



Executive Summary  
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting  
November 8, 2013

**Nicole Johnson**  
**Director, Governmental Relations**  
**Conservancy of Southwest Florida**

The Bonita Springs' DRGR (Density Reduction Groundwater Resource) area has been studied a number of times. A new planning effort was initiated because the Bonita Grande Mine is now bank-owned and they want the Bonita Comprehensive Plan to be amended to have that property taken out of the DRGR to increase density.

The City decided to look at the DRGR in its entirety, focusing on the northeast quadrant. One premise of the Barraco Plan suggested that, by allowing additional development in that area, an opportunity would exist for private development to fund all the necessary improvements. Another was allowing additional residential development; presently, there are 760 units there.

The plan recommended making a new land use district, called the Imperial Community District, and allowing 6300 additional units.

The Conservancy has concerns about water quality, flood control, well field protection and protecting the public water supply. There has been a long-standing controversy over whether or not the Bonita DRGR recharges the groundwater. A study conducted in 2005 concluded there is significant recharge.

The Conservancy is recommending gathering all the water experts together, along with developers and residents, to plan what needs to be done Bonita-wide from a water resource perspective.

On Nov. 6, the Bonita City Council voted for a one-year moratorium and to create a water task force to further study this issue. (See Nicole's PowerPoint presentation.)

#### **Estero Fire Rescue District – Chief Scott Vanderbrook**

They will assist residents with changing batteries in smoke detectors that are unreachable. They're planning an open house in February to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Flu shots are still available.

They have 30 paramedics, with two paramedics on each of the vehicles. All 911 calls go to the sheriff's dept. If the call relates to fire or medical, then it goes to the Lee County Public Safety

911 center. They dispatch all fire departments and EMS for the entire county. The county computer system picks the closest fire unit and sends it to your call; boundaries are not a consideration. Every one of the fire trucks has a computer in it, similar to the GPS, which gives the shortest route to the caller's address. They also have an emergency vehicle access control device that allows them to get into communities by opening the gates without the blaring of sirens.

### **Bonita Springs' Annexation Referendum Jack Lienesch & Don Eslick**

There have been two meetings in Pelican Landing with Mayor Nelson and Jack Lienesch speaking about the pros and cons of annexation/incorporation. There will be two more forums for the entire Pelican Landing community, one on Jan. 6 and a final one on Feb. 7.

The Colony has a forum scheduled on Jan. 10 at the Bay Club. Jack will be the moderator, Don will represent Estero and Mayor Nelson will represent Bonita. Don has been working with the leaders in The Colony regarding the annexation and incorporation issue.

The County has told the City of Bonita Springs they don't have enough consent forms on file for the annexation referendum. The City is working to rectify this.

### **Update on Incorporation Efforts John Goodrich, Bob Lienesch, Phil Douglas, Nick Batos**

Thirty-three community meetings have been completed with approximately 2,000 attendees. There will be one more **public workshop** for all of those who have not yet heard the Incorporation Referendum presentation. All Estero residents are welcome to attend this workshop at **6 p.m., November 20**, at the **Recreation Center**.

The cost of getting the referendum is anticipated to be \$75,000. We've already spent \$32,000; we've received \$31,000 to date. There are 251 residents who have contributed to the effort. We need continuing support to reach our goal. Members are asked to approach their boards and neighbors for contributions.

(Editor's Note: At this point in the meeting, Estero Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Gene Montenieri presented the ECCL with a check for \$4,144. This represents the \$2,072 the Chamber received in revenue from the Taste of Coconut Point event and the Chamber's contribution of matching funds.)

9,013 petitions and 32 resolutions of support from Estero communities have been signed to date. Petitions need to be signed by Nov. 15.

Rep. Ray Rodrigues will host a second **Town Hall** at **6 p.m., Tuesday, November 12**, at the **Estero High School**. This is an opportunity to let your delegation know whether or not you support the incorporation referendum.

The **Lee County Legislative Delegation** annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 3**, at Edison State College in Fort Myers. An Alert will be sent out prior to the meeting.

**Environment – Phil Douglas**

The Lost Grove Mine application has been withdrawn. The Troyer Brothers' mine application was denied again, but there is a chance they will still pursue this application. The Florida Land & Water Legacy campaign is close to getting all of the signatures required.

### **Community Planning – Roger Strelow**

The Estero Community Plan update was reviewed at an ECPP workshop last night; another public workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3. (See Oct. EDR.)

The Research & Enterprise Diamond area has regained some life recently. (See Oct. EDR.)

The Dan A. Hughes Co. is seeking oil drilling permits in Golden Gate Estates but it also has mineral leases in Lee County. The County is aware of the lease tracks; there has been no application for any kind of a permit at this point. There has been drilling in Lee County for years but if there are any new proposals, we will be keeping on top of this.

Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) are a very important tool for economically and environmentally sound development. TDRs would allow property owners with limited development rights to sell those rights to developers in areas where higher densities would be allowed. A long-awaited final report will be discussed at a task force meeting next week.

### **Transportation – Jim Boesch**

The issue of 400 trucks traveling down Corkscrew Road each day to deliver sand to Collier County beaches is still causing safety concerns. Lee County commissioners have strongly supported the use of Alico Road instead of endangering the residents of East Corkscrew Road. The Lee County sheriff's department is closely monitoring the road for speeding and inspection of the trucks. Five Corkscrew Road communities have joined in an injunction which will be reviewed next week.

Work has started on the right-turn lane from Williams Road onto US41 south. This should be completed in 60 days.

### **Chairman Emeritus – Don Eslick**

Don and Scotty Wood testified in Tallahassee on the first day of the trial for the Lee Memorial Health System's application for a South Lee Community Hospital. Naples Community Hospital will be testifying against the application during the second week of the trial.

A study was recently completed analyzing the market for future use of the 1,000 acres of vacant land in Estero's commercial corridors. The consultants, committee members, property owners and developers met last week to begin a dialogue to see how to best move ahead. Another meeting will be held sometime soon with these same groups to determine where we go from here. The goal is to develop partnerships between the community and the land owners to get that land developed as quickly as possible at our high standards.

We've organized the East Estero communities so that they can speak with one voice regarding a number of development proposals in their area. This group is comprised of 5,000 households in Grandezza, Stoneybrook, Wildcat Run, Bella Terra and the developers of 3 other housing developments on East Corkscrew Road. One of the issues is the Miromar Lakes proposal of developing high-density student housing and retail immediately north of Grandezza. That case

is going through the Lee County Hearing Examiner. The communities are also looking into the 5,000-acre Private Equity Group's proposal, also adjacent to FGCU, which will have a big impact on Estero.

### **ECCL Elections - Nick Batos**

Election of the 2014 ECCL Board members will take place at the January meeting. Anyone who is interested in serving on the board may contact ECCL Secretary Howard Levitan. The slate will be announced at the December meeting and the voting will occur in January.

**Next meeting: Friday, December 13, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park. The guest speaker will be presenting an update on Hertz.**

For more information about the ECCL, Estero Community Planning Panel and Estero Design Review Committee go to [www.esterofl.org](http://www.esterofl.org).

**Marilyn Edwards, Communications Director**