



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials
Water Quality Subcommittee
MINUTES
March 6, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER: 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was held in the Henry DeLand Conference Room, first floor, DeLand City Hall, 120 S. Florida Avenue, DeLand.

Those in attendance included several Mayors and City Managers, Keith Riger, City of DeLand Engineer/Public Services Director; Mary Anne Connors, Volusia County Deputy County Manager; Volusia County Council Member and Subcommittee Chair Doug Daniels; Brad Blais, Quentin L. Hampton Associates; Jake Sachs, City of New Smyrna Beach; and several city employees. Taking minutes was Debbie Somerford with the County Manager's Office.

WELCOME

Subcommittee Chair Daniels welcomed those attending and introduced the guest speaker, Keith Riger, the City of DeLand's Engineer and Public Services Director.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Riger spoke about his background and experience with alternative water supplies, WAVE, septic tanks, water utilities, and the Leffler and Miami Corporation properties. He discussed recharging the aquifer, nitrates, the quality of water in east and west Volusia, and the cost of removing septic tanks.

DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar spoke about DeLand's use of water, the city's long term goals and the importance of working together.

Orange City Mayor Tom Laputka spoke about the recent West Volusia Summit.

Port Orange Mayor Al Green talked about how Port Orange had purchased property for its water, and also noted the importance of cooperating and working together.

Mr. Laputka suggested each city make a list of its water needs similar to how each city had developed a list of priority transportation projects.

Volusia County Deputy County Manager Mary Anne Connors reviewed the report she had previously presented to the Volusia County Council on septic tanks and the three primary participants in water issues: governing jurisdictions, service providers, and property owners. She spoke about waterfront properties, unity in terms of policies, the allocation of funds, a ten year commitment with the State on septic tank issues and a 20 year assessment.

In response to a question from Mr. Apgar, Ms. Connors said there were certain priorities, such as enclaves that were not served. A discussion ensued on sewer service and septic tanks.

New Smyrna Beach City Manager Pam Brangaccio said she had worked with a County that had a great success rate with hookup units. The New Smyrna Beach City Commission had decided to do an assessment on State Road 44. She liked the idea of a 20 year assessment. Edgewater City Manager Tracey Barlow noted Edgewater had just finished a 20 year assessment and it had gone well.

Mr. Riger spoke about Amendment One funding and said a plan must be developed for dealing with septic tanks. The location of all septic tanks in the County must be determined along with other information so that the community would be ready when funding became available.

Brad Blais, Quentin L. Hampton Associates, spoke about the Indian River Lagoon. He noted the number of studies done by various communities about the lagoon and said the individual studies should be gathered together to determine a way for the various municipalities and groups to work together to restore it. He said he would take the lead on this issue.

A discussion ensued on developing priority lists and finding funding. Chair Daniels said he thought a priority list developed by the municipalities and the County together, rather than individual lists, would receive more support from the State.

Mr. Laputka suggested finding grants and noted the importance of public relations in the community on this issue.

Chair Daniels asked Mr. Blais to begin working with the cities on the Indian River Lagoon issue. He asked if anyone thought there was a need for a water organization.

The water priorities discussed were as follows:

1. Septic Tanks: the major problem in Blue Springs, Gemini Springs, Mosquito Lagoon, the St Johns River, and the North Peninsula north of Ormond Beach, among other places.
2. Stormwater and Wastewater Outfalls: Daytona Beach's Bethune Plant and others along the Halifax and Tomoka Rivers.
3. Nova Basin Flood Problems: A group of city and State governments already were working on this, so the group could simply monitor the issue.
4. Westside Water Quantity: A city-County group already was working on this, making it another monitoring exercise.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.