Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Waterways Forum #3: Regulation & Management of the Waterways

January 29, 2014

Kim DeLaney, Ph.D.
Strategic Development Coordinator
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Overview
Overview & Project Approach

120+ Miles of Waterways

Waterways Educational Forums

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marine Transport</strong></td>
<td>December 19, 2013</td>
<td>2-5 PM</td>
<td>Indian Riverside Park, 12th Avenue N, Jensen Beach, FL 34957</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land Use &amp; Upland Transport</strong></td>
<td>January 8, 2014</td>
<td>2-5 PM</td>
<td>Historic City Hall, 301 Avenue A, Stuart, FL 34994</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regulation &amp; Management of Waterways</strong></td>
<td>January 29, 2014</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>Stuart City Hall, 301 Avenue A, Stuart, FL 34994</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Resources</strong></td>
<td>February 27, 2014</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2000 S.W. Avenue B, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983</td>
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<td><strong>Recreation/Cultural/Educational Activities</strong></td>
<td>March 12, 2014</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>Port Salerno Community Center*, 1500 SE Avenue B, Stuart, FL 34994</td>
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<td><strong>Economic Development</strong></td>
<td>April 2014 TBD*</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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*Tentative dates, times & locations; confirmations pending
Policy & Design Charrette
(Late April/Early May 2014)

Project Schedule

Peter Merritt, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Treasure Coast
Regional Planning Council

Angela Sandoval, P.E.
Lead Engineer
South Florida
Water Management District
The SFWMD System
- 2,669 Miles Of Canals And Levees
- 160 Major Drainage Basins
- 1,290 Control Structures
- 66 Pump Stations
- 9 Regional Field Stations

The SFWMD manages water resources for Flood Control, Drinking Water Supply, Irrigation, and the Protection of Wetlands and the Everglades.

SFWMD Primary Facilities in Martin and St Lucie Counties
- C-23 Canal / Structure S-97, S-48
- C-24 Canal / Structure S-49
- C-25 Canal / Structure S-50
- L-65 and L-64 Canal
- L-47 Canal

Martin and St. Lucie Canals and Structures
- C-25 Canal / S-50
- C-24 Canal / S-49
- C-23 Canal / S-97
- C-23 Canal / S-48

Structure S-50 C-25 Canal Fixed Weir

Structure S-49 C-24 Canal Operable Gate
It is SFWMD policy to allow adjacent owners, government entities, and utilities to use the SFWMD Right of Ways provided the use does not interfere with SFWMD uses or mission and appropriate authorization (permit) is obtained, when required.
Martin County Vision Statement

Martin County government is value and service driven. Martin County will be known locally, regionally, statewide and nationally as an innovative and progressive leader providing cost effective county services. Others will benchmark against Martin County as an example of the best in local government. The citizens and Board of Commissioners will be proud of the staff and have a firm belief in the reliability, truth and strength of the organization.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act
1948
significantly reorganized and expanded into
Clean Water Act
1972
basis for pollution control programs and water quality standards

Florida Watershed Restoration Act
1999
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program establishes numeric water quality goals to restore the health of a lake, river, stream, spring, or estuary.
- St. Lucie TMDL’s were established in 2009 for Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen and Dissolved Oxygen.
- Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP) identify actions needed to achieve the TMDL and who is responsible for implementing those actions.
- St. Lucie Basin BMAP adopted this past summer is an enforceable document.

Martin County’s Stormwater Ordinance
July 27, 2006
- Permit required by federal and state governments to reduce water pollution required by:
  - 1990 NPDES Stormwater Program
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program requires County to hold a permit.
- Six elements of the permit require County to provide public education and involvement and to reduce and prevent pollution from getting in our waterways.

Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program
2007
- Expansion of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to include Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River estuaries.
- River Watershed Protection Plans to include projects for restoration.
- Required Pollutant Control Program be implemented.
- Prohibited application of biosolids within the watershed.
- Required Research and Water Quality Monitoring Program be implemented.
Martin County’s Fertilizer Ordinance
July 6, 2011
- Fertilizer must be Low-Phosphorus
- Fertilizer must be at least 50% slow-release nitrogen
- Prohibited N and P application period during summer
- At least 10-feet free fertilizer zone around surface waters
- Deflector shields required with broadcast spreaders
- No fertilizer on impervious surface
- Grass clippings and landscape debris shall not be swept to stormdrains, ditches, water bodies, roadways
- Penalties

Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties

Jennifer Evans
Senior Environmental Planner
St. Lucie County

St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department
Jennifer Evans
Senior Environmental Planner

Environmental Resources Department

Environmental Regulations
- Vegetation Removal Permits/Exemptions
- Tree Mitigation
- Dune Trimming Permits
- Wetland Protection
- Shoreline and Coastal Protection
- Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Protection
- Endangered Species Protection
- Landscaping
**Waterway Regulations**

- **Land Development Code 6.02.02 Riverine Shoreline Protection**
  - St Lucie River Shoreline and associated tributaries
  - Zone A shoreline buffer – 50 ft. for platted lots of record prior to August 1, 1989 and 75 ft. for platted lots of record after August 1, 1989
  - Shall consist of preserved or planted native vegetation
  - No development permitted within this zone with the exception of a private permitted access point or dock
  - Zone B shoreline buffer – 300 feet
  - Prohibits activities such as public or private road ROW’s, retention ponds or stormwater systems, new septic systems, waterwater lift stations, petroleum, chemical, fertilizer or manure storage areas

- **Indian River Lagoon Shorelines**
  - 50 ft. shoreline buffer for any lot of record platted after August 1, 1989 unless physically impossible as in the case of Indian River Drive occurring within this zone
  - Shall consist of preserved or planted native vegetation
  - No development permitted within this zone with the exception of a private permitted access point or dock

- **Hardened/Armored Shorelines** require a variance per LDC Section 10.01.30 is granted
- Standards for granting variance include:
  - Unnecessary hardship such as severe property loss or damage and unsafe conditions
  - Circumstances beyond control of the applicant
  - No adverse impact to adjacent shorelines
  - No water quality impacts
  - Minimum necessary for reasonable protection and/or use of land
  - Achieves general intent and purpose of the LDC and Comprehensive Plan

**Projected Regulatory Changes**

- In Process of Revising Chapters 6.00.00 and 7.09.00 of the Land Development Code
- Develop Comprehensive Plan policies in LDC;
- Clarify existing code, where needed;
- Remove outdated code and align with State agencies;
- Provide more flexibility, especially at the Director-level;
- Move detailed procedures to Administrative Manual; and
- Obtain public input.
- Update Manatee Protection Plan

**Waterways Plan for Martin & St. Lucie Counties**

**Dennis Devaney**

**Sergeant**

**St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office**

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**What is the greatest challenge facing regulation of the County’s waterways?**
- Balancing economic development with environmental sustainability
- Public perception
- Existing developed conditions

**What do we hope to gain from this plan?**
- Increase public awareness of the sensitive habitats and ecosystems located in and around our County’s waterways
- Increase in sustainable development practices
Sam Amerson, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Stuart

Panel Discussion & Questions

Next Forum:
Waterways Forum #4: Natural Resources
Thursday, February 27, 2014 (2 PM)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
2195 S.E. Airoso Blvd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Next Steps