



## **Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding Subcommittee**

**Meeting Minutes May 5, 2025**

**Thomas C. Kelly Training Room, 123 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand**

### **CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 A.M.**

Those attending included the following Roundtable Subcommittee members: Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County; Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores; Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works; Lois Paritsky, Mayor, Ponce Inlet; Chris Cloudman, Mayor, DeLand; Santiago Avila, Jr., Mayor, Deltona; Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Lori Tolland, Commissioner, Ormond Beach; Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Daytona Beach; John Penny, Mayor, Holly Hill; Kurt Swartzlander, City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; Carmen Rosamonda, City Manager, DeBary; Joe Forte, City Manager, Holly Hill; Andrew Holmes, City Manager, Daytona Beach; Paolo Soria, Primary Land Use Attorney, Volusia County; Phyllis Wallace, Deputy Director, Deltona Public Works.

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

**Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores and Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County** opened with a review of the previous meeting's action items and an overview of the current agenda.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Ron Meade, District 5 Maintenance Engineer** shared that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) retention ponds are inspected annually under the requirements of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). **Meade** encouraged those who notice new flooding areas to notify FDOT. He emphasized the importance of early preparation. **Meade** confirmed FDOT manages 192 ponds within Volusia County.

**Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works** mentioned the National Stormwater Trust (NST). **Ron Meade** noted the NST identifies ponds with excess capacity and reduces water volume ahead of storms to allow for more runoff, increasing flood prevention. He stated that it is a possibility for FDOT to potentially increase pond capacity for FDOT-managed ponds. **Meade** reported that the region's rainfall average is 55 inches annually. Sudden downpours of 3 to 4 inches per hour are not uncommon, which often exceed drainage capabilities.

**Members** discussed funding for NST systems and the amount of assistance available.

**Members** discussed communication and coordination between FDOT and municipalities. **Ron Meade** stated communication has historically been limited, but confirmed FDOT notifies cities that request such communication.

**Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach** expressed concern about flooding on SR 44 and asked what reassurance could be given to residents. **Ron Meade** stated that the system cannot always handle extreme weather, even after preparations. He noted FDOT ponds are designed for 25-year storms. **Ben Bartlett** added low elevation and coastal location increases flooding vulnerability. He discussed a long-term solution to raise the road; however, that could lead to residential flooding.

**Members** discussed more potential solutions for flooding in areas that haven't previously flooded.

## **VOLUSIA COUNTY PERMITTING PROCESS**

**Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works** reviewed the permitting process, noting that any project affecting surface water or uplands must go through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ben confirmed city standards could exceed federal minimum standards.

**Members** discussed public education and a GIS map showing maintenance management.

**Lori Tolland, Commissioner, Ormond Beach** asked what cities can do when a homeowner's association (HOA) is defunct. **Paolo Soria, Primary Land Use Attorney, Volusia County** suggested cities speak to their City Attorney. **Cammie Dewey, P.E., District Basin Manager** confirmed that the SJRWMD can request maintenance, but enforcement becomes complex with HOA involvement.

**John Penny, Mayor, Holly Hill** stated current systems are outdated, adding design standards need upgraded and inquiring if agencies have capacity to increase operating standards. **Jake Johansson** added proposed tax increases must clearly show how funds will be used to gain public support.

## **GIS OVERLAY**

**Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works** outlined a new GIS mapping initiative for stormwater infrastructure. The map will display all roads, bridges, canals, pipes, and other stormwater features, color-coded by jurisdiction. Volusia County's Public Works will have access to supporting documents, photos, maintenance agreements, and related information. The system will track assets falling outside county or municipal jurisdictions and link MS4 permits to corresponding projects.

**Jake Johansson** asked if a data call had been issued to cities. **Ben Bartlett** stated the data is being standardized. Staff will need 12 to 18 months to collect data and will meet with cities individually. He noted the GIS system needs input like project lists and past studies. **Nancy Miller** commented that while cities work on stormwater needs, the system will help promote more comprehensive solutions.

## **ACTION ITEMS AND FOLLOW-UP**

**Paolo Soria, Primary Land Use Attorney, Volusia County** addressed HOA responsibilities regarding stormwater infrastructure. He stated most HOA's are designated maintenance entities, and cities can use code enforcement if written into municipal code. He also raised the issue of defunct HOA's, explaining that cities can petition courts to appoint a receiver, which then allows enforcement to proceed. Obtaining an easement in advance can give municipalities the authority to maintain infrastructure even if an HOA dissolves.

**Members** discussed potential solutions for maintenance responsibility in the instance that an HOA may become defunct.

**Members** discussed fill dirt regulations, their purpose, benefits, disadvantages, alternatives, etc.

## **UPCOMING MEETING**

**Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council** recommended inviting Dona Butler from Transform386 as a future presenter to the subcommittee and stated he would put something out regarding the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting is adjourned at 11:41 a.m.