

Brevard County
Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan
Citizen Oversight Committee

September 16, 2022 – 8:30 to 11:30 am
Brevard County Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, 3rd Floor, Florida Room
Viera, Florida 32940 and On-line via Zoom Conference

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Acceptance of Virtual Votes
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Progress and Fiscal Reports
 - a. Monthly Progress Report – Virginia Barker, Director
 - b. Monthly Revenue Graph & Financial Statements* – Crystal Melton, Finance Manager
- VII. Other Reports and Special Presentations
 - a. At-Risk Vessel Program – Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - b. Project Videos – Sewer Lateral Smoke Testing
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Septic Upgrade Program Retroactive Payment Requests – Matt Badolato, Associate Environmental Specialist
 - b. Communication Expansion Discussion – Citizen Oversight Committee
- IX. New Business
 - a. Adoption of 2023 Meeting Calendar
 - b. Contingency Funding Request of \$913,000 for the City of Cocoa Zones J and K Septic to Sewer Project
 - c. Hybrid Meeting Discussion
- X. General Public Comments
- XI. Final Comments by Chair and Committee Members
- XII. Adjournment

*Including the August Financial Statement that was missing in the original August Agenda Packet

**Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 19, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor,
Florida Room and On-Line via Zoom Conference
Viera, FL 32940

Members Present:

Expertise	Member	Present	Alternate	Present
Science	Lorraine Koss	Yes	Charles Venuto	Yes
Technology	Vinnie Taranto - Chair	Yes	David Sherrer	Yes
Education	Stephany Eley	Yes	Kimberly Newton	Yes
Finance	Courtney Barker	Yes	Todd Swingle	Yes
Tourism	David Lane Vice-Chair	Yes	Laurilee Thompson	No
Real Estate	Susan Hodgers	Yes	Eric Mannes	Yes
Lagoon Advocacy	John Windsor	Yes	Terry Casto	Yes

Staff Present:

Heather Balsler, Assistant County Attorney
Terri Breeden, Environmental Section Supervisor
Brandon Smith, Environmental Specialist III
Matt Badolato, Associate Environmental Specialist
Beb Sebastian, Associate Environmental Specialist
Crystal Melton, Department Finance Manager
Courtney Maier, Engineer I
Jenny Hansen, Environmental Scientist
Carol Gerundo, Executive Secretary

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Acceptance of Virtual Votes

Lorraine Koss moved to allow Committee Members, who were attending online via Zoom, to vote virtually; seconded by Stephany Eley.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Lorraine Koss moved to approve the Agenda as written; Seconded by Stephany Eley.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

V. Approval of Minutes

Stephany Eley moved to approve the Minutes as written; seconded by Lorraine Koss.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Progress and Fiscal Reports

a. Monthly Progress Report – Terri Breeden, Environmental Section Supervisor

The Monthly Progress Report was given by Terri Breeden.

Matt Badolato reported on recent algae blooms and fish kills in parts of the Lagoon. Slides of the Weekly Indian River Lagoon Harmful Algal Bloom Data were shown. Topics included: 1) Chlorophyll levels; 2) Water temperature data; 3) Recent Harmful Algal Bloom History; and, 4) Sentinel Online Chlorophyll Viewer.

Discussion ensued. Terri Breeden, Matt Badolato, and Brandon Smith responded to the Committee's questions.

b. Monthly Revenue Graph & Financial Statement Crystal Melton, Finance Manager

i. Revised graph – Committee discussion

Crystal Melton reported on the Monthly Revenue Graph.

Discussion ensued. Crystal Melton responded to the Committee's questions.

c. Quarterly Financial and Grants Statement – Crystal Melton, Finance Manager

Crystal Melton reported on the Quarterly Financial Table and Grants Statement.

d. Quarterly Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Performance Table Update – Terri Breeden, Environmental Section Supervisor

Terri Breeden gave a power point presentation entitled Quarterly Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Performance Table, April 1 – June 30, 2022. Highlights included: 1) Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrades for Reclaimed Water – Melbourne Grant Street, Titusville Osprey Facility, West Melbourne Ray Bullard and Rockledge Facility by Terri Breeden; 2) Sewer Lateral Projects – Barefoot Bay, Merritt Island, and South Beaches, and Septic Removal – County Projects – including South Central Zone C update by Anthony Gubler; 3) Septic Upgrades & Quick Connects by Terri Breeden; 4) Stormwater Projects – Basin 89 Scottsmoor I Aurantia Road Denitrification project update by Terri Breeden and City of Melbourne Grant Place Baffle Box update by Terri Breeden and Dani Straub, City of Melbourne; 5) Melbourne Tillman Water Control District Vegetation project update by Terri

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Breeden; 6) Muck Removal projects – Canaveral South, Grand Canal and Sykes Creek update by Terri Breeden; 7) Brevard Zoo Oyster projects – Banana River and Cocoa Beach McNabb Oyster Bars and Planted Shorelines project updates by Terri Breeden; and, 8) Overview.

Discussion ensued. Terri Breeden, Anthony Gubler, Brandon Smith, Kelsey Mack, City of Cocoa Beach, and Dani Straub, City of Melbourne responded to the Committee's questions.

VII. Other Reports and Special Presentations

a. Green Infrastructure: What, Why and Where – Chris Bogdan, National Business Development Manager, Ferguson Waterworks, Urban Green Infrastructure Division

Mr. Bogdan gave a power point presentation entitled Green Infrastructure: What, Why and Where. Topics included: 1) Gray Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure; 2) Green Stormwater Infrastructure Practices; 3) Benefits; 4) Challenges; 5) Marine Resources Council Low Impact Development Conference – October 20 & 21; 6) Strategies and Technologies; and, 6) Urban Green Infrastructure.

Discussion ensued. Chris Bogdan responded to the Committee's questions.

b. Bio-Activated Media Performance and Maintenance Requirements – Chris Bogdan, National Business Development Manager, Ferguson Waterworks, Urban Green Infrastructure Division

Mr. Bogdan gave a power point presentation entitled Bio-Activated Media Performance and Maintenance Requirements. Topics included 1) Biosorption Activated Media; 2) Nitrogen Removal; 3) Phosphorus Removal; 4) Biosorption Media Maintenance; 5) Biosorption Activated Media Component Materials; 6) Manufacturing and Performance Data; 7) Downflow Biosorption Activated Media Performance Data; 8) Upflow Biosorption Activated Media Performance Data; and, 9) In-Ground Nitrogen Reducing Biofilter.

Discussion ensued. Chris Bogdan and Anthony Gubler responded to the Committee's questions.

(Five (5) minute break)

c. Project Videos – Brevard Zoo/University of Florida Clam Restoration & McNabb Park Oyster Prisms

Brevard Zoo / University of Florida Clam Restoration Project and McNabb Park Oyster Prisms Project videos were shown.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

a. Septic Upgrade Program Retroactive Payment Requests – Matt Badolato, Associate Environmental Specialist

Matt Badolato gave a power point presentation entitled Septic Upgrade Program Retroactive Payment Requests. Five property owners who did not apply for the program and who had voluntarily upgraded old conventional septic systems to advance systems were seeking reimbursement from the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program for septic upgrade work. Possible conditions for consideration and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners were offered to the Committee.

Chair Taranto asked if there was a motion to extend the meeting.

David Lane moved to extend the meeting for 30 minutes; seconded by Stephany Eley.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

There was much discussion on possible recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Matt Badolato and Terri Breeden responded to the Committee's questions.

Stephany Eley moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that they authorize retro pay to homeowners who meet the following conditions: 1) Upgrade must have been voluntary, not required by local or state code; 2) Upgrade must have followed all Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program guidelines other than grant approval prior to construction; 3) Upgrade must have been properly permitted and certified by the Florida Department of Health/Florida Department of Environmental Protection; 4) Operation and maintenance permits must be current, with no gaps in the owner's compliance; 5) Retro-pay amount shall not exceed the sum of costs documented with proof of payment; 6) Work must have been completed after 9/1/2020 (when the 1st payment was processed for the septic upgrade program; 7) Work had to be completed before 6/1/2022 (when the last notifications were mailed to owners of priority sites); 8) Septic loading estimated in the 2018 county-wide septic loading model for conventional septic at the site must be at least 10 pounds total nitrogen, with load reduction for conversion to an advanced system of at least 5 pounds total nitrogen; 9) Retro-pay shall be a flat \$6,000, representing the typical difference in cost between conventional (\$12,000)/pound times 5 pounds of load reduction); and 10) The sum of Retroactive Payments to be processed by staff shall not exceed \$100,000 without specific authorization by the County Commission; seconded by Courtney Barker.

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Discussion ensued. Matt Badolato, Terri Breeden and Vinnie Taranto responded to the Committee's questions.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

b. Communication Expansion Discussion – Brandon Smith, Environmental Specialist

Brandon Smith gave a brief overview of current Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program communication and education actions and possibilities for the future. Slides were shown and topics included 1) The Save Our Indian Lagoon Project Plan Dashboard; 2) Story Maps; 3) Social Media – Youtube and Instagram; 4) Outreach Events; 5) Newsletter; 6) Harmful Algal Bloom Weekly Report (with sign up information); 7) Lagoon Loyal Program; 8) Septic Program Postcards; 9) Yards Signs and Additional Transparency Ideas; 10) Cost Evaluations; and 11) House Bill 921.

Discussion ensued. Brandon Smith responded to the Committee's questions.

Courtney Barker moved to extend the meeting for 10 minutes; seconded by Stephany Eley.

There were no public comments for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

X. General Public Comments

General public comments were heard.

XI. Final Comments by Chair and Committee Members

Final Comments were heard.

XII. Adjournment



Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan September 2022 Progress Report

WORK COMPLETED THIS MONTH:

- Septic Upgrades – 3 more reimbursements processed for a total of 86 completed to date; 218 homeowner cost-share agreements executed
- Brevard Zoo constructed 2,240 square feet of oyster bars in the Central Indian River Lagoon
- University of Central Florida completed the 24-month monitoring of the MacNeill-Pitner oyster bar and found an average of 45 oysters per bag. Bridging indicates development of a three-dimensional reef.
- Riveredge Shoreline Planting – At three months post-deployment, red mangrove survival in mangrove anchors is 57% with growth of surviving trees. Spartina and muhly survival was about 66-75%.
- Derelict Vessels removed this month – 2
- Contracts Executed - Rockledge Equalization Basin Project, Satellite Beach Lori Laine Project, and Cocoa Beach Maritime Hammock Vegetation Harvesting and Muck Dredging Phase IIb Amendment
- Video Completed – Smoke Testing

WORK UNDERWAY THIS MONTH:

- 2023 Application Portal - Open August 1 to September 30
- Smoke Testing complete - Homeowner grant requests arriving in response to code enforcement letters
- South Central C Septic-to-Sewer – Construction 58% complete; 140 of 147 homeowner connection grants contracted. Construction started on north subdivision.
- Micco Septic-to-Sewer – Finalizing shop drawings before breaking ground
- Sykes Creek N Septic-to-Sewer – Incorporating Right-of-Way permit comments in engineering plans
- Sykes Creek M & T Septic-to-Sewer – Re-design commencing
- Brevard County Septic-to-Sewer - Survey, design, and engineering continue for 13 projects; finalizing site selection for Land Acquisition
- Plumbing Services - Request for Qualifications approved by Risk, Legal, and Purchasing
- Basin 79/Scottsmoor C & Basin 89/Scottsmoor I Stormwater Treatments – Land clearing and mobilization completed, adding a stabilized roadway for maintenance purposes
- Basin 958 Pioneer Rd – Updating plans to add erosion protection, working on Army Corps permitting
- Basin 1066 Angel Ave – Updated task order under review
- Basin 1398 Sand Dollar – Task order received and under review
- Basin 1387 Kingsmill-Aurora Phase II – Preliminary layout has been prepared for the multi-pond treatment train along with cross-sections
- Basin 1280B Flamingo Denitrification and Basin 1304B W Arlington Denitrification – 60% plans have been reviewed and comments submitted, 90% plans are currently underway
- Grand Canal Muck Dredging – Removed a total of 231,000 cubic yards to date
- Sykes Creek Muck Dredging – Removed a total of 4,400 cubic yards to date
- Canaveral South Muck Dredging – Draft scope for vibracore sampling received. Task order in progress.
- Video progress – Melbourne Tillman Canal Vegetation Harvesting filmed and awaiting editing
- Contracts: Satellite Beach Hedgecock/Grabowsky Fields, Melbourne Kent/Villa Espana, and Melbourne South-Central F Septic to Sewer contracts in draft
- Providing documents, as requested, for the 2022 Audit



PRESENTATIONS THIS MONTH:

September 19 – South Beaches A Sewer Project Community Meeting – Anthony

September 20 – Cocoa Library - Terri

September 24 – Rotary Park Back to Nature - Terri

October 29 – Merritt Island Wildlife Association - Terri

UPCOMING LAGOON SCIENCE FORUMS AND PUBLIC EVENTS:

September 7 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [Lab Technique Training: Particle Analysis](#)

September 8 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [Introduction to One Health Fish Monitoring](#)

September 13 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [Introduction to Citizen Science Projects](#)

September 22 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [Lab Technique Training: Pipetting & Dilutions](#)

September 27 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [Land to Sea Laboratory Techniques](#)

October 6 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [A Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon](#)

October 20-21 – Marine Resources Council – [Low Impact Development Conference](#)

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:

September 8 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – Fish Processing, [email Bridget](#) to register

September 15 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – [One Health Fish Monitoring Survey Training](#)

September 16 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – Fish Extractions, [email Bridget](#) to register

September 17 – International Coastal Cleanup – [Marine Resources Council](#), [Keep Brevard Beautiful](#), and [City of Melbourne](#)

September 20 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association – Fish Processing, [email Bridget](#) to register

October 1 – Marine Resources Council – [Mangrove Workshop](#)

October 1 – Keep Brevard Beautiful – [Battle of the Causeways Clean-up](#)

Marine Resources Council super clam monitoring, storm drain marking in Melbourne, and Concrete Creations Program seeking volunteers – [Email Caity Savoia to register](#)

Rotary Park rain garden maintenance or storm drain marking in Cocoa – [Email Carlos Cuevas for opportunities](#)

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

[Lagoon Loyal Outreach and Engagement Landing Page](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Website](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Facebook](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Instagram](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon YouTube](#)

FUTURE TOPICS FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. At Risk Vessel Removal Program
2. Project Performance Measurements and Cost-Effectiveness Results
3. Shoreline Armor and Living Shoreline Permitting Authorities, Rules, and Opportunities
4. Surface Water Remediation Technologies
5. Nutrient Loading Impacts of Reclaimed Water
6. Lagoon Projects - managed and funded by other agencies, entities or grant programs
7. Indian River Lagoon Research News: Conference, Symposium or Assembly Highlights
8. Lagoon Fish and Fisheries Research – Dr. Grant Gilmore
9. Clam Restoration and Aquaculture Stimulus Projects

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenues Cumulative Chart Fiscal Year 20-21 to Current Fiscal Year

Economic and Demographic Research Data is sourced from Florida's Office of Economic & Demographic Research using their Estimation of Realized and Unrealized Tax Revenues Table

- Projected and Actual Data is from Systems, Applications and Products program
- EDR-Economic and Demographic Research Data, BOY-Beginning of Year, EOY-End of Year
- For Screen Readers use the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenues Cumulative Chart Fiscal Year 20-21 to Current Fiscal Year Table

Month	State EDR 2022 Projection Straightlined *	County's 2022 Projection	Actuals 2022	State EDR 2021 Projection Straightlined *	County's 2021 Projection	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2020
BOY	\$226,821,943	\$226,821,943	\$226,821,943	\$173,000,609	\$173,000,609	\$173,000,609	\$126,164,500
Oct	\$231,352,441	\$231,515,310	\$230,665,218	\$176,965,571	\$176,986,181	\$176,417,554	\$129,590,162
Nov	\$235,882,939	\$236,208,677	\$234,614,208	\$180,930,533	\$180,971,752	\$179,767,028	\$133,089,868
Dec	\$240,413,437	\$240,902,044	\$242,347,634	\$184,895,496	\$184,957,324	\$185,628,087	\$138,551,296
Jan	\$244,943,935	\$245,595,411	\$246,260,610	\$188,860,458	\$188,942,896	\$189,094,044	\$142,014,229
Feb	\$249,474,432	\$250,288,778	\$250,342,140	\$192,825,420	\$192,928,467	\$192,467,433	\$145,518,464
Mar	\$254,004,930	\$254,982,145	\$258,706,447	\$196,790,382	\$196,914,039	\$198,814,528	\$150,424,958
Apr	\$258,535,428	\$259,675,512	\$263,179,622	\$200,755,345	\$200,899,611	\$202,841,586	\$153,099,730
May	\$263,065,926	\$264,368,879	\$267,470,408	\$204,720,307	\$204,885,183	\$206,775,862	\$156,326,096
Jun	\$267,596,424	\$269,062,246	\$275,034,484	\$208,685,269	\$208,870,754	\$212,965,332	\$161,413,353
Jul	\$272,126,922	\$273,755,612		\$212,650,231	\$212,856,326	\$216,998,992	\$164,827,524
Aug	\$276,657,419	\$278,448,979		\$216,615,194	\$216,841,898	\$220,555,946	\$167,886,836
Sept	\$281,187,917	\$283,142,346		\$220,580,156	\$220,827,470	\$226,821,943	\$173,000,609

Save Our Indian River Lagoon - FY 2022

Monthly Financial Statement

Date Range 01 October 2021 – 02 September 2022

Fund 1260

*Total Assigned YTD-Year to Date, includes all stages of accounting for expenditures, with data derived from Systems, Applications and Products program

Revenues	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	% Earned
Taxes	\$ 48,783,398	\$ 48,212,541	98.83%
Interest Earned	\$ 725,952	\$ 1,106,004	152.35%
Other Federal Grants	\$ 3,141,901		0.00%
Federal Grants Hurricane Irma	\$ 1,357,269		0.00%
Other State Grants	\$ 9,092,186	\$ 97,193	1.07%
State Grants Hurricane Irma	\$ 226,212		0.00%
Tourism Development Council Grants	\$ 96,843	\$ 7,004	7.23%
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$ 5,278,700	\$ 4,013,464	76.03%
Certified, Copy, and Records Requests	\$ -	\$ 325	
Statutory Reduction	\$ (3,171,192)		0.00%
Balance Forward	\$ 200,653,985	\$ 200,653,985	100.00%
Total	\$ 266,185,254	\$ 254,090,516	95.46%

Expenditures (Roll-Up)	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	Actuals
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 904,819	\$ 839,751	\$ 611,359
Operating Expenses	\$ 199,645	\$ 191,015	\$ 172,342
Capital Outlay	\$ 29,500	\$ 11,822	\$ 11,822
SOIRL Projects funded under Operating Expenses (Non-Capital County Project & Programs)	\$ 4,460,822	\$ 2,504,748	\$ 1,792,362
SOIRL Projects funded under Capital Improvement (County Projects over \$35K)	\$ 67,555,863	\$ 23,435,773	\$ 7,614,159
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Gov't Agencies (Cities & Water Management Districts)	\$ 60,721,687	\$ 27,187,421	\$ 5,548,769
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Private Organizations (Property Owners & Non-Government Organizations)	\$ 51,603,559	\$ 3,152,440	\$ 1,116,305
Contingency	\$ 11,395,538		
Reserves (for approved projects scheduled beyond this fiscal year)	\$ 69,313,821		
Total	\$ 266,185,254	\$ 57,322,969	\$ 16,867,118

Save Our Indian River Lagoon - FY 2022

Monthly Financial Statement

Date Range 01 October 2021 – 04 August 2022

Fund 1260

*Total Assigned YTD-Year to Date, includes all stages of accounting for expenditures, with data derived from Systems, Applications and Products program

Revenues	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	% Earned
Taxes	\$ 48,783,398	\$ 40,648,465	83.32%
Interest Earned	\$ 725,952	\$ 851,988	117.36%
Other Federal Grants	\$ 3,141,901		0.00%
Federal Grants Hurricane Irma	\$ 1,357,269		0.00%
Other State Grants	\$ 9,092,186	\$ 97,193	1.07%
State Grants Hurricane Irma	\$ 226,212		0.00%
Tourism Development Council Grants	\$ 96,843	\$ 7,004	7.23%
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$ 5,278,700		0.00%
Certified, Copy, and Records Requests	\$ -	\$ 325	
Statutory Reduction	\$ (3,171,192)		0.00%
Balance Forward	\$ 200,653,985	\$ 200,653,985	100.00%
Total	\$ 266,185,254	\$ 242,258,960	91.01%

Expenditures (Roll-Up)	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	Actuals
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 904,819	\$ 847,500	\$ 560,198
Operating Expenses	\$ 199,645	\$ 169,987	\$ 145,361
Capital Outlay	\$ 29,500	\$ 11,822	\$ 1,948
SOIRL Projects funded under Operating Expenses (Non-Capital County Project & Programs)	\$ 4,460,822	\$ 2,525,775	\$ 1,819,343
SOIRL Projects funded under Capital Improvement (County Projects over \$35K)	\$ 67,555,863	\$ 19,233,205	\$ 5,291,650
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Gov't Agencies (Cities & Water Management Districts)	\$ 60,721,687	\$ 24,995,491	\$ 5,380,867
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Private Organizations (Property Owners & Non-Government Organizations)	\$ 51,603,559	\$ 3,022,425	\$ 964,902
Contingency	\$ 11,395,538		
Reserves (for approved projects scheduled beyond this fiscal year)	\$ 69,313,821		
Total	\$ 266,185,254	\$ 50,806,205	\$ 14,164,270



**Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
September 16, 2022**

Agenda Item:

VIII. a. Old Business

Title:

Update to Septic Upgrade Grant Program Retroactive Payment Requests

Requested Action:

Motion to recommend to the Brevard County Commission to a) authorize conditions to approve, b) consider conditions to approve, or c) reject requests to approve retroactive payment for septic upgrades.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Six property owners are currently seeking retroactive reimbursement from the Save Our Lagoon Program for voluntarily upgrading their old conventional septic systems to advanced systems. The current requests are from Brevard County property owners who have upgraded to advanced treatment septic systems in the past 2-3 years, independent from the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Septic Upgrade Program which provides cost-share agreements with homeowners for up to \$18,000.00 for upgrading to advanced septic and abandoning their existing, conventional septic system.

The Septic Upgrade Program was included in the original Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan that was approved in 2016, prior to voter approval of the ½ cent sales tax initiative that funds Project Plan implementation. Using available data, the 2016 plan allocated funds for 1,625 specific properties that were identified as the highest priority sites for septic upgrades. In 2018, a more extensive, state-approved, septic impact model was completed to more acutely estimate the amount of nitrogen loading that would reach the lagoon from each address in Brevard. The specific properties allocated funding through the Plan were updated based on these model results. Postcards were sent to the owners of the 1,625 highest priority sites. The first homeowner payment made through the program was in September 2020.

In 2021, the Save Our Lagoon Program expanded the number of eligible grantees by offering pro-rated grants at \$700/lb to property owners based on their property's modeled nitrogen loading. In 2022, the pro-rated cost share was increased from



\$700/pound to \$1200/pound of nitrogen loading to increase the number of participants who were eligible for a significant economic incentive to upgrade to advanced septic.

In the spring of 2022, staff sent over 5,000 postcards targeting a larger pool of priority septic locations. Several thousand of these postcards went to property owners who were not eligible for cost share when the program was initially limited to the 1,625 highest priority sites. A few of the new postcard recipients had inquired about cost share earlier, but were not eligible at that time, yet decided to proceed with upgrading their system on their own. Several more postcard recipients were not aware of the cost-share program's existence but had completed septic upgrades voluntarily. As of September 7, 2022, six residents have contacted staff and/or County Commission offices requesting retroactive payment for having already upgraded to advanced septic.

On February 22, 2022, when the County Commission approved the 2022 Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan update, they also authorized staff to apply the increased cost-share of \$1,200 per pound to the three "early adopters" who had already received cost-share at the previous \$700 per pound cost share rate. The current retroactive payment requests would expand the number of "early adopters" rewarded for leading the community in reducing the impact of high-priority conventional septic systems on Indian River Lagoon water quality.

Given the expansion of the septic upgrade program over recent years and the County Commission's support for encouraging participation and rewarding early adopters, the following options are provided for consideration:

- a) Recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that they authorize retro pay to homeowners who meet the following conditions:
 1. Upgrade must have been voluntary, not required by local or state code.
 2. Upgrade must have followed all Save Our Indian River Lagoon program guidelines other than grant approval prior to construction.
 3. Upgrade must have been properly permitted and certified by the Florida Department of Health/Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
 4. Operation and maintenance permits must be current, with no gaps in the owner's compliance.
 5. Retro-pay amount shall not exceed the sum of costs documented with proof of payment.
 6. Work must have been completed after 9/1/2020 (when the 1st payment was processed for the septic upgrade program).



7. Work had to be completed before 6/1/2022 (when the last notifications were mailed to owners of priority sites).
 8. Septic loading estimated in the 2018 county-wide septic loading model for conventional septic at the site must be at least 10 pounds total nitrogen, with load reduction for conversion to an advanced system of at least 5 pounds total nitrogen.
 9. Retro-pay shall be a flat \$6,000, representing the typical difference in cost between conventional (\$12,000) and advanced systems (\$18,000) and equal to the typical cost share of \$1,200/pound times 5 pounds of load reduction)
 10. The sum of Retroactive Payments to be processed by staff shall not exceed \$100,000 without specific authorization by the County Commission.
- b) Recommend to the BOCC that they consider specifying what conditions should apply to homeowners seeking retroactive payments for septic upgrades; or
- c) Recommend to the BOCC that they reject requests for retroactive payment.



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
September 16, 2022

Agenda Item:

VIII. b. Old Business

Title:

Communication Expansion Discussion

Requested Action:

Motion for recommendation of public outreach programs to be included in 2023 Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Plan Update or extend discussion to the following meeting.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Brevard County's current public outreach campaigns include 10-year programs for Fertilizer Education, Septic Maintenance, and Grass Clippings Management. The current SOIRL Plan budgeted \$125,000 for the first year of development of the fertilizer campaign and \$50,000 for the first year of the septic campaign. There is an annual commitment of up to \$50,000, \$25,000, and \$20,000 for fertilizer, septic, and grass clippings, respectively. There is also an additional \$50,000 budgeted in year six of the fertilizer campaign to evaluate program success and update outreach materials. The 10-year cost for each program is \$625,000 for fertilizer, \$300,000 for septic, and \$200,000 for grass clippings. The cost per pound of nitrogen reduction is currently \$95, \$67, and \$11 for fertilizer, septic, and grass clippings, respectively.

These programs have conducted surveys and focus groups to test messaging and implemented several materials such as: fertilizer ordinance signs, websites, a loyalty program, digital media, and resources for realtors and septic companies to provide to customers. A series of videos will be released soon for both fertilizer and septic programs.

In 2018, the SOIRL plan suggested by the Citizen Oversight Committee also included adding outreach programs for Stormwater Pond Best Management Practices (BMP) and Excess Irrigation Education. These were suggested to be funded at similar levels as the septic campaign with an initial budget of \$50,000 for development and \$25,000 annually for implementation of the campaign. The estimated cost per pound of nitrogen reduction was \$91 for Stormwater Pond BMP and \$196 for Excess Irrigation. When reviewing the Committee's recommended plan, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners asked that outreach funding be reduced. They approved the recommended funding for fertilizer, septic maintenance, and grass clipping programs and excluded funding for Stormwater Pond Maintenance and Excess Irrigation Education programs.



Outreach Option Examples

Cost estimates are included in a cost per 1,000 impressions format. For discussion purposes, an impression is a single view or exposure to media. A monthly spend of \$500, or \$6,000 total annually, is provided as a benchmark for comparison between outreach options. Estimated costs are calculated from local media providers or based on industry standards. Actual costs can vary depending on specific media providers and audience targeting.

The provided costs are intended as estimates for discussion and comparison purposes. It may be helpful to keep in mind that different types of impressions can yield different levels of effectiveness. For instance, a 30-second commercial could be more or less effective than a 15-second radio spot, billboard view, or clickable digital ad, depending on the purpose and goals of the outreach. (Cost estimates sourced from Google, Facebook, AdStage, Wordstream, Outdoor Advertising Association.) Also, while costs are given with a \$500 per month estimate to make for equal cost comparisons, some of the strategies like mailers or publication ads would be one time purchases for a single exposure at a larger amount due to the nature of that form of advertising.

Bus Benches

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$0.30-1.20**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 420,000 to 1,600,000 impressions per month, or 5,000,000 to 19,200,000 impressions annually.

(Bus bench ad rates vary by route and duration. National estimates are provided as local impression data is not currently available.)

Interior Bus Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$0.40-0.90**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 600,000 to 1,125,000 impressions per month, or 7,200,000 to 13,500,000 impressions annually.

(Interior bus ad rates vary by route and duration. National estimates are provided as local impression data is not currently available.)

Bus Wraps

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$2-9**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 54,000 to 230,000 impressions per month, or 650,000 to 2,700,000 impressions annually.

(Bus wrap rates vary by route and duration. National estimates are provided as local impression data is not currently available.)



Streaming TV Ads (YouTube, Hulu)

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$2-40**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 12,500 to 250,000 impressions per month, or 300,000 to 3,000,000 impressions annually.

(Cost and reach vary by steaming platform and audience targeting.)

Google Display Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$3**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 160,000 views per month, or 1,920,000 views annually.

(A \$6,000 annual spend targeting adult residents of Brevard County would create an estimated 888,000 to 1,440,000 views annually.)

Mailers/Ads (ValPak, Savings Safari)

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$5-35**

\$500 per month would reach an estimated 5,000 to 100,000 households per month, or 200,000 to 1,200,000 annually.

Social Media Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$7**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 70,000 views per month, or 840,000 views annually.

(A \$6,000 annual spend targeting adult residents of Brevard County would create an estimated 32,000 to 95,000 views per month, or 390,000 to 1,100,000 views annually. According to the 2020 census, Brevard's adult population is estimated to be 485,000 people.)

Radio Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$10-20**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 impressions per month, or 300,000 to 600,000 impressions annually.

(Cost and reach vary by station.)



Niche Community Website Ads/Features

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$10-20**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 views per month, or 300,000 to 600,000 views annually.

(As one example, SpacefishReport.com reaches as many as 20,000 unique visitors per month and could feature ads and article content relevant to the fishing community.)

Newspaper Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$10-45**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 11,000 to 50,000 views per month, or 133,000 to 600,000 views annually.

(Cost and reach vary by publication.)

Digital Billboards

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$13-22**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 22,000 to 38,000 impressions per month, or 272,000 to 461,000 impressions annually.

(Billboard rates vary by location and generally start around \$1,000/week.)

Cable/Broadcast TV Ads

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$15-40**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 12,500 to 33,000 impressions per month, or 150,000 to 400,000 impressions annually.

(Cost and reach vary by time of day and station.)

Utility Inserts

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$20-100**

\$500 per month would reach an estimated 5,000 to 25,000 households per month, or 60,000 to 300,000 households annually.

(Cost per piece ranges from \$0.02 to 0.10, depending on quantity and fees. For example, it would cost \$9,000 for one mailing to reach the approximately 90,000 City of Melbourne utility customers.)



Promotional Items

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$100-5,000**

\$500 per month would create an estimated 100 to 5,000 impressions per month, or 1,200 to 60,000 impressions annually.

(Based on promotional item cost ranging from \$0.10 to \$5 per piece. Cost and reach vary by item and distribution method.)

Postcards

Cost per 1,000 impressions = **\$200-1,000**

\$500 per month would reach an estimated 500 to 2,500 households per month, or 6,000 to 30,000 households annually.

(Postcard costs per piece decrease as quantity increases, so a larger batch mailing is more cost effective than smaller mailings.)



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
September 26, 2022

Agenda Item:

IX. a. New Business

Title:

2023 Meeting Calendar

Requested Action:

Motion to recommend adoption of the attached meeting schedule for 2023.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Since the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program's inception in 2016, the Citizen Oversight Committee has met monthly. For the last several years, the Committee has followed the lead of the County Commission and has not met during the month of June.

In more recent years, December has been scheduled but canceled if the review of new project funding requests was completed in November. The Committee uses the December meeting break to review the draft Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Update and prepare for making a Plan Update recommendation in January.

Meetings may be canceled if not needed or if they pose significant conflicts, however, selecting a full-year schedule allows for securing meeting rooms and space on the calendar of all participants. A proposed schedule is attached.



**SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON
CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Regular Meetings

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Brevard County Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, 3rd Floor, Florida Room
Viera, Florida 32940

January 20, 2023

February 17, 2023

March 17, 2023

April 21, 2023

May 19, 2023

June Break

July 21, 2023

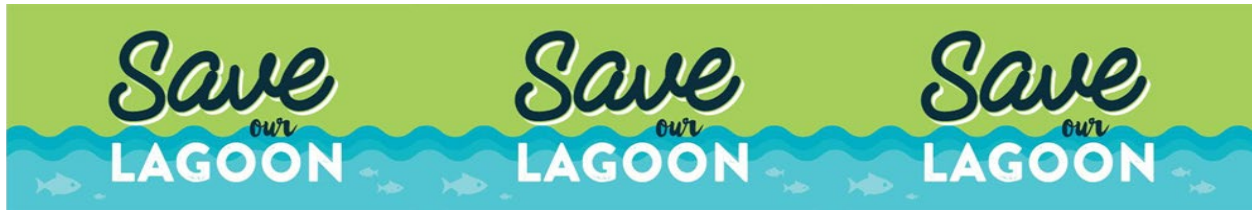
August 18, 2023

September 15, 2023

October 20, 2023

November 17, 2023

December 15, 2023



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
September 16, 2022

Agenda Item:

IX. b. New Business

Title:

Contingency Funding Request for the City of Cocoa Zones J and K Septic to Sewer Project

Requested Action:

Consider a request from the City of Cocoa for a \$545,373 funding increase for the Zones J and K Septic to Sewer Project

Summary Explanation and Background:

The City of Cocoa Zones J and K Septic to Sewer Project was included in the original Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan in 2016 as two separate projects; Zone J to convert 78 lots at 1,891 lbs/year total nitrogen reduction at \$825 per pound; Zone K to convert 34 lots at 921 lbs/year total nitrogen reduction at \$738 per pound. In 2021, the City updated the application package to combine these projects to convert 99 lots at 3,748 lbs/year at \$1500 per pound for a total Save Our Indian River Lagoon Cost Share of \$5,622,000. After further investigation, the City estimated about 92 homes could be converted which brings the cost-share allocation to \$5,467,559.

The City has completed final design, but has not submitted a final scope of work to execute a contract for this project. The City estimates total project costs to be \$12,025,865. The additional \$543,373 budgetary allocation request would provide the projected shortfall for 50/50 grant match funding.

Section 5.1 of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan, the Contingency Fund Reserve includes an additional amount of funding to account for the impact of inflation on project delivery costs. Contingency requests of \$100,000 or more require consideration by both the Citizen Oversight Committee and the County Commission.



City Manager's Office

65 Stone Street • Cocoa, FL 32922

PHONE: (321) 433-8737

FAX: (321) 433-8685

September 8, 2022

Terri Breeden, Brevard County Natural Resources Management
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Dear Ms. Breeden,

This letter modifies my previous letter to Mrs. Barker regarding additional funding for the J&K Septic to Sewer Project. Again, the Cocoa City Council, at its regular meeting on August 9, 2022, directed me to ask Brevard County for additional funding for the J&K Septic to Sewer Project.

As you and I discussed the current project budget is \$5,467,559 for 88 homes in the J&K project area. As we advised our current estimate is based on 92 lots being included in the project scope and is not based on a bid price. Our current estimate is as follows.

Public Infrastructure Cost	\$8,905,865
Private (Homeowners Costs)	<u>\$3,120,000</u>
	\$12,025,865

If the current project budget received 50/50 match funding of \$5,467,559 the projected shortfall would be \$1,090,747. The city would ask for the Citizen Oversight Committee's favorable approval of a request to the Board of County Commissioners for an additional budgetary allocation of \$545,373 for the J&K Septic to Sewer Project. The additional budgetary allocation request is only half of the projected shortfall as 50/50 grant match funding is assumed.

Please call me if you have questions or require additional information and/or clarification.

Sincerely,

Stockton Whitten,
City Manager

cc: Cocoa City Council
Jack Walsh, Utilities Director

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Legislation Text

File #: 22-450, Version: 1

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Memo Date: July 11, 2022
Agenda Date: July 26, 2022
Prepared By: John A. Walsh, P.E., Utilities Director
Through: Stockton Whitten, City Manager

Requested Action:

To Provide Direction to Staff for Funding and New Policies, if Necessary, for the Indian River Drive Septic to Sewer Conversion Areas J & K

BACKGROUND:

This agenda item was previously reviewed by Council on June 24, 2022 and on July 26, 2022. Portions of the agenda remain the same and portions have been updated with the latest information available.

Two areas within the City of Cocoa along Indian River Drive have been identified for funding from the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) tax adopted by Brevard County. The areas are known as Area "J" and "K" and consist of a total of 92 single family homes that can be eligible for reimbursement to remove their septic systems and replace with a city owned gravity sewer system.

The SOIRL study conducted by Tetra Tech identified 5 major areas of pollutants into the Indian River Lagoon;

1. Stormwater runoff
2. Baseflow/septic, leaking sewer, reclaimed water
3. Atmospheric deposition
4. Point sources
5. Muck flux

SOIRL currently has approved an allocation of approximately \$5.6M for 99 lots toward the design, construction of a new gravity sewer system to eliminate existing septic systems assuming 100% participation. However, current cost estimates place the costs of construction of the new gravity system at \$6.7 to \$8.3M. This estimate does not include homeowner on site costs.

Cocoa engaged a consultant to prepare a preliminary feasibility study to identify more specifically how many homes could be served, if a gravity or pressure force main system would be required and to understand the geology, and the challenges of construction in this area. Upon completion of a preliminary layout for the sewer, a community meeting was held last year for citizens to ask questions and see the proposed scope of work.

The final design and plans are complete. The opinion of probable costs was prepared by the Engineer of Record and the costs vary based on the method of construction used by a contractor to install the sewer mains.

Currently, the 92 lots would be eligible for a total of approximately \$5.1M in SOIRL funding for 100% participation per SOIRL Program, Feb 2022. The cost over runs could range from \$1.7M to \$3.3M to fully construct the gravity sewer mains. This assumes 100% participation of the 92 lot owners and the costs to the city increase as the participation rate decreases. For example, at 70% participation, the city could be responsible to pay an estimated \$3.3M to \$4.9M of reimbursable costs back to Brevard County.

At the community meeting hosted by Staff and our consultant in November 2020, the project was presented as a potential no cost to the homeowners based on information known at the time. Per our current discussion with Brevard County, the costs for the design and construction of the sewer system are reimbursable and the onsite costs of the homeowner are not reimbursable under the SOIRL program but may be eligible under other grants offered by FDEP or SJRWMD. A survey was conducted in conjunction with the community meeting and of the 40 respondents, 22 homeowners or 55% were not supportive of the project if the homeowner was responsible for costs associated with connecting to the sewer system.

Currently, City of Cocoa Code of Ordinances does not require existing homeowners who have functioning septic systems to connect to the city sewer system. The following items are presented to outline options available to Council to consider. The financial liabilities associated with this project will need to be addressed and the appropriate actions identified for follow up by staff. To address the requirements to connect or not connect and to address shortfall in funding that is not covered by either the SOIRL funding for infrastructure or a future grant from FDEP/SJRWMD for homeowner costs, the following options are available:

Option 1: Withdraw the sewer infrastructure project and let the homeowners submit and qualify for advanced septic treatment funding from SOIRL

If chosen, withdrawing the Septic to Sewer Conversion project will allow all homeowners within the current J and K areas to seek reimbursement for septic replacements if the new septic system meets all the advanced treatment requirements outlined in the SOIRL technical report. Brevard County Natural Resources Department will require a letter from the city to withdraw the project. Homeowners would be immediately eligible for to apply to Brevard County for individual septic system replacement dollars. Per the SOIRL website, the maximum reimbursement for advanced septic systems is \$18,000 per lot. This option allows the greatest freedom of choice for homeowners but not complete removal of nutrients to the lagoon.

Option 2: Mandatory Participation. Require all homeowners to connect to the sewer system once completed and draft an ordinance. Council must determine who pays for cost overruns, authorize staff to apply for the FDEP grant available, and if homeowners are responsible for cost overruns, then Council must identify what enforcement actions it will take to recoup money the City must pay back to the County in the case of non-compliance.

If the cost overruns (if they occur) for public infrastructure are greater than SOIRL funding and any applicable grants, the cost above the funding will be identified as to be paid for by:

- A) Utilities/Utility Rate Payers or
- B) Homeowners

The City of Cocoa would be responsible to collectively apply for grants on behalf of all homeowners to FDEP or SJRWMD for additional reimbursements for septic abandonment, new sewer service line, hardscape replacements and potentially impact fee if allowed by the grant.

With mandatory participation, the city can apply for a grant from SJRWMD or FDEP for the short fall from SOIRL. Adopting a specific mandatory connect policy for the homeowners in the affected areas as well as a policy for non-compliance with enforcement actions detailed is needed. The details on enforcement to address homeowners who refuse to comply will need to be identified. The policy must address the costs not covered due to refusal to participate and the costs above allocated funding regardless of the source of funding.

In the above option, the cost overrun funding source for public infrastructure will need to be specifically stipulated as either a city utility responsibility or a homeowner responsibility. Mandatory participation ensures maximum reimbursement from SOIRL funding but may be insufficient. Homeowners via the City can seek grants for new service lines and other related costs. If homeowners are to pay for infrastructure overruns, the estimated costs spread over 92 lots may create a large liability to the homeowners.

To require homeowners to connect, the City would adopt a citywide mandatory connection policy addressing lots that have existing septic when city sewer systems are or become available. The areas identified as Area J and Area K from the Brevard County Tetra Tech Report would be required to connect without exception due to the proximity of the homes to the lagoon and the environmental harm such as algae blooms and nutrient loading caused by the septic systems per the Tetra Tech report.

Homes outside Area J and K and outside the areas designated in the Tetra Tech report (i.e., west of US 1), who have working septic systems and currently have city sewer system available can be granted exceptions to connect. Staff estimates there are approximately 129 parcels within the city limits that have current water accounts and have access to existing sewer but have no current sewer account. The exceptions for parcels west of US1 granted would not force anyone to connect but current policies would require them to connect once their septic system fails in the future.

However, there are 19 parcels east of US1 that currently have access to an existing Cocoa gravity sewer system and are not connected. Because of their proximity to the Indian River Lagoon, these parcels would be required to connect based on the same rationale of protecting the Indian River Lagoon covered under the Tetra Tech Report which is applicable to the J & K Areas, but these 19 parcels may not qualify for current grant funding from SOIRL or other agencies.

Finally, Staff has reviewed the draft contract used on other SOIRL projects and Section 15 b. contains a funding restriction that requires any City funds budgeted for the Project, that are saved by the City by virtue of reimbursement or allocation received from the SOIRL cost-share agreement, be expended for other future SOIRL projects. County Staff and the City Attorney are currently reviewing and discussing this contract language with the County and have determined that the County would be amenable to deleting that Section and funding restriction in the future contract with the City. The deletion of the Section and funding restriction would address the City's concerns.

The Utilities Department will need to cash fund the project subject to review and upon securing mandatory participation, sign a contract with Brevard County to accept the funding reimbursement from SOIRL.

Option 3 Non-mandatory participation (Do nothing with current policies)

Cost overruns (if they occur) for public infrastructure are greater than SOIRL allocations will be paid for by city utilities department.

- A) Utilities/Utility Rate Payers or**
- B) Homeowners**

This option is not viable without the full support of all residents to maximize SOIRL funding.

Option 4: Delay Decision to move forward

The Council could choose to take no action at this time. The delay would continue to hold allocations (\$5.6M) from SOIRL toward the project but would also not allow any of the 92 homeowners to apply for advanced septic funding. The final engineer design can be held until the city is ready to act. It is difficult to predict what construction costs would be in the future considering the current volatility and high inflation spike we are seeing today and whether the delay would increase or decrease future costs.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION:

Investment in Public Infrastructure (Invest in Environmental Stewardship)

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Budgeted	N/A
If not budgeted, is amendment/transfer attached?	N/A

PREVIOUS ACTION:

On July 26th, 2022, Council reviewed an agenda item to consider multiple options for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Septic to Sewer Project. Staff was directed to research and update public and private infrastructure costs and return the agenda to the August 9, 2022 meeting.

On June 24th, 2022, Council reviewed an agenda item to consider multiple options for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Septic to Sewer Project. More information on sewer impacts outside the Indian River Drive corridor needed to be considered and the item was tabled until the July 26th, 2022 meeting.

On November 13, 2019, Council approved a task order for Bussen-Mayer Engineering Group (AKA DRMP), for final engineering design and surveying.

On December 12, 2017 Council approved a task order for Bussen-Mayer Engineering Group for

preliminary design, geotechnical analysis, survey and project feasibility.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

To Provide Direction to Staff for Funding and New Policies, if Necessary, for the Indian River Drive Septic to Sewer Conversion Areas J & K



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
September 16, 2022

Agenda Item:

IX. c. New Business

Title:

Hybrid Meeting Discussion

Requested Action:

Motion to discontinue the use of Zoom for hybrid meetings.

Summary Explanation and Background:

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, Zoom was used for both the Board of County Commissioner meetings and the Monthly Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Oversight Committee meetings. When the Governor changed regulations requiring at least a quorum of people to attend meetings in person, the County implemented a hybrid style meeting with both in-person attendance and virtual participation via Zoom. The County Commission has since stopped virtual participation for the public and only uses it under special circumstances for Commissioners to participate remotely in their meetings.

Running a hybrid meeting is a significant burden for the Space Coast Government TV Staff who have to run a simultaneous, separate broadcast on Zoom while also running the broadcast across Space Coast Government TV and social media channels. It requires the use of extra microphones for the Zoom broadcast, which has caused sound problems at many of the meetings with Zoom participants having difficulties hearing portions of the meetings. It also causes extra work for office staff working to ensure that a physical quorum is met. Additionally, while public comment has been available via Zoom, it has not been utilized by the public Zoom attendees during the last several months of meetings.

It is therefore suggested that the use of virtual participation via Zoom is discontinued for the public and only used for committee members and presenters under special circumstances. This is in line with the current procedures by the County Commission for their meetings. The public will still have access to watch meetings live through Space Coast Government TV channels, the Brevard County website, the SOIRL YouTube Channel, and the SOIRL Facebook page.