



Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
February 14, 2014

Brian Hamman
District 4 Lee County Commissioner

Brian was appointed to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) by Governor Scott on October 29, 2013. He feels he was selected because he was an announced Republican candidate for the position and lives in the district. In November, he was elected Vice Chairman of the BOCC, and in January, he was elected Vice Chairman of the Port Authority Board.

Brian wants to create an “opportunity” economy in Lee County so that people can live, work and raise their families here. He believes far too many people have to move out of town to find jobs outside of the tourist industry. The board also has to look at what lines of business they need to get into and what businesses the private sector should handle.

In 2014, Brian wants voters to have an opportunity to vote on three-year term limits for County Commissioners. He also stated he believes in public participation at all meetings.



Brian Hamman, County Commissioner

Estero Fire Rescue District – Chief Scott Vanderbrook

March 9 starts Daylight Savings Time; don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. We can assist by replacing batteries in very high ceilings. We also take old flags and dispose of them properly. There were about 300-400 people who attended our 50th anniversary open house. We're working with Lee County Public Safety, 911 and EMS to establish a program where we have GPS coordinates of 96 golf courses so we can respond more quickly to emergency situations occurring on a golf course.

Bonita Springs' Annexation Activities – Jack Lienesch & Don Eslick

We've received a large number of mailings from Bonita Springs regarding this issue. There have been 5 debates in Pelican Landing, and we've sent out 4 letters to the residents of The Colony. Ballots have now been mailed to the residents of both of these communities; the ballots are to be returned by 7 p.m., February 25.

Incorporation Update – John Goodrich

We have a new PowerPoint presentation which we will present for all Estero residents at 9:30 – 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 4, and again at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27, at the Estero Community Park, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. These workshops will provide new information about the incorporation process, as well as allow residents an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Organizations or communities wanting individual workshops may contact John at johnbarbgoodrich@comcast.net.

Governmental Affairs – Howard Levitan

When you attend Estero's ECCL, ECPP and EDRC meetings, you may raise your hand and participate; that's the way we should be working with our government in Lee County. There will be no public participation at the Tuesday afternoon, February 18, BOCC workshop regarding the critical issue of impact fees.

Don Eslick formed a new group called Lee Public Voice consisting of 30 Lee County leaders from environmental groups and non-profit organizations. This new group wants to have an impact on public participation. Our first effort will be to speak en force at Tuesday's BOCC morning meeting, since we are not able to speak at their workshop that afternoon.

Environment – Phil Douglas

Phil stated he hopes all Estero residents will vote in favor of Florida Land and Legacy amendment when it appears on the ballot in November 2014. This amendment will protect important natural areas in Florida. Once approved, the Legislature cannot divert these funds for other purposes. It will not increase taxes because the funds will come from the "doc" stamp revenue.

Phil also stated he's not sure that the BOCC has a commitment to Conservation 2020. They diverted funds from this program last year and put them in the general fund. Lee County has less public lands under ownership than any other coastal county in south Florida, and we're being told we have too many. When the BOCC starts looking at the budget again, we're going to have to let them know we want them to support 2020 and that we want to have it on a referendum in 2016.

Community Planning – Roger Strelow

The updating of our Estero Plan, as part of the overall Lee County Comprehensive Plan revision, has been delayed, and we don't know how long it will take for the County to complete its entire revision process. We are hoping that process will be completed before the anticipated incorporation of a Village of Estero. If not, we will present what the Estero Planning Panel has completed to the new Village council, once elected, to consider its adoption.



The core value of Estero is wide-spread public participation; this is an issue that we need to address in the campaign for the Village Council. Part of the preparation in the election process is to address this and other important issues so that our candidates can respond to them.

Another core issue in Estero is our signage. Whenever we see balloons, flags, pennants, we continue to work with the County to enforce our strict guidelines. I sent the County 11 violations recently. Once Estero becomes a municipality, it will handle these issues. We're preparing a brochure to distribute to all new business owners explaining Estero's strict signage restrictions.

Chairman Emeritus Don Eslick

We have 1,000 acres of vacant commercial land in Estero that we want to have developed and developed in the right way. We've already had several workshops to address this; we've got another 3 ½ –day workshop coming up on Monday, February 24. Collier's International has agreed to work with us to develop a marketing program to market some of these properties to Corporate America and Corporate World. They, Hertz, Lutgert and Barron-Collier will all participate in the workshop along with local planners, members of the Estero Community Planning Panel and Estero Design Review Committee. Once the workshop is completed, we'll have a meeting with all of the local landowners again so that they may become part of the process as we continue to try to determine how the new Village council should function from a land use perspective.

We were contacted by the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), which is a national association of developers. ULI does research on where development ought to be moving. They will conduct a breakfast program called "All Eyes on Estero, Building a Healthy Place" at 8:30-10:30 a.m., March 12 at FGCU. They're bringing in one of their experts to make a presentation and moderate a panel discussion. We'll provide additional information soon.

On Tuesday at the BOCC meeting, Lee Public Voice will be addressing three different items that we would like to have residents speak to: impact fees, Conservation 2020 and the importance of having meaningful input at all public meetings. We would like to have a crowd show the commissioners that there is a meaningful voice in Lee County and it's not just private interests that ought to be listened to.

**Next meeting: Friday, March 14, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park.
Guest speaker will be Conservancy of Southwest Florida President and CEO Rob Moher.**

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

Marilyn Edwards, ECCL Communications Director