

Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
June 13, 2014

Membership Report -- Linda Tecco-Roach

A draft, one-page “Roles and Responsibilities of ECCL Representatives and Alternate Representatives” was presented. Reps. and Alternate Reps. were asked to take the document home to review and contact Linda at lmtecco@embarqmail.com with any suggested additions or changes.

Estero Fire Rescue -- Chief, Scott Vanderbrook

The EFR budget workshop will be July 16, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. The millage rate has to be set by the end of July to be put on the August trim notice. In the three-year plan, EFR is looking at a fifth station out east, with all the growth that’s going on out there, as well as replacing some equipment. EFR maintained its rating of Level 3 in the Insurance Service Office (ISO) that rates every fire department in the country. This rating keeps insurance rates low, especially for commercial properties.

Metropolitan Planning Organization – Don Scott, Executive Director



The Lee County MPO is a transportation policy-making board made up of 16 representatives of local cities, as well as all five Lee County Commissioners. MPO’s were formed back in 1962. Prior to that time, local communities didn’t have a “say” in state and federal transportation projects, resulting in the interstate system that was built through the center of town. MPOs now allow for input regarding the environment and socio-economic impacts of projects before projects move forward. The Lee MPO was formed in 1977. There is a Citizen’s Advisory Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, bicycle pedestrian coordinating committee, traffic management and operations committee, and transportation disadvantaged coordination committee. To learn more, click on Don’s [presentation](#) or go to www.leempo.com.

Status of Incorporation – CHAIRMAN Nick Batos

On June 17, the Board of County Commissioners will vote to give direction to the Supervisor of Elections to put the Estero incorporation issue on the ballot. ECCL’s attorney spoke with the Supervisor and she indicated she has ample time to make all the changes necessary to place it on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS – Don Eslick

Local planner Bill Spakowski will now be an active participant in the Commercial Corridor Repositioning Study. The consultants are putting together a PPT presentation for use in community meetings to provide information and to reach a consensus on the Town Center concept at the properties around Corkscrew Road and US 41. These community meetings should start in a couple of months.

Lee Memorial Health System has contracted with a nationally-recognized consulting firm, Navigant Consulting Services, to plan the development of a “medical village” on and around the 30 acres owned by Lee Memorial, south of Coconut Point. Over the next 60 – 90 days, they will have a final market assessment.

The consultants will be looking at supply and demand for healthcare and complimentary services like fitness, wellness, acute care, and rehab programs in south Lee County. They will validate the demand projections, the payer mix, and the physician resources needed for each of the specialty needs identified. They will interview private practice physicians to determine their interest in establishing a practice that satisfies the identified needs. They will develop a conceptual master plan, schedule and budget. And, they will prepare a Lee Memorial staffing model and financial projection; evaluate the financing alternatives and prepare a final development and finance plan.

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR – Phil Douglas

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) will have an opportunity to vote in favor of supporting Amendment #1 at their June 17 meeting. This is the conservation amendment.

Conservation 2020 is in a state of flux. It appears it will be funded by 1/10th of a mill; the other 4 mills are not going for land acquisition, which is a serious mistake.

The Florida Farms Development (FFD) has filed a \$39 million lawsuit against Lee County under the Bert Harris Act. In 2013, the BoCC turned down FFD’s request for a limerock mine on their property, which is on Corkscrew Road adjacent to Flint Penn Strand, CREW, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and residential neighborhoods. Their request would utilize over 2,900 acres of the site for mining over a 50-year period. It would allow excavation to a depth of 100 feet and place 2,548 two-way truck trips on Corkscrew Road daily. The residents on East Corkscrew Road need to get involved in this issue. [Printable Summary.](#)

COMMUNITY PLANNING – Roger Strelow

There is likely to be a new Village of Estero and a City Council elected, so the ECCL has initiated a process to prepare materials that need to be in place by March 2015. There are a number of people providing assistance, such as a representative from the local International Association of City and County Managers, a group of former experienced city managers, and the ECCL’s counsel has provided copies of initial ordinances from other cities. Many of the services will be contracted with Lee County. Volunteers are needed to help in this process of creating a new city. Committee information will be posted on Estero Today.

TRANSPORTATION – Jim Boesch

There was a Transportation Committee meeting on June 10 attended by the Lee Dept. of Transportation's (LDOT) project manager and the director of the Southwest Florida's Dept. of Transportation (FDOT). The Corkscrew Road I-75 interchange improvements have been placed back in the budget, as well as a study of Corkscrew Road traffic going east and west and the associated congestion problems as drivers attempt to access the interchange. It will be 5-6 years before this project is completed.

The new Hertz global headquarters' main entrance will be on Williams Road. With up to 700 employees using this two-lane road, there is a need for this road to be widened to include a right-turn lane going northbound onto US 41.

In addition, there are five new businesses coming onboard on the west side of US 41, south of Williams Road. These include the new Living Waters Church (formerly Albertsons), which already has a nursery school with 200 children, a Honda dealer, RaceTrac gas station and two fast food restaurants.

Construction of the right turn from Estero Parkway onto Three Oaks Parkway is scheduled to start in July. The project should take 90 days to complete.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – Howard Levitan

The Estero Community Plan has been reviewed by the Local Planning Agency and will go to the BoCC for consideration on June 18. Following BoCC approval, it goes to the state and is then returned back to the County for final approval. It is hoped this process will all be accomplished before the November 4, 2014, election.

This new plan focuses on interconnected neighborhoods, economic development, better utilization of our public facilities, particularly the river, preserve our historic places and promote development of mixed used developments.

One change to the plan is the provision for stand-alone bars in a mixed use center that includes over 1,000 residences and over 1 million square feet of commercial or retail space. The only place in Estero that qualifies for these requirements is Coconut Point. The establishment would have to be located in the middle of that space so that it is not visible from the roadways.

COMMUNICATIONS – Marilyn Edwards

The ECCL is attempting to introduce Estero small businesses to the community through the Estero Today website. Since businesses are not allowed to use banners, flags, or balloons to attract attention to themselves, it is hoped that this new addition will create awareness throughout the community. The first two businesses featured are Goodfellas Barbershop and the new German Deli Spot. You may access this information under Around Town at the top of the Estero Today web page. Residents and business owners are welcome to contact Marilyn, ofangos@aol.com, to submit names of additional small business owners to be featured on this site.

**Next meeting: Friday, July 11, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park.
The guest speaker will be State Representative Ray Rodrigues.**

For more information about the ECCL, go to www.EsteroToday.com.

Marilyn Edwards, ECCL Communications Director