

Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
September 12, 2014

**Jennifer Hecker, Natural Resources Policy Manager
Conservancy of Southwest Florida**



One of the newer concerns that could pose a threat to our water resources is inappropriate oil drilling. Florida sits on a very open, porous lime rock base with a series of underground aquifers, so it is a very fragile environment with a lot of interconnectivity between the different water resources. 90% of Floridians depend on drinking water from these underground aquifers.

State officials had formerly said that “fracking” would not occur in Florida because of its porous geology. The first case of “fracking” in Southwest Florida occurred late last year. Three wells are required for this type of oil drilling. One is a water supply well, as horizontal drilling requires 5 million gallons of water per month per well and often that is being taken from the drinking water source. The other two wells are the actual oil drilling well and a waste water well, as the water from the supply well becomes so polluted it can’t be treated and has to be deep well injected to be disposed of, which could create serious problems in the future. ([See Jennifer’s PPT presentation here.](#))

Treasurer’s Report – Linda Tecco Roach for Bob Lienesch

A goal of \$90,000 was set for funding the Incorporation Referendum; \$7,352 is still required to fulfill that goal. Communities which have not yet contributed to this fund will be approached in the near future. (See agenda for full financial report.)

Estero Fire Rescue -- Chief, Scott Vanderbrook

Estero Fire Rescue has been awarded a Class 2 Public Protection Classification rating by the Insurance Services Office. This rating helps lower the fire insurance rates for Estero’s commercial businesses and homeowners.

This year's EFR budget will be a 4.2 - 4.8% increase over last year. Five to seven new fire fighters will be hired along with purchasing a new Suburban to serve as a quick response vehicle, which will be at a much lower cost than purchasing a new rescue truck.

Incorporation Committee Chairman – John Goodrich

There have been 13 incorporation community meetings to date, reaching approximately 900 people. There are four more public meetings scheduled at the Estero Community Park: **6 p.m., Sept. 23; 9:30 a.m., Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m., Oct. 7 and 6 p.m., Oct. 16.** Residents cannot take it for granted that the incorporation referendum will pass; they must get out and vote.

ECCL Chairman – Nick Batos

Informational incorporation posters and postcards are in the process of being printed. The 19x13 posters are to be placed in local stores, and the post cards will be mailed to registered voters in Estero. The postcards also will be emailed to all those on the ECCL's email list, asking that they be shared with all the residents in Estero communities. It's now up to the membership to help encourage their community residents to vote on November 4.

If anyone is interested in writing letters to the editor to the local newspapers regarding the incorporation effort, contact Nick at mrnbjr@aol.com or Marilyn at ofangos@aol.com. Press contact information, as well as some general talking points, will be provided.

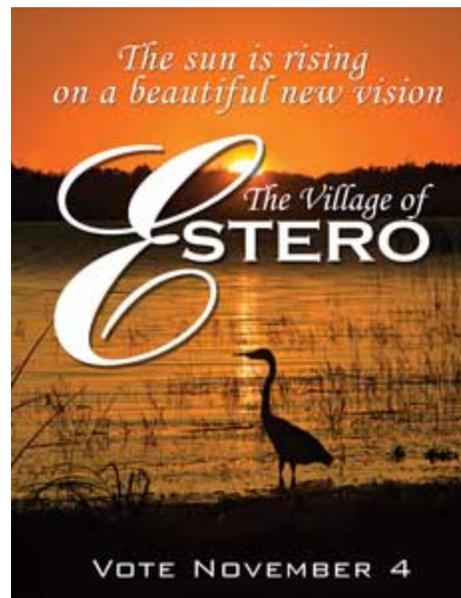
The new ECCL board of directors will be elected in January 2015. Members interested in running for the board should contact Nick.

All residents are invited to a "Building a Community Consensus for Future Development of Estero's Commercial Corridors" workshop at **6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25**, at the Estero Community Park. This is an opportunity for residents to participate and have an impact on the remaining future growth in Estero.

Environment Director – Phil Douglas

Lee County Commissioners voted 4-1 in support of a resolution for Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment. This important amendment needs a 60% positive vote to pass on November 4.

The proposed FFD mine on Corkscrew Road has filed a Bert Harris lawsuit, or private property rights protection act. The county commissioners have committed to fighting this; the ECCL and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida are supporting the county in fighting this lawsuit.



Last year, the commissioners took all the revenue, 5/10ths mil, of Conservation 2020 money to balance the budget. This year, they're putting 1/10th mil into 2020 land management and proposing to use the other 4/10ths mil to balance the budget.

Transportation Director – Jim Boesch

It appears the only way sidewalks can be considered along Estero Parkway is if Estero becomes a municipality. Once Walmart is completed, sidewalks will be necessary from a safety aspect.

Traffic at the Williams Road and US41 intersection is going to become a problem in the near future due to the fact there are no right turn arrows going north or left turn arrows going south onto US41. Hertz has projected there will be 550-600 people traveling that intersection during the week. In addition, the Living Waters Church will increase nearby traffic from their school and Sunday church services. The Transportation Committee is working with the county to resolve this problem.

Collier County's beach re-nourishment project will continue for 6 years but it will be a smaller project than in the past. Lee County Commissioners are working with Collier County on agreements to keep the sand trucks off the residential portion of Corkscrew Road, instead traveling the Alico Road extension to I-75.

Governmental Affairs Director – Howard Levitan

The Estero Community Plan has been approved by the BOCC and is in a 31-day appeal period with the state. On Oct. 6, assuming no one appeals the plan, it will become law. This follows four years of meetings with Estero and county planners, as well as members of the community. This plan will become part of the village's Comprehensive Plan. It is now on the ECCL website at www.EsteroToday.com.

Community Planning – Roger Strelow

The ECCL is preparing information, options and recommendations on a wide variety of critical issues that the new village council will face in March 2015 when it first convenes, should the incorporation referendum pass. Bob Lienesch is heading the finance group; Jim Boesch, public works and transportation; Phil Douglas, staffing and administration; Howard Levitan, land use and planning; Marilyn Edwards, village website; and Roger Strelow, inter-local agreements and transition ordinances needed to establish various policies and procedures. Outside experts have also been enlisted to provide their perspective on these areas. The ECCL is gathering information to provide options for the village council to consider. The elected council will make the final decisions.

Voting for the incorporation referendum is on **November 4**. Following a positive vote, the ECCL will organize forums for prospective council candidates. There will be seven village council districts. Estero residents may vote for all seven district council representatives. Voting for the village council will take place on **March 3**, with the first council meeting occurring on **March 17**. The council will select the mayor from the council members.

Communications Director – Marilyn Edwards

The EsteroToday.com website is constantly being updated with articles, with everything from the new Estero Community Plan, Estero signage documents, voting and incorporation information, as well as chamber music concerts at the Koreshan state park. Residents may recommend their favorite small business to be featured in the Estero Business section.

A “Meet & Greet” will be held at **9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27** at the **EFR** district headquarters on Three Oaks Parkway. This will include a short incorporation presentation and an opportunity for questions and answers.

VisitEstero.com and the Estero United Methodist Church will conduct Estero’s inaugural Christmas tree lighting event at **5:30 p.m., Friday, November 28**, on the church grounds. Flyers are being emailed to ECCL members providing all the details, including how businesses and residents can help sponsor this special event.

Next meeting: Friday, October 10, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park.

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

Marilyn Edwards, ECCL Communications Director