



The ECCL Membership Report
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
July 24th, 2015

138th Monthly Meeting
[\(Agenda\)](#)

Don Eslick, Chairman of the ECCL, welcomed about 70 ECCL members and visiting guests. He described ECCL's extensive communications capabilities and the role it is playing in keeping the residents of Estero informed and participating in Village Council and Committee meetings. Don confirmed that all in attendance receive the ECCL's reports, alerts and updates. He pointed out that we have a new name for the monthly recap of the meeting now called ***The ECCL Membership Report, which replaces the prior "Executive Summary"***.

Village Report

In attendance was ***Mayor Nick Batos*** who spoke about searching for the new Village headquarters with the ability to expand and to increase parking for those attending meetings. As time goes on the Village will need more space as well for outsourced services. In addition, negotiations on the intergovernmental agreement are underway with Lee County and he anticipates it will be completed by end of August or early September. The Village's 2015-16 budget, which will be finalized at the end of September, is anticipated to have a much larger surplus than expected. He mentioned that there would be a workshop held soon for Estero residents to participate in the development of the Village's first 5-year capital improvement program including such things as roads and road maintenance, bike lanes, sidewalks, median landscaping etc. This planning process is expected to take anywhere from six to nine months. The Mayor mentioned that ***ECCL*** had initially created a "bare bones" website for the Village Council, but he was pleased to announce an updated version is now up and running at estero-fl.gov.

ECCL is supporting the Village Council by going to them first with any future issues. The Mayor said, "We need to work together and advocate with one voice through the Village and having said that he understands that we will not always agree on the solutions".

**ECCL Members Vote to Support the Village's Call to
Oppose Further Developments in the DR/GR Prior to Traffic and Environmental Studies**

After a detailed briefing on all the development proposals before the County the ***ECCL members in attendance voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Wild Blue and Corkscrew Farms developments*** until such time as a comprehensive traffic and environmental/water study is done outlining the impact of this development on the DR/GR and the downstream areas of Estero, Bonita Springs and Estero Bay.

ECCL Endorses an Increase in County Funding for Sidewalk and Bike path Projects

ECCL members voted unanimously to support an email campaign to the Board of County Commissioners commencing in late August, after the Village of Estero and Lee County have completed their intergovernmental agreement negotiations, urging the County to increase their funding for Sidewalk and Bike path capital improvements to their pre-recession level of \$2 million in the County's 2015-16 budget that they will adopt in late September

ECCL to Push Traffic and Environmental/Water Study Before Approve Housing Developments in the DR/GR

ECCL members and Estero residents who attended the **ECCL's** monthly meeting Friday said the impact of more development east on Corkscrew Road will accelerate the failure of the road system around the already congested Corkscrew-75 Interchange. The Estero Council of Community Leaders voted Friday to join the Village Council's opposition to two major housing developments that would add 2,400 new families to the Corkscrew Road area. ECCL votes to Oppose All of CR 951 South of Alico Road Being in the MPO's 2040 Plan

After a presentation by Pat Hiltman, ECCL's Transportation Director, and Don Eslick, the ECCL Interim Chairman, and discussion by the ECCL members and guests the members voted unanimously to oppose incorporation of both of the following segments of CR 951 in the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan under development by the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):

- From the Collier County northern boundary to Corkscrew Road, and
- From Corkscrew Road to Alico Road

Five years ago the ECCL and its allies were able to keep the segment south of Corkscrew from the 2035 funding plan. Now that FGCU will have two new entrances, one from the north and one from the south, the eastern entrance from CR 951 is no longer needed.

ECCL members are urged to attend the MPO 2040 Plan Workshop from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25th at the Estero Community Park and express their support of this position.

Other Transportation Actions

The ECCL Transportation Committee, at its July 13th meeting, recommended that the full ECCL membership support Village funding a Corkscrew Road Transportation Corridor Study that would identify all the roadway needs in the Village in a two mile wide corridor surrounding Corkscrew Road for US 41 to 7 miles east of I-75. These improvements would include roadway congestion problems, intersection problems and roadway access/safety problems.

Councilman Jim Wilson urged his fellow Village Councilpersons to budget \$30,000 for this project at the Village Council Workshop on July 22nd. He asked Don Eslick, ECCL Interim Chairman, to inform the Council about the experienced Transportation Planning/Engineering firms that had been interviewed, both of whom recommended a Corkscrew Road Corridor Transportation Study.

The Village Council agreed to budget \$30,000 for the much needed traffic study centered on Corkscrew Road.

Finally the ECCL members and guests approved the establishment of two Transportation sub-committees...one to deal with traffic problems unique to the area of US 41 south of Corkscrew Road and the second one to deal with a different set of traffic problems for the segment of US41 north of Corkscrew Road.

[Read the Proclamation \(page 3\)](#)

Charles Dauray, [President of the College of Life Foundation](#), is the new Chair of the Estero Historic Preservation Citizens Committee. He spoke about the mission of the Committee, indicated they would welcome the help of the ECCL in pursuing their purpose and asked the ECCL to designate a member to join the Committee. On behalf of the Estero Historic Preservation Citizens Committee (the "Committee"), the members of the ECCL voted unanimously to approve a resolution in support of the creation of the committee and to use its considerable communication capability to assist the Committee when asked.

Healthcare Village Update

Lee Memorial Health Systems Wins Court Decision to Uphold Binding Arbitration

LMHS received responses from 8 Construction Management firms and 10 Architectural Design firms that were submitted on or before the July 16th deadline. The next step will be to select the top 3 firms for each category, which is currently scheduled to happen on August 10th. Then each of the top firms will be asked to make a formal presentation to the Selection Committee in the latter part of August for approval by the Lee Memorial Board at their September meeting.

The **LMHS** and **NCH** arbitration has been scheduled for July 28th. NCH has filed multiple motions to stay the arbitration. None have been granted to date and unless granted the arbitration will proceed.

[Lee Memorial Hospital Systems Vision Statement](#)

Community Planning Report

The welcomed uptick in the economy has breathed new life into many developers previously waiting by the sidelines. This is beneficial to our community but also presents new challenges to the preservation of Estero's Community Standards and way of life.

In the past month activities in both the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) and the Design Review Board (DRB) are indications of things to come. There were presentations and requests for actions on a number of minor and routine issues relating to signage, variances and administration cleanup. Of particular note, however, was the introduction of a number of developments presenting direct challenges to the orderly growth of Estero. [Read More](#)

Communications Report

The **ECCL** communications committee has been very busy over the past month with website changes that include new tabs, larger fonts, director links and we have created a new mission statement that helps our audience understand the value of the **ECCL**. Visit <http://www.esterotoday.com> and see the new look. The communications improvement task force has met a couple of times now and is working on the highly anticipated community outreach program due to launch later this year. Our goal is to visit member communities and update everyone on what the **ECCL** is working on and to hear the concerns of those communities. In addition we are looking to develop a new logo and a blog for member residents to share their thoughts. **ECCL** is also on Facebook – like us today at <https://www.facebook.com/esterofi>.



Estero

FIRE RESCUE – Chief Scott Vanderbrook

The Estero Fire and Rescue will be making many capital improvements and advised that there were no proposed mill rate changes for Estero. The Department will have budget meeting starting in September that residents can attend.



San Carlos Rescue - Chief Dave Cambareri

San Carlos Rescue will be making capital improvements i.e. buying equipment etc. for the next budget year. The department does not anticipate any mill rate increases for 2015. Budget meetings will be held in September and residents are encouraged to attend.

ECCL Finance Report

Financial Statements for the month ending June 30th 2015

- Income of \$250 (dues payment)
- Expenses of \$800 for insurance and \$131 for storage locker for ECCL and ECPP historical records
- Non-cash write off of \$1,757 for previous advances in support of the ECPP
- Net income of \$1,680 – Cash Balance \$41,312

Status of membership dues

- 31 Member Communities have paid their membership dues for 2015
- 4 Member Communities are unpaid
 - o Sunny Grove, Coconut Shores, Estero Palms and Meadows of Estero

Important dates to remember:

- August 5th - ECCL briefing on the forthcoming Village Center Community Planning Meeting**
- August 18th – PZB meeting on the “Interim Comprehensive Plan Amendments”**
- August 25th - ECCL members urged to attend the MPO 2040 Plan Workshop 5-7pm at Estero Community Park**
- August 28th – Monthly ECCL Membership Meeting**

All These Meeting Are Open To The Public

ECCL Mission Statement

The ECCL Members Advocate for Estero!

Our mission is to help the community be informed, get involved and support their voice on the issues to achieve positive outcomes for Estero. ECCL member representatives act as liaisons at the various state and local governmental meetings to ensure your voice is heard!

Next meeting: **10 a.m., Friday, August 28th, 2015**, at the **Estero Community Park**, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Please remember to check the website for any last minute changes to the schedule.

Barbara Saxton
ECCL Communications Director