Partners in Water Quality

Presentation to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Mayor Gregory J. Oravec

Port St. Lucie is a Safe, Beautiful and Prosperous City for All People
“When they laid out that city – I guess the fella was at a
desk, because they shoulda made those roads around the
hammocks, nature can design better than any landscape
gardener could. They should have saved all those palm
trees and hammocks instead of burning and clearing it.”

—Lawrence Becker
Port St. Lucie, FL
Aerials flown in 1984
History

- Until 1950s - Agriculture
- 1957 - First residents
- 1961 - City is incorporated (by GDC due to a dispute with St. Lucie County over the use of soil cement for roadway construction)
- 1970 - 330 residents (67 Sq. Miles)
- 1980 - 14,690 residents (68 Sq. Miles)
- 1990 - 55,860 residents (76 Sq. Miles)
- 2000 - 88,769 residents (77 Sq. Miles)
- 2005 - All roads paved
- 2006 - Citywide utilities installation completed
- 2010 - 164,603 residents (115 Sq. Miles)
- 2017 - 189,344 residents (120 Sq. Miles)
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITY
GDC, POCKETS EMPTY, FILES FOR CHAPTER 11

WILLIAM HOWARD, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

General Development Corp., the beleaguered Miami company that developed Port St. Lucie and eight other Florida communities, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Friday.

Inflated prices, special taxing districts -- alternatives city officials proposed when Brown, Erbling and six other GDC pleaded guilty to fraud -- managers have left the company, and a major investor is seeking to remove several members of the to pay for roads, sewer systems company's board of directors, and other facilities at its nine including former Gov. Reubin Florida communities over the next 12 years.

April 7, 1990

The Palm Beach Post

May 5, 1992

WATER CUT OFF FOR 10,000 IN PORT ST. LUCIE

MARK BRIDGEWATER, and R.J. AGNEW

Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

Record water demand over the weekend depleted supplies for greater Port St. Lucie, forcing utility officials to shut off water Monday for thousands of residents.

As many as 10,000 residents scattered throughout the city were without water Monday and will have to boil drinking water for 48 hours after their service resumes.

The supermarket also was without water.

Dawn Mastro stood by the stove with frozen milk in the refrigerator. "It's a hard day to live with," she said.

Publican Curtis Coulter said the store's deli, bakery, meat and produce departments may not be able to open if service doesn't resume today.

"You wouldn't cook in dirty dishes, and neither would we," he said.

Why: Customers used a record amount of water this weekend, depleting storage tanks. St. Lucie Utilities couldn't replace the supplies fast enough.

"Who: About 40,000 people lost water pressure Monday. The amount rose to 10,000 by the time they were turned off Tuesday morning."
Towards A New Future:
Septic to Sewer Conversion

- 1993: City / County began an ongoing dialog regarding the potential transfer of the southern utility assets from the County to the City

- Transfer became official: Sept. 30, 1994

- Customer base upon transfer:
  - 17,228 water connections
  - 10,800 sewer connections
Towards A New Future: Septic to Sewer Conversion

- All new construction must connect to City’s utility systems
- FDEP Variance was obtained
  - No mandatory connections for existing homes unless:
    - Well fails or becomes contaminated or septic drainfield fails
      - Water pumps & pressure tanks can still be replaced
      - Continue to use wells for irrigation
      - Septic tanks can still be pumped down
- The variance made things easier for residents - no forced connections
- 10-year interest free connection fee payment plan for existing homes
- Residential septic pump out program
Another action was to subdivide the City into multiple assessment areas.

The Torino area where GDC had put in streets and partially installed the water and sewer infrastructure.

FDEP Permitted & Monitored Carefully Phased System Growth 1996 - 2006

Constructed by end of the 10-year project:

- 631 miles water main
- 685 miles sewer main
- 2,874 fire hydrants
- 59 sewer lift stations
Today’s Utility Service Area

± 130 square miles

+ 73,000 Water Customers

+ 55,000 Sewer Customers
Septic to Sewer Progress Since City Acquired the Utility

- **8,064 Septic Conversions Completed in 19 Years**

- ±220,925 pounds of nitrogen prevented from entering lagoon due to 36,158 new homes being connected to City sewer

- ±49,136 pounds of nitrogen prevented from entering lagoon because of septic conversions
TROPICAL STORM FAY

24-48 hour Rainfall

AUGUST 18-19

AUGUST 19-20
TROPICAL STORM FAY

LENNARD ROAD @ US 1
LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS SAM’S CLUB
Towards A New Future: EWIP

EASTERN WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Towards A New Future: EWIP

- Budget of approximately $35 million
- Acquisition of 76 acres
- 8 stormwater treatment areas (STA)
- Replacement/installation of assorted drainage piping and box culverts
- Upgrades to two existing drainage pumping stations
- Installation of bybass piping
- Procurement of a large scale, mobile back-up drainage pump
- Construction of four stormwater treatment facilities
- Widening of pump station intake channel
- Removal of exotic vegetation from drainage canals and flow-ways
- Planting of native vegetation
THE WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITY LEADS US FORWARD AGAIN: McCARTY RANCH
Today’s Utility Service Area

± 130 square miles

+ 73,000 Water Customers

+ 55,000 Sewer Customers
Towards A New Future:
McCarty Ranch Water Quality Project
Towards A New Future:
McCarty Ranch Water Quality Project

- Project will keep 9 billion gallons of water from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River annually, a 21% reduction in the excess freshwater discharge from the C-23
- Project will remove 89,721 pounds of Nitrogen and 18,471 pounds of Phosphorus annually
- $10.285 M Total Project Cost
- $180K Annual Operating Cost
- Area 1 Construction Substantially Complete
- Area 2 Construction Scheduled to begin in April
Towards A New Future: McCarty Ranch Water Quality Project