



ESTERO COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY LEADERS

ECCL Report: March 8, 2019

Executive Summary: 181st meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders



Village Report: Voter turnout for the recent Village Council Election was disappointingly low. Peer review found inaccuracies in both prior mining supply and demand studies. The Village is fronting the cost of the traffic light on Corkscrew Road at Lowe's. The Village is conducting a variety of surveys and studies – please participate. Lee Health Coconut Point is open and doing even better than expected.

South Lee County Flooding Issues: Bonita Springs

Councilman Fred Forbes showed images of post-Irma flooding and advocated for changes in fill/water runoff standards.

Assault on the DR/GR: There are three DR/GR development proposals working through Lee County Planning & Zoning. There are many concerns with CPA2018-10008, a proposal that extracts 18-acres out of the DR/GR area for major commercial development. No citizen workshops are planned.

ECCL Board of Directors: The Board approved a Field of Interest Fund with Southwest Florida Community Foundation. A committee, led by Don Eslick, has been created to select the next ECCL Chair. Mark Novitski has been appointed as ECCL Secretary.

Village Stormwater Master Plan: Josh Evans and Zach Taylor of JR Evans Engineering presented the Village of Estero Stormwater Master Plan. The plan includes updated regional and local water models tested after Irma and recommends nine improvements to the Village Council with ranked priorities.

Estero Bike Ped Master Plan: A workshop was held February 11. The Village continues to collect community comments on Bike Ped issues [through their website](#). There will be a joint Village Workshop on April 24 for the Estero Bike Path Plan.

Breaking Par at Grandezza: The ECCL & Education Outreach Council (EOC) are hosting the 7th Annual "Breaking Par at Grandezza" Gala & Golf Tournament on March 21 & 22. Both the Gala Dinner and Golf Shotgun Scramble have officially sold out.

Health Committee: Lee Health Coconut Point (LHCP) received 2,400 emergency department visits in the first two months. Speakers on health promotion and disease prevention topics are available for presentations in communities. Committee is working on a Safe Community designation for Estero.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, April 12, 2019 at 10:00am at Estero Community Park.

VILLAGE REPORT

- Councilmember *Nick Batos*
- **Village Council Election 2019**
 - Election took place on March 5.
 - Katy Errington was reelected to a second 4-year term.
 - She received 1,953 votes (80% of votes cast)
 - Voter turnout was disappointingly low.
 - We have 24,300 registered voters
 - 2,452 voted (just a little over 10%)
 - We need to get more people to vote – will need to get more candidates to run.
- **Spikowski Report on Mining**
 - Peer review found inaccuracies in both prior mining supply and demand studies.
 - Waldrop Report did not include mines in Collier or Charlotte.
 - Waldrop Report overstated the amount of stone lost in the mining process.
 - Waldrop Report overstated future demand by double counting populations.
 - The result of the Waldrop Report is that it states we will run out of Lime Rock many years before we actually will.
- **Traffic Light on Corkscrew Road at Lowe's**
 - The Village will front the cost of the traffic light.
 - This will allow for an earlier installation.
- **Village Surveys & Studies**
 - The Village is conducting surveys and studies – please participate:
 - Bike Pedestrian Study (Open)
 - Branding Study (Not Open Yet)
 - Parks & Open Space Study (Closed)
- **Coming to Estero**
 - Sprouts Farmers Market is seeking to come to Estero.
- **Lee Health Coconut Point**
 - Open and doing better than expected.
 - Open space on Coconut Road is planned for future doctors' offices.
 - Facility & doctors' offices are open 7 days a week.



- Learn more about what's happening with the Village Council on their website: <https://estero-fl.gov>

SOUTH LEE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY, QUALITY, & FLOODING ISSUES

- Bonita Springs Councilman *Fred Forbes*

- *Please Note: The information and thoughts presented are the opinions of Fred Forbes, not necessarily the majority of Bonita Springs City Council.*
- **Current Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) & Bonita Springs Design Criteria**



- SFWMD
 - 25-year isolated storm
 - Retain 1 inch of rainfall on total gross acreage
 - Release only historic amount of stormwater based on predevelopment release of or runoff from the gross acreage after development.
- Bonita Springs now requires that developments retain not 1 inch, but 1.5 inches of rainfall from event over total gross acreage
- **Problems with Current Design Criteria**
 - The Little Flood in Bonita Springs in mid-August 2017 occurred after unusually wet winter and spring followed by frequent rains up through the 100-year rain event.
 - Even when Bonita Springs does not flood normally by end of July, the ground is fully or almost fully saturated. Most designers assume relatively unsaturated ground meaning the first few inches of a rain event will be absorbed before heavy runoff occurs.
 - Irma followed the Little Flood of late August 2017 which was approximately a 150-year event, plus Imperial River and major drainage swales had not receded. Then on the Thursday following Irma, an approx. 4-inch rain event happened, causing flooding to worsen.
 - Design criteria of isolated 25-year storm needs to be increased to minimally 50-year storm, but really 100-year recommended.
 - Design criteria should require designer to use other following assumptions:
 - Ground 100% saturated
 - Rivers, Bay, or Creek water elevations should be at elevation or depth usually encountered in late, late summer because many storm sewer systems, development outfall, or release structures may be underwater, meaning slow drainage flow, no flow, or worse – backflow.
- **Other Major Problems Needing to be Addressed**
 - Many areas of Bonita Springs (like DR/GR) have a foot or more of standing water during summer, even if flooding does not occur in other areas.

- Every time a development occurs, the developer fills the area being developed so buildings will be 1ft above FEMA flood maps.
- Where does the water go that stands on the land or accumulates and stands after heavy rain events?
- Release rate is based on historic runoff for gross acres pre-development, which usually requires retention ponds of about 15% of developed acreage. So, 100 acres developed would mean 15-20 acres of retention ponds.
- Currently, water level in ponds is a natural predevelopment level of water table and capacity is additional fill depth around pond.
- Retention ponds with a dike or berm are a potential solution for holding 1ft or more of the water held on the site prior to development.
- Lake O is a diked lake. So, if you had 100 acres of land to be developed and 20% pond area, the dike or berm would be 5ft high to hold the 1ft of water that once was stored on the land before filling the site.
- Filling in and putting the culvert pipe in drainage swales (especially in areas which historically flood in flood events) to create walkways or bikeways is not helpful and will worsen flooding in those areas with “good intentions.”

ASSAULT ON THE DR/GR

- *Bob King & Joel Avila*

- **DR/GR Development Proposals**

- There are 3 DR/GR development proposals working their way through Lee County Planning & Zoning:
 - Stop CPA2018-10014 Lime Rock Mining
 - Stop CPA2018-10008 Commercial Project in the DR/GR
 - Stop CPA2018-10011 Commercial Project in the DR/GR



- **CPA2018-10008: Old Corkscrew Commercial**

- 18-acre parcel on Corkscrew Rd, adjacent to the Old Corkscrew Golf Club
- Site previously cleared for residential timeshare and B&B
- 13-acres commercial with 5-acres preserve land
- 133,800sqft of floor space (compare with 78,784sqft at the Shoppes at Grande Oak)
- Anticipated tenants include a grocery store, restaurant, and coffee shop
- Proposal is to remove this parcel from the DR/GR area on the Future Land Use Map and rezone it to commercial
- According to applicant, commercial services are needed for new communities near the golf course and this project will mitigate additional traffic expected near the Shoppes at Grande Oak

- **Concerns:**

- Inconsistencies with Lee Plan
 - Primary objective of DR/GR area is to protect water resources
 - Commercial uses not allowed in the DR/GR area except within a residential community
 - Commercial uses not generally allowed in rural areas such as this one
 - Increasing density of land uses is discouraged in DR/GR
- Are commercial services necessary at this location?
 - Proximity to major community shopping centers
 - 87,500+sqft of commercial space already approved in this area (40,000 at WildBlue, 30,000 at Verdana, and 17,500 at Pepperland; extensive amenities center at The Place)
- Spot Zoning – Does the approval of a single 18-acre parcel for a commercial use in the middle of the DR/GR area constitute “spot zoning?”
- Precedent – Does this project establish a precedent for additional commercial projects in the DR/GR?



- **No Citizen Workshops Planned**

ECCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Thank You, Pete Cangialosi!**
 - The ECCL recognizes and thanks Pete for his four years of effort as the ECCL Environmental Committee Chair.
- **Board of Directors Update**
 - Approved creation of an ECCL Field of Interest Fund with Southwest Florida Community Foundation
 - Created a committee, lead by Don Eslick, to select the next ECCL Chair
 - Appointed Mark Novitski as ECCL Secretary

ECCL STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

- *Mark Novitski*

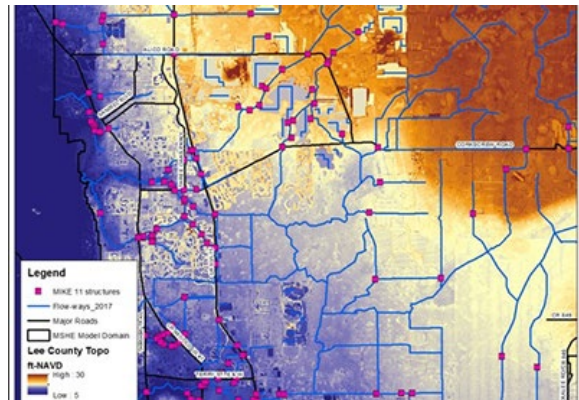
- **Working on Strategic Planning**
 - Branding Session
 - ECCL Vision & Mission will be finalized at March 2019 Board Meeting.
 - Documenting Processes & Procedures
 - Communication and Reporting
 - Creating Measures of Success

- **Welcoming New Members**
 - If interested, please contact Mark Novitski at marker21101@gmail.com or Larry Jones at lawerence1020@aol.com.
- *The next Strategic Task Force Meeting is Friday, March 15, 2019 at 10:00am in the Healthy Life Center Classroom at Lee Health Coconut Point.*

VILLAGE OF ESTERO STORMWATER MASTER PLAN

- JR Evans Engineering *Josh Evans & Zach Taylor*

- **Stormwater Master Plan: Project Goals**
 - Improve understanding of regional hydrology affecting the Village.
 - Stormwater runoff enters the Village from the east
 - Assess existing stormwater facilities.
 - Roadway drainage
 - Condition of the natural conveyances (rivers & streams)
 - Identify deficiencies.
 - Areas of known flooding
 - Determine the cause of the issues
 - Provide framework to evaluate stormwater improvement projects and new developments.
 - Identify flood mitigation projects.
 - Develop Land Development Code regulations.
- **Regional Scale Model**
 - Extends from Estero Bay to Lehigh Acres.
 - Originally calibrated to wet season of 2013 with updates per the August/September 2017 major events.
 - Updates to the Regional Model include:
 - Topographic Data and Channel Cross Sections
 - Rainfall and ET Data
 - Groundwater Table and Groundwater Pumpage
 - Output used for local Village model boundary conditions.
- **Regional Scale Model: Purpose & Use**
 - Evaluate the Hydrology and Hydraulics east of I-75.
 - The Regional Scale Model provides the following for the Local Scale Model:
 - The amount of water (flow rate) entering the Village east of I-75
 - The elevation of the water entering the Village east of I-75
- **Local Scale Model: Project Goals**
 - Improve understanding of regional hydrology affecting the Village.
 - Access existing stormwater facilities.



- Roadway drainage, rivers/streams, etc.
- Identify deficiencies.
 - Areas of known flooding
 - Determine the cause of the issues
- Provide framework to evaluate stormwater improvement projects and new developments.
- Identify flood mitigation projects.
- Develop/Recommend Land Development Code regulations.

- **Recommended Improvement Projects**

- *9 Site-Specific Stormwater Improvement Projects*

- Villages at Country Creek Bypass
 - Three Oaks Parkway Drainage Improvements
 - Villagio/Estero Parkway Drainage Improvements
 - Estero Parkway Culvert
 - Improvement scheduled to be implemented with Estero Parkway Road Improvements.
 - River Ranch Road Drainage Improvements
 - Dry Creek Bed Sediment Removal
 - Estero River Side Banks Sediment Removal
 - Broadway Ave Main Tributary
 - A portion of this project was completed last year (Broadway Culvert Replacement)
 - US 41, North of Williams Rd and South of Corkscrew Rd
- *Maintenance of Main Channels/Conveyances*
 - Vegetation and Debris Removal



COMMUNITY INPUT

- Ensure member communities are given the ability to provide input to Village efforts.
- Requested development of Estero's recently purchased land be discussed at member meetings.

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT

- Planning Director *Jim Tatoes*
- **Estero Bike Ped Plan**
 - There will be a joint Village Workshop on **April 24**
- **Development Approval Process**
 - The Design Review Board's approval authority is under review by Village Council.

- **New Members Welcome**
 - Anyone interested in joining the Community Planning Committee should contact Jim at jetatooles@prodigy.net.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- Membership Director *Barry Freedman*
- **Estero Communities “Invited to the Table”**
 - Copper Oaks, Estero Palms, Estero Oaks, Grandezza, Genova, Lakes of Estero, Mariners Cove, Mirasol, Oaks of Estero, Osprey Cove, Reef, Stonybrook, Sunny Grove, Tahiti Village, Tidewater, Terra Vista, Villa Palmeras, Villagio.
- **New Members Welcome**
 - Please consider joining the membership committee! Contact Barry at ecclmshp@gmail.com.

ESTERO EDUCATION OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC)

- Committee Co-Chair *Jim Gilmartin*
- **Three Primary Initiatives:**
 - Junior Achievement
 - Lee County Schools Support
 - FGCU Entrepreneurship Support
- **Breaking Par at Grandezza**
 - ECCL & EOC are hosting the 7th Annual “Breaking Par at Grandezza” Gala & Golf Tournament on March 21-22
 - All proceeds are benefitting Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida
 - **Gala Dinner & Golf Tournament are both SOLD OUT.**
 - *Event information is available at:*
<https://esterotoday.com/breaking-par-at-grandezza-2>
 - For more information, please contact:
 - Jim Shields: jimshields@fl-office.com
 - Kenny James: kjames@jamesagroup.com
 - Jim Gilmartin: jimgilm@gmail.com
- **Committee Members**
 - The EOC has added two new members: Frank Moser & Julie Wendorf
- *Learn more about the EOC on the ECCL website:* <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council>



FINANCE & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Finance Director *Bob Lienesch*

- **Summary Financial Report**

- February Total Income: \$2,596
- February Total Expenses: \$2,689
- February Excess of Expenses Over Income: \$93
- Year-to-Date Excess of Income Over Expenses: \$9,540
- February 28 Cash Balance: \$16,414
- *For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website:*



<http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>

- **Unpaid 2019 Dues**

- Coconut Shores, Fountain Lakes, Hyatt Vacation Club, Marsh Landing, Reserve at Estero, & West Bay Club
- All communities have been contacted.

- **Other Committee Actions**

- Drafted 2019 operating budget for review by the Board.
- Created job descriptions for Treasurer & Finance Director.
 - Larry Jones appointed Asst Treasurer
- Selecting website consultant to update EsteroToday.com.
- Identifying opportunities for new digital marketing clients.
- Creating a "Field of Interest Fund."

- **Volunteer Lawyer Needed**

- The ECCL needs a volunteer lawyer.
- If anyone is interested or knows someone who's interested, please contact Bob at rpl10000@gmail.com.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUND

- *Jim Gilmartin*

- The fund's assets will be used to improve the quality of life for the residents of Estero and the surrounding area.
- **What is a Field of Interest Fund?**
 - Provides ECCL the opportunity to target our contribution to the projects most important to ECCL.
 - Used in education, youth, healthcare, the arts, or other areas of impact, these funds are broad in scope, yet targeted to meet the persistent needs of the field.
- ECCL's partner, Southwest Florida Community Foundation (SWFCF), helps identify, evaluate, and award grants in our area(s) of interest.
- ECCL can also use the SWFCF's 501c3 designation when applying for available grants.

- Administrative fees are 1.5%, addressed annually.
- Securing legal review.

HEATH COMMITTEE REPORT

- Health Director *Lowell Gerson*

- **Lee Health Coconut Point (LHCP) Emergency Department**
 - 2,400 visits in the first 2 months (through January)
 - 22% admitted
 - Half were transported to Health Park
 - 92% of returned visitor satisfaction surveys were positive
- **Promote Wellness & Prevent Illness**
 - Speakers on health promotion and disease prevention topics are available for presentations in communities.

- **Safe Community**

- Working on Safe Community designation for Estero.

- **Million-Mile Movement**

- Beginning January 15, we hope that people in Lee County will have a million movements such as running, walking, swimming, etc. over the next 3 months.
- *Learn more:*

<http://healthylee.com/news-events/million-mile-movement>



- *The next Health Committee Meeting is Friday, March 15, 2019 at 2:30pm in the Healthy Life Center Classroom at Lee Health Coconut Point.*
- *Learn more about the ECCL's Health Committee at the ECCL's website:*
<http://esterotoday.com/about-eccl/eccl-hospital-committee>

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

- Transportation Director *Bob King*

- **Bike Ped Master Plan**

- Workshop held February 11
- Website set-up to collect community comments on Bike Ped issues:
<https://esterofl.altaplanning.cloud/#/home>

- **Committee Announcements**

- Briefed the success of the Weeks Fish Camp survey and responses.
- For the short term, the Transportation Committee will be combined with the Environmental Committee.
- The Environmental Director position is still vacant and needs to be filled.

- **Seeking Volunteer for Zone 2**

- The Transportation Committee is seeking a volunteer to head up Zone 2. The Zone 2 area includes US 41 from the North Border to the South Border of Estero.

- Joyce Johnson was the Zone 2 Chairperson and has done an outstanding job. We can't thank her enough for her tireless service.
- If you are interested in this position, please contact Bob King at eccltd01@comcast.net.
- *The next Transportation Committee Meeting is Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*

We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Friday, April 12, 2019
10:00am – 12:00pm
Esterro Community Park