywide MSBU.

Commissioner Bryant opined that increasing the millage would make more sense than imposing a Countywide MSBU. Commissioner Stone concurred.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Ms. Encinosa advised that how the tax is structured will determine whether or not it is considered part of the first 10 mills for County purposes or the second 10 mills for municipal services and improvements.

Ms. Encinosa stated future revenue sources include Infrastructure Sales Surtax and various grants. She advised that the County is set to receive approximately \$70 million dollars from the American Rescue Act of 2021, noting one of the authorized uses of these funds is "necessary investments in water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure". Ms. Encinosa stated rules have not been published on the US Treasury website on what is considered a "necessary investment", but assuming the guidelines are broad enough a portion of those funds could be used to assist in funding the County's septic to sewer initiative.

Ms. Encinosa addressed conceptual sources, which includes a potential septic tank tax. A septic tank tax would require general law authorization from the Florida Legislature.

Commissioner Bryant commented on the possibility of requiring an annual or biannual inspection of existing septic systems, which could potentially generate revenue for future projects.

Ms. Encinosa advised the Board could impose a septic tank tax, but what Commissioner Bryant is proposing would be a regulatory fee, which is not allowed to have a profit.

Commissioner Bryant out at 3:25 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Ms. Encinosa stated many municipalities and Counties have an availability fee on their Utility Rate Tariff, noting if a customer disconnected for any reason they would continue to pay the base facility charge that covers the cost of maintaining the basic infrastructure.

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Ms. Lowery advised that there is a bill in the Legislature as a result of the Blue Green Algae Task Force, which includes an inspection component. It is unclear if it will move forward, but it is being discussed. She stated as a result of Senate Bill 712, the Clean Water Ways Act, the Onsite Sewage Program is being transferred from the Department of Health (DOH) to DEP on July 1, 2021. Staff from DOH working on this program will be transitioned over to DEP and the County level staff will remain where they are through an Interagency Agreement. DEP will open rule making for the Onsite Sewage Program in the fall.

Chairman Gold advised that any funds raised through the inspection process would be used to pay for the program. Ms. Lowery concurred.

Ms. Lowery advised that septic to sewer is not something unique to Marion County, but is something that is being considered all over the State of Florida.

Commissioner Bryant returned at 3:30 p.m.

Ms. Lowery stated upon review of other Counties and municipalities around the state it was determined that mandatory connection is a major issue and has a huge impact as it relates to grant opportunities. She advised that several years ago Brevard County passed a \$0.01 Sales Tax, which is focused on cleanup of the Indian River Lagoon. This tax raises approximately \$300 million per year for projects such as septic to sewer.

Ms. Lowery advised that the County will need a minimum of 50% grant funding for a program to move forward, noting all of the projects identified as a priority are within the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). She commented on the different approaches relating to grant funding by SJRWMD and the Southwest Florida Water Management district (SWFWMD).

Commissioner Bryant stated when these programs are put in place a mandatory connection requirement will have to be in place in order to receive grant funding. Ms. Lowery concurred, noting if all parties are not participating the percentage coming from the local match will decrease significantly.

Commissioner Bryant advised that mandatory connection means if a system is put in place citizens will have 12 months to connect, noting this Statute is in place, but the County has not been enforcing the requirement.

Ms. Lowery advised that the State expectations are beginning to tighten.

Commissioner Bryant stated the County will not be able to avoid mandatory connections for much longer.

Chairman Gold passed the gavel to Commissioner Bryant, who assumed the Chair.

Commissioner Gold out at 3:37 p.m.

Tony Hairston, Raftelis, N. Maitland Avenue, Maitland, addressed the septic to sewer financial model (slides 26 through 28), which is designed to demonstrate feasibility and affordability of the project.

Commissioner Gold returned at 3:40 p.m.

Chairman Bryant returned the gavel to Commissioner Gold, who resumed the Chair.

Mr. Hairston commented on the different types of revenue sources that could potentially be used to fund a portion of this project over the next 20 years. He advised that the Marion Mitigation Fund (MMF) will provide approximately \$6,500.00 per parcel (23%) of the project cost and could receive revenue from sources such as Ad Valorem Taxes, Communication Service Tax, utility rates, MSTU, Local Option Sales Tax (voter approved), Ad Valorem & Special Assessments (voter approved), MSBU, Septic Tank fee, Documentary Stamp Tax or FDEP Connection Grant.

Mr. Hairston referred to an interactive funding model (provided on the overhead screens),

which allows the Board to plug in different amounts to determine the impact of the different funding sources. He advised that the number of parcels assessed will impact the cost per parcel.

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Mr. Hairston advised that the conversion number provided includes the cost of running all the lines. He stated the capacity fee of \$3,844.00 per parcel is not included in the price point provided.

Commissioner Bryant clarified that it will cost roughly \$8,500.00 per parcel to connect to a centralized system. Mr. Hairston concurred, noting if financed it would cost approximately \$50.00 a month over a 20 year period.

Commissioner Bryant questioned if the funds the County is receiving from the Federal Government can be utilized for infrastructure. Ms. Encinosa advised that guidelines have not been received from the US Treasury regarding use of the American Rescue Act of 2021 funds.

Commissioner Bryant expressed frustration with the unfunded mandate from the State.

Ms. Lowery advised that when the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection funding first started there was roughly \$4 to \$5 million set aside for OSTDS upgrades. The State is now taking those funds and making it available to 9 Counties if they implement a program that would include funds for both the connection side charges and upgrades to OSTDS in areas where centralized is not available.

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Ms. Lowery stated between \$4,000,000.00 and \$5,000,000.00 has been put aside per year, noting this is the first year funds have been dispersed. Funding was provided to Hernando, Citrus and Wakulla Counties this year. She advised that Wakulla County is the first County to implement a program, which provides \$7,000.00 per connection to their customers. A consultant was hired to implement the program. Ms. Lowery stated she has had discussions with County Administration and Community Services to determine how Marion County could implement a similar program over time. She advised that as of right now the Senate budget has included \$10,000,000.00 for the program next year, but she is unsure how much the House has included. There has been recognition by DEP that one of the biggest challenges to moving a program forward at the local level is customer connection costs. Commissioner Bryant questioned if the \$7,000.00 being provided per customer is coming from State funding. Ms. Lowery advised that it is coming from the State for the County to implement on a Countywide bases, which includes the City of Ocala and Belleview, as well as Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA).

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Ms. Lowery stated how grant funding can be utilized is dependent on how the Grant Agreement is written. She advised that up until this year the State funding was only being used on OSTDS upgrades and it was strictly through DEP, noting DEP has suspended that program and is now moving forward with this program for the 9 Counties.

Ms. Lowery advised that Wakulla County is working on a project now to connect roughly 350 parcels this year. She opined that DEP recognizes that year over year not every County is going to be ready for funding and it will be based on which Counties have projects ready for construction.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Environmental Services Director Jody Kirkman stated charging an Availability Fee would create approximately \$2.5 million in revenue annually to fund the MMF.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stone questioned if anything could bring the various Water Management

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Districts together to utilize the same regulations or accessibility for funding. Ms. Lowery recommend the Board address that with the State Legislature/DEP. She advised that recently SWFWMD, SJRWMD and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) came together to create the Central Florida Water Initiative and have gone through a process of creating consistent rules.

Ms. Lowery advised that the State does prefer shovel-ready projects, connection commitment and local government financial commitment. She stated the intent is for this to be a dynamic living document and the State does expect for priorities to change over time, noting DEP has to make an annual report to the Legislature on what is happening relating to the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act and the progress made annually. Ms. Lowery addressed the next steps moving forward, which includes obtaining approval and direction for the following: 1) identify priority areas and design initiation; 2) acceptable internal funding mechanisms; 3) mandatory connection; 4) connection grant program within the County; 5) pursuit of grant dollars in support of priority projects; and 6) submitting the report to FDEP.

Commissioner Zalak appeared via Webex at 4:07 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Lowery reiterated that Silver Springs receives 29% of its nitrogen load from septic systems and Rainbow Springs receives 20%.

Chairman Gold advised that the nitrogen contributors to the Silver Springs are septic tanks (29%), cattle farms (18%), horse farms (10%), atmospheric decomposition (10%), sports turfgrass fertilizer (10%), Urban Turfgrass Fertilizer (10%), and other smaller factors. The nitrogen contributors to the Rainbow Springs are cattle farms (25%), septic systems (20%), horse farms (16%), atmospheric decomposition (11%), farm fertilizer (12%), urban turfgrass fertilizer (9%), sports turfgrass fertilizer (4%).

Commissioner Zalak stated when the initial study was completed several years ago it showed that even if the County addressed the nitrogen issues it could not get back to what the levels were in the 1950's and 1960's.

Commissioner Bryant stated this would at least be an improvement.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Lowery advised that the total cost of the septic to sewer project is approximately \$4.6 billion, which DEP is aware of and understands that it will take more than 20 years.

Commissioner Bryant suggested the Board select a pilot area within the PPA and review all possible funding mechanisms, design and costs associated with the project. She stated if the State funding is combined with the local match funds customers may not have to contribute to building the infrastructure, noting the connection fee is a reasonable expense for residents and is less than what it would cost to install an enhanced septic system.

In response to Chairman Gold, Ms. Lowery advised that there are approximately 650 septic tanks within each of the identified areas.

Commissioner Bryant recommended the Board identify the areas and do a portion each year.

Ms. Lowery advised that if a project is planned within 5 years and there is an issue with a resident's septic system they do not have to upgrade to the advanced system.

Commissioner Bryant stated it would behoove the Board to look at where the County is seeing the most growth to determine where there is the biggest opportunity for new constructions and where it would be the easiest to implement this program. She advised that if the County begins to remove septic systems and does not add more they should see some results, noting if the nitrate load does not change within the springs the Board

will need to have a conversation regarding what is the root cause of the problem.

Ms. Lowery advised that the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) are reevaluated every 5 years.

Mr. Bouyounes stated the focus will be the 5 identified areas and requested the Board to select which area to begin the project.

Chairman Gold opined that the Lake Weir area should also be considered, noting the funding mechanism for that area will most likely be different because it does not fall within the Springs Protection Area.

Commissioner Bryant commented on the possibility of implementing an MSBU in the Lake Weir area.

Commissioner Curry questioned if sewer impact fees were included. Ms. Lowery advised that the impact fee from the capacity charge is not part of this evaluation, noting what is included is the lateral and septic tank closer.

Commissioner Curry opined that impact fees should be considered going forward as the new growth is adding to the issue.

Chairman Gold advised that he is in support of moving forward with the 5 identified areas in the Silver Springs area. He stated Lake Weir may not be a priority area, but a different funding mechanism could be considered.

Mr. Bouyounes stated Lake Weir could be perfect for an MSTU because the residents want to move forward with this project. He advised that if the Board agrees to focus on the 5 areas identified and provides the number 1 priority staff will move forward with design and cost to be brought back to the Board.

In response to Mr. Bouyounes, Chairman Gold advised that if the County is planning on receiving grant funding then a mandatory connection will be required in the PPA.

Commissioner Stone stated she is open to discussing a possible availability fee. The County is upkeeping the lines in front of properties that are not being utilized, which is a cost to the County.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bryant questioned if there has been any conversation at the State level that will start making it mandatory for Counties to connect even if the parcel is not in the Primary Focus Area (PFA) or PPA. Ms. Lowery advised that as of right now there have not been any specific conversations about changing the Statute. As Senate Bill 712 from the previous year gains more traction and the State begins implementing some of the rules associated with the Blue Green Algae Task Force more pressure will be put on Counties. Ms. Lowery stated this is not just a human health issue, but also an environmental issue.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Ms. Lowery advised that mandatory connection means that the infrastructure is available, citizens have been properly noticed and are required to connect to the centralized system within 365 days. This requirement is not only for grant funded projects. She stated there are a couple of places where it is project specific and not Countywide.

Commissioner Bryant stated she was under the impression that if there was an issue with an existing septic system the owner would not be allowed to fix it, but instead be required to connect to the centralized system if available.

Mr. Kirkman advised that the State rule is if a central system is available, and a septic system fails the owner has to connect to the centralized system and is not permitted to repair or replace the failed system, noting the County will have to create an Ordinance to enforce the State rule.

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In response to Mr. Bouyounes, Mr. Kirkman stated language can be created for an Ordinance that focuses on mandatory connection in specified areas.

Commissioner Bryant opined that more public education is necessary.

Chairman Gold advised that staff could work with the Public Information Office (PIO) to post on social media once the Board has decided what will be implemented.

Commissioner Zalak stated the County could use the \$35,000,000.00 to install approximately 6,000 to 7,000 advanced septic systems instead of 100 centralized sewer connections.

Commissioner Bryant advised that the County does not have to be limited by a set number per year, but instead look at what can be done with the funds available.

Mr. Bouyounes addressed the American Rescue Plan and advised that there will be many other needs the County will be dealing with as it relates to these funds. He stated he hopes to bring back more information on May 4, 2021 once staff has received guidance from the Federal Government, noting from the information received so far water and sewer is going to be a priority.

Chairman Gold advised that the Board is in agreement to focus on the 5 identified areas presented today and require mandatory connection within those areas.

Commissioner Bryant stated once staff has identified the cost of the project they can explore funding options with the American Rescue Act and all available grant funding, as well as the program in place in Wakulla County to bring back options to the Board

In response to Chairman Gold, Ms. Lowery advised that Wakulla County did receive the majority of funds available because they had a program in place, noting some funds did go to Hernando and Citrus Counties. She advised that per DEP all but \$800,000 was expended for this year's allocation.

Commissioner Curry out at 4:44 p.m.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bryant suggested staff move forward with design and bring back the hard costs for Board review and then a discussion can take place relating to the funding options.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that out of the 5 identified areas staff is recommending section DL (as shown on slide 17) be made the top priority. Mr. Kirkman concurred.

Commissioner Curry returned at 4:37 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Mr. Kirkman stated section DL has 4,246 parcels with roughly 1,900 existing septic tanks.

ACA Angel Roussel questioned how much it will cost to design an area of this size. Senior Utilities Engineer Kevin Vickers advised that the total cost of the project for Section DL is approximately \$105,000,000.00, noting design costs will be between 8% and 10% of the total cost. He recommended starting with a smaller subsection, noting there is a portion in southeast of that area, which is being funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Mr. Vickers advised that staff could seek out a consultant to create a hard design based on a budget set by the Board.

It was the general consensus of the Board to submit the report to DEP.

Chairman Gold thanked staff for their hard work.

There was a recess at 4:43 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:50 p.m., with all members present, except for Commissioner Zalak who appeared via Webex.

2. Utilities Capital Improvement Program Presentation – Jody Kirkman PE, Environmental Services Director

Mr. Kirkman advised that upon review of the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis with the consultant there will not be a rate increase next year.

Utilities Engineering Manager Bob Titterington presented a small binder entitled, “Marion County Florida Utilities CIP Workshop FY 2021-2025” and referred to the 17 slide PowerPoint presentation included in the Agenda Packet. He provided a brief overview of the Marion County Utilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP), noting 17 projects were completed and provided an updated status of projects since the last workshop (slides 5 through 7).

Mr. Titterington addressed slide 8, which shows the 5-year CIP Summary. He advised that there are continuous projects.

Commissioner Bryant advised that the total cost of the CIP equals half the funds needed for the septic to sewer project.

Mr. Titterington commented on the planned water main and fire hydrant projects for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22. He advised of necessary utility relocations due to construction projects, noting if the County has utilities in the right-of-way (ROW) and a road is expanded the County is responsible for moving those utilities.

Mr. Titterington advised that the Department has begun work on the Southeast Regional Wastewater Treatment plant, noting a workshop will be held to discuss the study and information on additional sites besides the Orange Blossom area. Another project is the Salt Springs Water Well Upgrade. Currently there is a limited system and an additional well is needed to add redundancy to serve that area. He stated these projects are funded, but staff is still hoping to receive grant funding to offset some of the costs.

Mr. Titterington stated the County had 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant projects, the Silver Springs Shores plant, which is under construction and should be completed in June 2021, as well as the Golden Ocala Plant which is on track to be completed in 2022 if not sooner. He advised that another project is the grease and grit removal for Vaccon Station.

Mr. Titterington commented on the lift station, sewer main, and reclaimed water projects for FY 21/22. He advised that part of the issues with reclaimed water is both golf courses, noting Silver Springs Country Club and Lake Diamond use a majority of their water from surface water and do not want the County to provide reclaimed water. Staff has been working with the Water Management District to implement an agreement to require reclaimed water be utilized.

Mr. Titterington advised that the Department has been very successful in acquiring grant funding, noting the Northwest Regional (Golden Ocala) received \$6,850,000.00; Marion County Septic-to-Sewer Initiative received \$200,000.00; and Oak Bend/I-75 Water Quality Improvement Project received \$257,520.00 from FDEP. Marion County Utility received \$349,000.00 from HMGP(FEMA) for portable lift station generators. He commented on grant funding applications submitted to SWFWMD, SJRWMD and FDEP (slide 16).

Mr. Titterington stated the Water Management Districts are pushing for a mandatory connection Ordinance to be in place in order for the County to continue to receive grant funding.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND CLOSING COMMENTS

In response to Chairman Gold, Mr. Titterington advised that he has accepted a position as the Public Works Director and City Engineer for the City of Belleview.

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Mr. Kirkman advised that the Department has been trying to work with the City of Bellevue to address reuse issues within the County and now with the new Public Works Director those issues can be fixed. He stated the Board previously approved a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan in the amount of \$18,400,000.00 for the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility, which will be reduced to approximately \$14,500,000.00 once the amendment is received from the State.

Mr. Kirkman commented on the grant funding received for the Tradewinds Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Mr. Titterington advised that typically if a grant application is not funded through SJRWMD it is forwarded on to DEP for potential funding. He stated the grant applications for water do not ask if mandatory connection is in place, but it is questioned on sewer applications.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Jeff Gold, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk