

ECCL Report: October 12, 2018

Executive Summary: 176th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders



Village Report: Roadway improvements on Estero Parkway are expected to start in April or May 2019. The Hertz Corporation has been asked to present a new proposal for painting the Hertz Arena. The Village Council voted to join the other 5 Lee County municipalities in an effort to change the Lake Okeechobee Water Release schedule in order to improve coastal water quality and tourist economy. Lastly, the Council is considering legislation that would cause Estero gas stations to protect their digital systems on gas pumps.

Lee Health Coconut Point: Lee Health Coconut Point will open December 3. It will have an open house on November 17 that will begin at 7:30am with a 5K walk/run. The festivities and tours will begin at 9:00am.

Sanibel Water Contamination Issues: The ECCL is supporting the Municipal Coalition seeking to have the SFWMD and Corp of Engineers assist in the fight of our water contamination problems. The Coalition is opposing the proposed Minimum Flow Level (MFL) policy update and proposing that updated real-time data is used to move forward.

Proposed Development of the Former Weeks Fish Camp Property: There is a Public Information Meeting scheduled for October 18 at 6:00pm at Estero High School on London Bay Properties' development proposal for this site. The ECCL encourages residents to attend to stay informed and make sure the developer knows how important we think a substantial public access marina is to Estero residents' quality of life. This site is our last opportunity to provide convenient public access to Estero Bay!

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & Budget: The Final 2018-19 Village Budget Meeting occurred on September 20. The operating budget and the Village's first Capital Improvement Plan, that included money for the purchase of the Estero on the River land, were approved.

Estero on the River Property: The purchase of the "Estero on the River" property has been approved and the purchase process is underway. The Purchase and Sale Agreement is scheduled for approval on October 24 with financing to follow and the closing scheduled for January 14, 2019. After the purchase closes, the Village plans to hire a consultant to manage the planning process for use of the property with public input.

Estero Educational Outreach: The EOC has a continuing need for volunteers for Junior Achievement, assistance with Estero's four public schools, and the Fall Program for the FGCU Institute for Entrepreneurship. Please consider signing up.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, November 9, 2018 at 10:00am at Estero Community Park.

ESTERO FIRE RESCUE

- Fire Chief *Scott Vanderbrook*

- Estero Fire Rescue teams have been sent to the panhandle to help with **hurricane relief**.
- **October is Fire Prevention Month.**
 - School and community programs are being conducted.

VILLAGE REPORT

- Council Member *Jon McLain*

• Estero Parkway

- Estero Parkway will be 1.8 miles long and include 7ft bike lanes to protect bikers.
- The Village Council will review in a Workshop on Wednesday, October 17.
- The project is projected to start in April-May and finish by the end of 2019.
- The lighting plan is still in the works. Councilman McLain asks for support on lighting the parkway and including lighting in the budget.



• Hertz Arena

- Design Review Board received a presentation for the new design for the arena where a 100% yellow building was building proposed.
- Design Review Board asked for another proposal with less yellow.
- The design for the headquarters was not approved by the community.

• Caloosahatchee Water Releases

- Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane approached the Council to support his initiative, which includes:
 - Maintaining the Caloosahatchee's estuary
 - Balancing salinity levels in the river
 - 6 new water monitoring systems along the river (already been implemented)
- We will be able to use this info to see if water levels are sufficient for the ecosystem and create new data for future standards.
- The Mayor is asking for a trial and to use the data to establish new standards.

- Residents can reach out to the South Florida Water Management District about this issue: <https://www.sfwmd.gov>
- This effort could help in the next 6 months to a year.
- **Estero Retail Pump Protection Plan**
 - There has been an issue with credit card theft while paying by card at gas pumps.
 - The Village is working on developing an ordinance that will require all gas stations to incorporate the new locking devices on the pumps.
 - The locks will be unique to the station.
- Learn more about what's happening with the Village Council on their website: <https://estero-fl.gov>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FEEDBACK

- **Joyce Johnson:** When will there be landscaping done on the roundabout on Williams? Marsh Landing would like it done sooner rather than later.
- **Bill Savage from the Alley Club:** Thank you to the Village for power-washing the wall along Via Coconut Point and having the grass around it mowed.
- **Kent Seibert from the Groves:** People are parking and camping on the south side of the river, the west side of Sandy Lane. Lee County Sherriff has been chasing them off, but they keep coming back. Are there signs we can put up so that they can be arrested or penalized somehow?
 - You can contact David Willems, the Public Works Director at (239) 221-5035.
- **Marsha Mehmel from Rookery Pointe:** The north fork of the Estero River runs through Rookery Pointe. Approximately 3-4 weeks ago, the ditch in the area was dug out. The North Fork Estuary, under the highway, has developed a large island that's growing bigger and bigger and blocking water flow. Why didn't they dig out the ditch deeper to help water flow?
 - You can contact David Willems, the Public Works Director at (239) 221-5035.
- **Marsha, cont:** Is there something that can be done about the local businesses that have let their red tile roofs turn black?



LEE HEALTH COCONUT POINT UPDATE

- *Alex Greenwood, VP Lee Health Coconut Point*

- **Lee Health Coconut Point Opening**
 - Opening on December 3 with 2,220 employees.
 - Ronnie Cecil, Director of Plant Operations, invites anyone who has questions when they are at the site to see him.
- **The Leadership Team will include:**
 - Amanda Garcia, Director of Nursing
 - 15 years background in health care

- Started with Lee Health in 2006
- Mary Klein, Executive Secretary at Coconut Point
 - Over 20 years of experience
- Kory Maurer : Secretary to Ronny Cecil, Carrie Bloemers, and Kirk Stone
- Joe Ryan, Director of Ancillary Services
 - Background in Physical Therapy
 - Started with Lee Health in 2010
- Kirk Stone, Director of Professional Service
 - Overseeing all of registration and housekeeping, food services, and security
- Angela Snyder, Director of Lee Physician Group
 - Background in RN and critical care for 23 years
 - In leadership and the community for 5 years
- Carrie Bloemers, Manager of Healthy Life Center
 - Registered dietician
 - Worked with Lee Health for 5 years
- Molly Grubbs, Community Business Development Representative
 - Focused on community and technology

- **Lee Health Coconut Point Open House:
November 17**

- 5k run/walk at 7:30am and official open house begins at 9:00am
- Event will include tours, cooking demonstrations, children’s activities, and more
- The 140 October tour opportunities slots filled within two days of ECCL’s promotion of them.



- **Announcements**

- Hospital tower was preliminarily approved by the state in July.
- Several Challenges have been filed and are now being reviewed by the State with a final decision expected next spring or summer.
- Lee Health Coconut Point is being built to Category 5 hurricane standards in anticipation of hospital approval.

- **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Lee Health is currently recruiting volunteers
- To volunteer, go to: http://www.leehealth.org/volunteer/vol-program_new.asp
 - All Lee Health Coconut Point volunteers must register through Gulf Coast Medical Center
- All volunteers must:
 - Complete a two-step TB (Tuberculosis) Test
 - Attend a 2.5 hour orientation session

- Have a flu shot during flu season (at Lee Health’s expense)
- Submit an application
- **November edition of “Healthy News” will be entirely dedicated to Coconut Point.**
- Learn more about the Lee Health Coconut Point facility at Lee Health’s website:
<https://www.leehealth.org/coconut-point>

SANIBEL: WATER CONTAMINATION ISSUES

- Sanibel’s Director of Natural Resources, *James Evans*

- **Supporting the Municipal Coalition Seeking SFWMD and Corp of Engineers to Fight Our Water Contamination Problems**
- **Concerns of the Proposed Minimum Flow Level (MFL) Policy Update:**
 - *Too Much Flow During Rainy Season*
 - Lost 11,000 acres of lake and marsh storage
 - Lack of storage = no treatment
 - This can lead to an overgrowth of algae and strongly affect the area’s economy and tourism
 - *Too Little Flow During Dry Season*
 - This can destroy critical habitat for manatees, fish, shrimp, and blue crabs
 - Can lead to different algae growing and affect sea life and the economy
- **SFWMD Ecological Targets for Caloosahatchee Estuary**
 - *Low Flow*
 - <450 cfs: High salinity in upper estuary causes mortality of tape grass habitat (data suggest 650 cfs).
 - *High Flow*
 - >2800 cfs: low salinity causes mortality of marine organisms in seawards portion of the estuary.
 - >4500 cfs: low salinity in San Carlos Bay causes mortality of seagrasses.
 - >6500 cfs: low salinity plume enters Gulf of Mexico, adverse impacts on submerged aquatic vegetation and water quality in Pine Island Sound.
 - **Based on 30-day moving average flow at Franklin Lock (S-79)*
- **What is a Minimum Flow Level (MFL)?**
 - MFL is the “limit at which further water withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.” (Section 373.042(1), Florida Statutes)
 - SFWMD defines significant harm as “the temporary loss of water resource functions which result from a change in surface or groundwater hydrology, that



takes more than two years to recover, but which is considered less severe than serious harm.”

- **Why Are We Challenging the Proposed MFL Update?**
 - The proposed rule is less protective than the 2001 rule (flow target vs. salinity target).
 - Shifts the ecological baseline away from a sensitive ecological indicator habitat (i.e., tape grass) and averages it over several fewer sensitive indicators.
 - Would result in higher dry season salinities and impacts to all organisms that depend on the low-salinity zone (0.5-6 psu).
- **Hearing is Scheduled for October 29 & 30**
- Watch James Evans’s full presentation on ECCL’s YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBC9mbLzVp0>

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONDON BAY PROPERTY

- *Bob King, Irv Nathanson, & Vicki Olson*

- **About the Weeks Fish Camp / London Bay Property**
 - London Bay has committed to maintaining the marina
 - The property is about 32 acres
- **Who is the Developer?**
 - London Bay Homes Estero Bay Investments, LLC
 - Link to Proposed Development:
<https://lbhbayview.com>
- **What is Being Proposed?**
 - A Continuing Care Retirement Community with 300 units
 - Reactivation of a marina
- **Jurisdiction**
 - Bonita Springs
- **Public Information Meeting: October 18 at 6:00pm at Estero High School**
 - *Why Should We Attend?*
 - To make sure the developer knows how important we think the marina is to Estero residents’ quality of life.
 - To get the facts on what is being proposed so we can be informed.
 - To be able to take what we learn back to the Village Council and request support to make sure the marina is built.
- **Village Comprehensive Plan**
 - Policy 1.2.1 discourage new public access to the Estero river for motorized watercraft.
 - Policy 1.2.2 The Village will cooperate to the extent practicable with the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County to provide public access to the Estero Bay.
- **This is our last opportunity to gain access to Estero Bay!**



SHOULD THE GERMAINE ARENA BE PAINTED “HERTZ YELLOW?”

- Don Eslick

- On October 3, the Design Review Board reviewed Hertz’s proposal, which had been publicized by Hertz prior to the meeting.
- When the ECCL learned about the proposal, we sent out an email to our email list with renderings of the arena as Hertz would like to have it painted and asked the readers to tell the members of the Design Review Board (DRB) if they like it or didn’t like it. **437 people emailed the Design Review Board.**
 - 97% were opposed to painting the facility as Hertz had recommended
 - About 100 people were at the meeting, only one spoke in favor
- Hertz hadn’t consulted their architects about the design. Their branding and marketing department developed it.
- This was a preliminary information meeting. There will be two more meetings before a final decision is made.
- It was made clear to Hertz and the arena’s owner that they would need to come up with a new proposal.



ECCL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bob King

- **Village of Estero Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & Budget Update**
 - Final Public Input Meeting, followed by CIP & Budget Adoption, occurred on September 20 at 5:30pm
 - The budget and the purchase of the 62 acres were approved.
- **County Traffic Study (AIM/Corkscrew Road Report)**
 - <https://www.leegov.com/corkscrew>
 - *Task 6:* Transportation Improvement Cost Estimates (Coming Soon)
 - *Task 7:* Environmental Support Tasks (Coming Soon)
 - *Task 8:* Proportionate Share Analysis/Identification of Potential
 - *Financing Options:* Lee County is working to establish the proportionate share of infrastructure-improvement costs that new development within the overlay will pay. This will be an important funding source – one of many – for the infrastructure improvements for this area.
- **Status of the Developments on Corkscrew Road**
 - *Verdana:* 1,425 units
 - Comp plan amendment in process
 - Zoning is in process

- *Pepperland Ranch: 700 units*
 - Comp plan amendment approved
 - Zoning is approved
 - **Year 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan**
 - Long range planning is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
 - Mandated by the Federal Transportation Administration
 - The MPO Mission Statement: “Our mission is to provide leadership and promote regional mobility, encourage a positive investment climate and foster sustainable development sensitive to community and natural resources.”
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- **MPO Board Members**
 - Lee County Board of Commissioners for all unincorporated areas
 - Appointed member of incorporated municipalities is generally a council member
 - **Long Range Plan**
 - Every 5 years the current plan is updated, adding 5 years
 - The next plan will cover 2020-2045 (25 years)
 - The 2045 plan will be adopted by December 2020.
 - **What Will Be Different? The 2045 Plan is Likely to be a Big Departure**
 - Vehicles have changed little in last 40 years
 - Powered by internal combustion engine
 - Carry 4 to 7 passengers
 - Require bigger roads as numbers increase
 - Vehicles will change dramatically
 - Experts like Daniel Sperling of U.C. Davis propose three big changes:
 - Electrification: Many electric vehicles are on the road today
 - Automation: First signs are crash avoidance and driver assist
 - Pooling (like Uber): The car in the garage is gone
 - *The next Transportation Committee Meeting is Thursday, October 18 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*
 - *Land Development Code Meeting is Tuesday, October 16 at 5:30pm at Village Hall.*
 - *London Bay Proposed Weeks Development Meeting is Thursday, October 18 at 6:00pm at Estero High School.*

HEATH COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Don Eslick / Lowell Gerson*

- The committee is going through the process to get Estero nationally certified as a safe community.

- The process is largely data driven.
- So far, they have cooperation of the Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition, which includes Lee Health and the trauma center, the Sheriff's Department, MPO, Bike Ped Lee, and Safe Kids in addition to the Village and the Fire Department.
- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is Friday, October 26 at 4:00pm at the Commons Enrichment Center at The Brooks.*
- Learn more about the ECCL's Health Committee at the ECCL's website:
<http://esterotoday.com/about-eccl/eccl-hospital-committee>

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Pete Cangialosi*

- **Argo, Corkscrew Crossing**
 - 625 Units
 - 396 Acres Total
 - 178 Acres Developed
 - 178 Acres of Wetlands Filled
 - 218 Acres Preserved
 - Planning & Zoning Board Meeting for this project: To be determined.
- Learn more about Estero-area environmental issues at the ECCL website:
<http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/environment>

"ESTERO ON THE RIVER" PROPERTY, PURCHASE, & PLANNING

- *Jim Tatoes*

- **Update on Purchase of Property**
 - The purchase is taking place now. Hopefully this will be complete by the end of October. If that happens, it will be closed after January 1, so the actual ownership should take place in January.
 - At that time, the Village will seek out a Land Planning Consultant.
 - Then, the Village will speak to the public to get opinions on what will be implicated.



ESTERO EDUCATION OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC), CONNECTING WITH THE ESTERO EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY

- *Jim Shields, Kevin Tolliver, & Bill Motzer*

- **Junior Achievement Estero Schools Recruitment Progress Report** – Jim Shields
 - The Lee School Board has agreed to a curriculum where JA will be invited into the classrooms and be part of the curriculum for 2nd graders, 5th graders, 8th

graders, and 11th graders at Estero-area schools. The programs will focus on work readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

- Classes will be facilitated by team-teaching volunteer *Estero Education Ambassadors* recruited by ECCL Education Outreach Council leadership team.
- *Volunteers:*
 - 74% are current or former business leaders/owners
 - 26% are former career educators who want to return to the classroom.
- Junior Achievement Classes are included in school curriculum at all four schools: Pine Woods Elementary, Three Oaks Elementary, Three Oaks Middle School, and Estero High School
- For current school year 2018 – '19 volunteer Estero Education Ambassadors will facilitate more than 60 classes involving separate 300 class-sessions.
- In 2019 Junior Achievement will celebrate its 100th Anniversary.
- **EOC Assistance to Pinewoods Elementary** – Kevin Tolliver
 - *Introducing the AVID Program*
 - Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
 - Program for children who have barriers to attending college (ex. potential first-generation college students)
 - Nick Batos is spearheading this initiative for the Village
 - Volunteers are needed for this program (currently have 25-30 volunteers)
- **Fall Program for the FGCU Institute for Entrepreneurship (IFE)** – Bill Motzer
 - *Three Programs*
 - Veterans program for mentoring
 - Runway program for helping students develop ideas
 - Program for students majoring or minoring in entrepreneurship.
 - Since 2017, this program has grown to 375 students with an increase in staff to mentor, teach, and direct the Program.
 - IFE recently announced plans to move to re-locate to main campus once funds have been secured to make that possible.
- Volunteer online at <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council/eoc-school-volunteer-application>
- Or contact Kevin Tolliver, EOC Liaison to Lee County Schools kptolliver1@gmail.com | (317) 752-3486
- Learn more about the EOC on the ECCL website: <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council>



FINANCIAL REPORT

- *Don Eslick for Bob Lienesch*

- There is a need to increase our revenue.
 - A social media advertising campaign has been implemented to assist with this.
- Expenses for the month of September came in at \$1,098. This included internet communications, media, PR, and visual communications.
- Excess of expenses over income for September are \$1,098 and excess of expenses over income for 2018 are \$7,386.
- The ECCL's cash balance as of September 30, 2018 is \$8,745.
- For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>



[[Watch the whole October 12th meeting here.](#)]