



Executive Summary

Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting

June 14, 2013

District 76 State Representative Ray Rodrigues – Guest Speaker

Rep. Rodrigues reported the key accomplishments from this legislative session were passing a balanced budget, increasing the amount in our state's reserves and reducing the state debt.

Since the economy has started to turn around, they were able to restore some of the cuts that had been made to a number of programs. Education was increased by \$1 billion and they were able to increase funding across-the-board for health and human services.

The first bill he filed dealt with the public's right to speak at government meetings. This bill put into law the fact that the public has the right for limited comment. It was recently determined that the Sunshine Statutes do not ensure this right.

The second bill he filed allows Florida military families stationed around the world the opportunity to cast their votes for state, county or municipal races. Prior to this bill, their vote was only counted for federal races. Now every ballot will be counted.

The biggest disappointment for him was that he had filed a bill on regulating hydraulic fracturing, which did not pass. He stated it's been reported that oil companies have invested between \$10-20 million in Collier, Lee and Hendry counties acquiring mineral rights, and they may want to perform fracking as a form of drilling for oil. He will continue to work on this bill next session.

Bonita Springs Report – Hon. Steve McIntosch

Councilman McIntosch stated that if the group Vote Estero continues on its plan for cityhood, 842 Pelican Landing residents would have the option of voting (1) for or (2) against Estero becoming a city, but they would not have the option of (3) saying they want to be in the city of Bonita Springs. When an unnamed group went to the Supervisor of Elections, they were told she could not segregate out those 842 voters to let them have that third option, even though the board of directors of the Pelican Landing Community Association supported that option.

Seventy percent of the landowners are non-Florida residents, so that 70 percent have to vote at 51 percent in order to give these 842 people the right to vote on this third option. More than 51 percent of those landowners have voted. That means that those 842 people will now have the option to vote (1) to stay in unincorporated Estero, (2) for Estero to become a city or (3) to join the city of Bonita Springs.

Some time ago, the Pelican Landing Community Association (PLCA) bought the marina behind the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Hotel for their residents. It lays outside of the city limits. The

board of directors of the PLCA came to Councilman McIntosch and asked how they could bring the marina into the city. WCI has signed an agreement to bring a portion of their property into the city, which allows the PLCA to bring the marina into the city. This would change the city structure, and that's on the agenda Wednesday, June 19.

Chairman Nick Batos

Chairman Batos stated the ECCL will reach out to the board of directors of PLCA.

The ECCL Board prepared a resolution addressed to the city of Bonita Springs which will be presented at their June 19 meeting. **Governmental Relations Director John Goodrich** read the resolution to the membership. A motion to approve the resolution, as amended, was approved by all members present except one.

Estero Fire Rescue District Report – Chief Scott Vanderbrook

Chief Vanderbrook reported they will be conducting their budget workshop at 10 a.m. on July 16 at the Administration Building on Three Oaks Parkway. Next year will be their 50th anniversary so they will be hosting a lot of events for the community. They met with Hertz representatives to review the process of ensuring the proposed building is up to code.

Some of the building that is going on this year and next year:

Villa Palmeras on Three Oaks Parkway – 25 buildings this year, 25 buildings next year. Estero Place on Three Oaks Parkway and Corkscrew Road – should break ground this year; approximately 100 single family units. The Colony, 6 multi-family buildings behind the Hyatt, 3 buildings this year and 3 buildings next year. Mirosol, Via Coconut Road: 4 buildings this year, 8 buildings next year and 4 buildings in 2015. The Preserve at Corkscrew on E. Corkscrew Road: 113 homes in 2013, 110 homes in 2014; total build-out will be 400 homes. Corkscrew Woods, E. Corkscrew Road: 85 single family homes in 2014; total build-out it will be 700 homes. Coastal Village: multi-story college student housing on Three Oaks Parkway – 4- 5 buildings, adding 216 more units; this has not been started yet.

Commercial Properties: Miromar Outlet will have 5 tenant build-outs in 2013, 10 tenant build-outs in 2014, and possibly the final phase in 2015. Coconut Point: 2 tenant build-outs in 2013 and 6 tenant build-outs in 2014.

Environment Director – Phil Douglas

The Florida Land and Legacy campaign continues until the end of October, so petitions are still being collected. There will be an on-line petition coming out soon.

The Board of County Commissioners passed the entire package of Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations for the Conservation 20/20 program, which includes a recommended referendum in 2016.

The proposed RCH mine, located on E. Corkscrew Road, went before the appellate court. The court denied their request, so RCH will not be able to mine that property. It is adjacent to two wetland mitigation banks, the Flint Penn flow way, Lee County well fields and 1,000 feet away from several homes.

The “Martini Glass” parcel located on Coconut Road between Lighthouse Bay and Copperleaf went to a hearing last month. The Hearing Examiner recommended approval of the zoning change, which removes the right-of-way for an overpass over I-75 and allows up to 200 multi-family units on that property.

Community Planning – John Goodrich for Roger Strelow

The Estero Community Plan is in process. It will be completed around the end of 2014 or sometime in 2015. It’s critical that Estero residents be involved. There will be several workshops, perhaps one as early as July.

Goodrich reported we’re making progress on the signage violations. The Estero code does not allow flying banners, balloons, etc. The ECCL is very pleased with how the county has been cooperating with the enforcement. Some businesses have expressed concern this will negatively affect them and we’re working with them.

There will be a presentation by a Hertz representative at the next Estero Community Planning Panel meeting on Monday, June 14 at 5 p.m. at the Estero Community Park.

Governmental Relations Director – John Goodrich

The Board of County Commissioners has selected two candidates to review for the position of County Manager. Their first choice is Joyce Wilson, City Manager for the city of El Paso, TX. Roger Desjarlais, currently Lee County’s Deputy Property Appraiser, will be considered if contract negotiations do not work out with Wilson.

Transportation Director – Jim Boesch

The US 41 construction project is currently scheduled for completion by mid to late fall.

Carmen Monroy is the new Florida Department of Transportation Director. She will be attending our Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, June 20 at 10 a.m.

Improvements to the Corkscrew Road/I-75 interchange were included in the 2030 long range transportation plan back in 2005. The Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Citizens Advisory Committee was informed at a recent meeting that these improvements will be put off until 2027. A resolution requesting this project be completed within the next 5 years was read to the membership; the motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously.

Communications Director – Marilyn Edwards

One to three news releases are issued monthly, which usually result in several newspaper articles. This past month there were a number of print articles, including a very positive editorial, as a result of a news release about the study of future development of Estero’s commercial lands.

There was a large number of print and TV interviews with ECCL directors regarding the Hertz headquarters moving to Estero and the proposed Lee Memorial south Lee County hospital.

The monthly Estero Development Report and the Executive Summary are sent to ECCL representatives, other interested Estero residents, the Board of County Commissioners, news media and Hertz management, and posted on the ECCL web site and Facebook.

Chairman Emeritus – Don Eslick

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration filed a recommendation to deny Lee Memorial's application to build an 80-bed hospital in our community. Lee Memorial has 21 days to file an appeal, which they plan to do. This process will probably take a year to complete.

We have hired a consultant to help us understand how the many vacant commercial lands in Estero can best be marketed. The consultant should have a report available in the next month and we plan to hold a public meeting with the landowners at that time.

We've been working with the architect who designed the Estero Community Park. The park, as it stands today, is Phase I of the plan. Phase II places the main entrance to the park on the west side, at Via Coconut Road. We talked about how that might lend itself to being part of a town center development since there are about 250 acres of vacant land just west of the park.

The Private Equity Group (PEG) had approached FGCU proposing to donate a substantial amount of land east of the university. In return, PEG wanted the university to sign off on their development without specifying what that development would be. The university's foundation will make the final decision. We're meeting on Monday with the foundation's new president and with their new executive director in the next few weeks.

Next meeting: Friday, August 9, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park

Marilyn Edwards, Communications Director