



**Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials
Water Subcommittee Meeting
May 27, 2015
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: 8:40 a.m.

The Airline Room of Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Subcommittee members attending included Volusia County Council Member Doug Daniels, Subcommittee Chair; Mayor Allen Green, City of Port Orange; Mayor Doug Gibson, City of Oak Hill; and Mayor Tom Laputka, City of Orange City.

Others attending were Ted MacLeod, Ormond Beach Assistant City Manager; Dave Ponitz, Ormond Beach Utilities Manager; Randy Coslow, Edgewater City Engineer/Deputy Director of Environmental Services; Walt Smyser, Holly Hill Deputy Public Works Director; Hardy Smith, Daytona Beach Government Relations Administrator; Betty Goodman, Daytona Beach Assistant City Manager; John Dillard, South Daytona Community Development Director/City Engineer; Keith Riger, DeLand Public Services Director/City Engineer; and Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator. Taking minutes was Darla Zakaluzny, County Manager's Office of Volusia County Government.

WELCOME

Chair Daniels welcomed those attending.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Daniels said a number of priorities had been discussed at the last meeting and the highest priority was septic tanks. He added that there were a lot of enclaves where the County needed to run lines, especially near water bodies.

Mayor Green said he would have to pay to \$35,000 to \$45,000 to install two septic systems on property he owned near the river. He believed there should be a city/County ordinance in place throughout the County to address the issue of septic tanks.

Mr. Smyser said there were laws in Florida that required property owners to connect to a septic system within 90 days if the system was available through an adjacent right of way. Many cities were not enforcing this law. He noted there were only 27 properties in Holly Hill that had septic tanks.

Mr. Daniels said it was going to be an extensive process, but it might be possible to stretch out fees over a long term period. Mayor Green spoke about the process that was used for Harbor Oaks and Allandale years ago. He reiterated that whatever process was set up, it needed to be cost feasible.

Mr. Daniels agreed the process must be cost feasible, and said the County could possibly develop a model ordinance for all the municipalities to review.

Mayor Gibson said several residents of Oak Hill had invested several thousand dollars on their septic systems. It would be difficult to convince them to change, but there were trailer parks that would be happy to change to a city sewer system.

Mr. Smith said there were approximately 9,000 septic tanks in the County so the issue should be studied as a whole. The next step would be to make measurable goals. Mayor Green said Port Orange had developed a master plan for its facilities and then purchased equipment as needed.

Mayor Laputka spoke the need to address the problems at Blue Spring. The City of Orange City was trying to bring in sewer lines when new facilities were built. He said Florida Senator Gary Simmons had initially talked about the State helping with septic systems, but there had been no further dialogue on this issue.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Christman, with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), said the District's cost sharing program would begin again next year. The springs were one of the SJRWMD's priorities and there were several areas that could fit within the program. Members were encouraged to work on this with District staff.

Mr. Smith noted that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) liked regional efforts and was another source for help.

Mr. Daniels said he would like to get the County, the cities of Port Orange and Daytona Beach and the SJRWMD together to discuss sewage discharge at Bethune Points.

Ms. Christman provided the names of SJRWMD personnel that would be available to work with local governments: Casey Fitzgerald, Springs; Paul Haydt, Northern Coastal Basin; and Bill Tredik, the Indian River Lagoon. All could be reached at (386) 329-4500.

Mr. Smith said there had been active dialogue on Amendment 1, but not much support for septic tank issues. He believed it would be a good idea to resurrect the County's resolution and remind members of the Volusia Legislative Delegation of the need to address this problem.

Mr. Smyser suggested teaching residents how to maintain their septic tanks. This information could be quickly placed on the City of Holly Hill's website and would

help residents keep track of what had been done to their septic tanks.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2015 Volusia County Water Quality Plan developed by Deputy County Manager Mary Anne Connors. Mr. Riger briefly discussed parts of the plan developed by Ms. Connors and asked if a service fee could be charged to property owners. Mr. Daniels said the County's Legal staff could review the issue.

Introductions were made by those present per Mayor Green's request.

Mr. Daniels asked for an update on the annexation of Ormond by the Sea into the City of Ormond Beach. The area had deteriorated and there were multiple code enforcement issues. Mr. MacLeod said the Ormond Beach City Manager planned to meet with residents regarding the annexation.

Mr. Daniels summed up the septic tank issues that had been discussed today by the group:

- Take Ms. Connor's plan and work with each city and the SJRWMD to see what could be developed;
- The springs in West Volusia;
- A fee for septic tanks
- Talking to the City of Deltona regarding spreading a fee out for a year;
- An ordinance for Rose Bay.

Mr. Smith suggested the County, in conjunction, with the local municipalities utilize the action statement "reduce septic tank use by such and such date or/or over so many years."

Discussion ensued on user fees, countywide fees and making sure all parties understood the issue.

Mr. Daniels said he would take the following items back to the County staff for review:

- A countywide ordinance;
- SJRWMD matching funds;
- Having the County work with Orange City on Blue Spring concerns;
- Having the County work with Deltona on Gemini Springs and St. Johns River issues;
- Setting up a meeting with the cities and the SJRWMD to develop a plan.

Mr. Daniels said that he would be meeting with people in his district about resolving ambulance response times and code enforcement issues, possibly through something similar to the old Municipal Service Districts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.