



**Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes February 6, 2025
Thomas C. Kelly Annex, 121 West Rich Avenue, DeLand**

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

Those attending included the following Roundtable Sub-Committee members: Jake Johannson, 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; Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Charlotte Gillis, City Commissioner/Vice Mayor; Lyn Donato, City Commissioner, Lake Helen; Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Daytona Beach; Kurt Swartzlander, City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; John Penny, Mayor, Holly Hill; Andrew Holmes Deputy City Manager, Daytona Beach; Carmen Rosamonda; City Manager, Deltona; Paolo Soria, Primary Land Use Attorney, Volusia County.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Nancy Miller welcomed those in attendance followed by introductions of the attendees.

FLOODING & ROAD ISSUES

Lynn Donato, Commissioner, Lake Helen reached out to Congressman Mills for funding regarding flooding and road issues, taking a self-appointed role in gathering information for staff and constituents.

Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Daytona Beach discussed current flooding complaints from west-side residents and the ongoing USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) study. Commissioner Cantu advocates for educating the public as a subcommittee purpose.

Paolo Soria, Attorney, Volusia County mentioned that there are planning and land management discussions at the state and federal levels. There is direction from County Council to research flooding and propose changes in environmental standards.

FLOODING CAUSES AND STANDARDS

Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works noted two major storm events (Hurricanes Ian and Milton) caused significant flooding, with no single cause other than excessive rainfall. He highlighted stormwater issues, such as pond failure and groundwater elevation, and emphasized the importance of research on environmental standards. He mentioned collaborating with the Environmental and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) to develop a deliverable could be beneficial. He also stated the need for city input and possible changes in regulations.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores asked if new construction had contributed to flooding. Ben clarified that there's no conclusive evidence linking new construction to flooding and mentioned ongoing investigations.

REGULATORY MEASURES

Paolo Soria, Attorney, Volusia County discussed three ordinances that apply only to Volusia County in unincorporated areas: low-impact development, stormwater pond construction, and minimum environmental standards.

Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach sought clarification on whether the county could set policies for cities. **Mr. Soria** explained that while Volusia County can set minimum criteria for cities, those cities could adopt stricter standards if desired.

Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works reiterated that environmental standards, especially those set by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), apply to both the county and cities, and most cities follow these standards.

COLLABORATION AND POLICY APPROACH

Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council expressed the need for collaborative, rather than imposing, measures and preferred a unified approach among cities. He suggested that the subcommittee focus on education and resource sharing among elected officials and city managers.

Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach and **Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council** emphasized the importance of a regional approach, acknowledging that cities should collaborate to solve large-scale flooding problems.

Lois Paritsky, Mayor, Ponce Inlet raised the potential of additional meetings for ongoing discussions and clarified that an expanded formal structure may not be necessary.

STORMWATER & FUNDING

Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works mentioned that stormwater fees are often viewed as a tax but should be considered a business approach to address flooding. He suggested creating partnerships and matching funds to leverage available resources for projects.

Carmen Rosamonda, City Manager, DeBary discussed the need to increase stormwater fees and seek funding opportunities. **Mr. Bartlett** confirmed that T386 funding would support ongoing studies and projects.

FUTURE STEPS AND DELIVERABLES

Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council proposed drafting a mission statement for the subcommittee and identified the need for a comprehensive document summarizing problem areas across cities and counties.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores inquired if all cities were contributing to problem identification and requested a list of contacts for follow-up.

Lois Paritsky, Mayor, Ponce Inlet and **Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works** agreed on the importance of utilizing all available data to avoid duplicating efforts. **Mayor Paritsky** asked for a report summarizing key takeaways from the meeting to be presented at the next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The group agreed to compile a public GIS map of “hot spots” showing flooding problem areas with various data points. This could be linked to city websites for public access.

Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach proposed using resources such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data to calculate minimum stormwater standards, ensuring that any policy changes benefit all cities without causing harm.

Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council emphasized that all efforts should contribute to regional solutions and deliverables rather than merely holding meetings.

CLOSING REMARKS

Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works confirmed that various funding sources, including FEMA and Elevate Florida, would support future projects.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores asked if further meetings were required before presenting to the RT on 3/11. The group agreed that additional meetings and updates would be necessary to finalize the subcommittee's position.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2025, where **Ben Bartlett** would present on stormwater issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.