

COMMITTEE TO STUDY
CENTRALIZED SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS
FOR
TAYLOR COUNTY BEACHES

APPOINTED BY
TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING #1 NOTES

On April 29, 1993 the committee held its first meeting at 5:30 in the Courthouse Basement Conference Room.

The following people were present:

Gwenn Faulkner	Member
Wayne Jones	Member
Tony Meade	Member
Bob Meissner	Member
John Millican	Member
Mrs. Buster Collins	Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Grimes	Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Butch Hendrichs	Guest
Mr. Mike McKinney	Guest
Mr. Bobby Lundy	County Commissioner
Mr. Frank Russell	County Commissioner

It was mentioned that Roberts Rules of Order should be used as we conduct the business of the Committee.

Each person present explained the needs that they would like to see the committee address. They also mentioned the direction that the committee might take in addressing these needs.

Each person supported the need for central sewage at the principal beach areas such as Dekle Beach, Keaton Beach, Cedar Island, Dark Island, and Steinhatchee. It was expressed that the installation of a central system will facilitate rebuilding and expansion of the beach economy. It was discussed that in some cases rebuilding may be impossible, impractical or severely limited without a central system.

Many people expressed the need for expanding the present Taylor Beaches Water System to serve Cedar Island and other adjacent property. It was discussed that this system might be in a better position to expand if it was owned and operated by the County as a water district.

Centralized Sewer and Water Systems
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Several people said that they had heard Pete Peterson, Allen Boyd, Connie Mack, and others in significant Government positions, state that grant funds may be available for sewer and water improvements in the beaches area. Extensive discussion centered on the need to develop conceptual plans for economical approaches to expanding water service and providing centralized sewer services.

It was mentioned that the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation have offered to help with this project. The group felt that they should be asked to participate in discussions as soon as possible.

The group felt that future meetings should be held at various beach locations to encourage participation of all the people who may be affected by the actions of the Committee.

A meeting to be held at the Perry Women's Club at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 4, 1993 was discussed. This meeting has been planned by various agency heads in Tallahassee to inform the people of Taylor County about State regulations which will affect rebuilding. Many people expressed their intention to attend.

Mr. Mike Evans is reported to be working on the same type of things that this committee has been charged to address. Mr. Evans was invited to this meeting but did not attend.

Bob Meissner was elected Secretary of the Committee. The group decided to elect a Chairperson and vice Chairperson at a later meeting. The Secretary will moderate the meeting until the election of a Chairperson.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 5:30 PM, May 4, 1993, in the Courthouse Basement Conference Room. Guests are invited to attend.

FOR THE COMMITTEE


Robert W. Meissner, Secretary

IMC Winter Storm Task Force

Schedule of Meetings

- June 3 - Initial meeting of Task Force - Perry, FL
- June 22 - Meeting and Public Hearing in Dixie County
5:30 p.m. in the County Commission Meeting Room
North Holloway Center. Directions from
Tallahassee - South on 27/19 thru Cross City
to the third red light. Make a left (Cedar
Street). Go four blocks and it is the white
brick building on the right. Contact: Hubert
Allen (904) 498-7021.
- June 29 - Meeting and Public Hearing in Levy County
4:00 p.m. in the County Commission Meeting
Room, County Courthouse. Directions from
Tallahassee - South on 27/19 to Chiefland. In
Chiefland follow 27 South to Bronson (next
town) and follow signs to the Courthouse.
Address is 355 S. Court Street. Contact: Ted
Wilkins (904) 486-4311.
- July 17 - Meeting and Public Hearing in Taylor County
1:00 p.m. at the Blue Creek Baptist Church,
Directions from Tallahassee - South on 27/19
thru Perry. Cross over bridge, go to flashing
light (Highway 361) make a right (to Keyton/
Dekle Beach). Go 17 miles to the 45° turn, go
5 miles. There is a sign to Steinhatchee on
the left, make the left. Go 3 miles and there
is a sign on the left for the church. Church
is on left. Contact: Madelyn Collins (904)
578-2433.
- July 22 - Meeting to review public comments and finalize
recommendations - Perry, FL
- July 26 - Optional meeting date, if needed
- August 4 - IMC meeting - Tallahassee, FL
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Department of
Community Affairs, 2740 Centerview Drive.
Room 176. Directions from Taylor County -
North on 27 into Leon County. Make a left at
the first red light (Capital Circle SE). Go
thru blinking yellow light and the Koger
Center Complex is on the right. Turn right
into the Complex. DCA is the first building
on your right.

CENTRALIZED WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS
FOR
TAYLOR COUNTY BEACHES

MEETING # 3 NOTES

On May 21, 1993, the Committee held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Blue Creek Baptist Church. All interested citizens were invited and beaches' residents were sent a notice of the meeting by Committee Member, Madelyn Collins. The Taylor County Commission underwrote the mailing of this notice. Committee members in attendance at the May 21, 1993 meeting were: Travis Beach, Charles Carlton, Jim Grimes, Gwen Faulkner, Bob Meissner, John Millican, Bob Ballinger, Madelyn Collins, and Mike McKinney.

Committee Secretary, Bob Meissner opened the meeting (list of others attending is attached) and explained the work of the Committee. He summarized the Committee's findings:

1. The Committee was charged with the responsibility of exploring ways to rebuild and/or expand the water supply and investigate a central water and sewage system for the Taylor County Beaches. A primary objective of the Committee was to determine possible grant funding which could be sought to accomplish rebuilding and/or expanding the water supply.
2. The Committee has determined that the most open way to go is to pursue grant funding as a non-profit or co-op organization. The grant money available for this route is through the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).
3. The Committee believes that some issues to be discussed at this meeting are:
 - . forming a water and sewer co-op in the beach area
 - . the merger of Jim Grimes' Taylor Beaches Water System and beaches not connected to that system
 - . the proposed agreement between Grimes and Mike McKinney who represents Cedar Island Water System
 - . Dark Island's decision to not participate in a centralized Beaches Water System
4. Jim Grimes has \$300,000 invested in the Beaches Water System. He's willing to sell and that's what he wants in return. He lost 48% of his customers after the "No-Name Storm". His major concern is that water sampling requirements for next year could be \$7,000 for the Beaches Water System.

Meissner recognized Mike McKinney of Cedar Island (with 50-60 water system customers) for his comments.

McKinney reported that the water supply at Cedar Island, now, is good except for iron deposits and the loss of a well. McKinney explained that Ben and Billie Lindsey own the Cedar Island Water System and that he now, reluctantly, represents them; but, most importantly, that the Lindsey's wish to divest themselves of the Cedar Island Water System. They are concerned about forecasts of some \$3-4,000 in 1993-94 for Cedar Island Water System just to pay for the state-required water sampling. The Lindsey's are willing to donate the Cedar Island Water System to a beaches' co-op. They make this offer with the understanding that they are committed to selling or giving the Cedar Island Water System to a group or concern ONLY IF they receive the assurance that such a donation or sale means no excessive charges for the Cedar Island Water System's customers.

Meissner recognized John Millican of Dark Island for his comments.

Millican said that Dark Island residents do not wish to be part of a beaches' central water and sewer system. Millican reported that DER representatives had been at Dark Island and told him that the water system and the septic tanks there are okay. He further stated that a survey of Dark Island residents supports his claim that Dark Island does not want to participate in any efforts to establish a beaches area central water and sewer system. Millican introduced Steve Balcom who was at this meeting and is a representative from the Florida Rural Water Association.

Meissner recognized Steve Balcom and asked for his comments.

Balcom said that there were several key things for consideration:

1. When you decide who takes control over a water system, keep in mind that whoever controls the water & sewer system also controls the growth of the area;
2. You have to get everybody involved cooperating in this effort -- the majority rules;
3. Grimes' Taylor Beaches Water System has the best water in the area;
4. The Rural Development Administration has committed to cutting timeline corners for helping any efforts to replace or reconstruct water systems suffering quantity or quality supply as a result of natural disasters such as the "No-Name Storm" which hit the Taylor Beaches; and,
5. Remember that if you choose to incorporate as a non-profit co-operative, you have to run it like a business.

Meissner recognized Jim Grimes, Taylor Beaches Water Company, for his comments.

Grimes stated, at this point, that he and his wife have the beaches' co-op papers. He believes that it may be possible to reactivate the beaches' water co-op which constitutes a non-profit cooperation.

Meissner entertained the conclusion that the DER may not be interested in regulating small systems. The idea of a non-profit central water and sewer system for the beaches is a concept on which the Committee seeks input.

The floor was then open for comments with the following statements or questions recorded on newsprint:

- . Loan monies application should be put in at the same time as putting forward a grant application

- . Explore establishing non-profit status first

- . WE NEED ALL BEACH RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THIS

- . We may have to form ourselves as a co-op

- . We would need 51% (a majority) of beach area residents voting yes before we go ahead with a co-op or non-profit organization owning our own water system and seeking federal grant assistance

- . Someone needs to answer the question of why septic tanks aren't a good way to treat sewage

- . We need to vote on water and sewer issues separately

- . Each water system connection gets one vote

- . DNR survey will determine which lots can have houses built back and which can't and then if the State is going to buy that land under the Growth Management Act

- . If the majority votes to have a sewer system, does that mean that even if my septic tank is okay, I still have to be on the sewer system and I've lost the money I have in my septic tank?

- . Hook-up should be mandatory

- . Questions about Dark Island not being part of a central water system: What about thinking about the needs of your neighbors? What if later Dark Island wants to join, will they be able to? What were the questions on the survey conducted by Bob

Ballinger which said Dark Island residents don't want to be part of a central water and sewer system?

- . Can we do water and not sewer?
- . The first thing is to decide if we want a co-op.
- . Think about your neighbor's needs.
- . How much is it going to cost?
- . What's going to happen to Grimes' water system if we don't form a co-op and buy it?

. Jim Grimes said that the base rate for being on the water system is \$18.00 per month plus a one-time \$250 hookup fee. He explained the process he went through trying to get a \$330,000 FmHA loan. The problem was that the contractors' bids to do the construction work were far above the \$300,000 he could get from FmHA. He said that as a private businessman he could get much lower bids. The cost to him for the initial construction was \$250,000.

. It's a tangled mess when there's government money involved

. Grimes and McKinney have found an engineer who will design the add-on for Cedar Island and will do the engineering for free. DER will speed up the wait-time in regulations. Grimes already has an estimate on the pipe requirements to go to Cedar and Dark Islands. Grimes said he could link to Cedar and get them water in about 2 months and then do the meters later.

. Grimes suggested a financing plan to reform the co-op that was the Beaches Water System at first. He offered to be a consultant for the co-op. And, he called for a committee to reform the co-op.

. After much discussion, the bottom line answer to a previous question, Jim Grimes isn't turning off the water, but he wants to get out of the business and we need to find a way to help him do that and keep our water system.

. The question was asked, If Dark Island and Cedar Island went on the water system, would Jim be better off? What would it take to help the system come out from under the loss of 48% of its customers after the storm?

- . Do we need to form a new co-op or keep the old one?
- . Someone needs to look at the papers concerning the old co-op

. Cedar Island says it's ready to take Grimes' hookup as soon as it can get there.

. Ask Jim Grimes to put his proposal in writing and present it before the next meeting so we can discuss it.

. Keep the government out of this.

. First, let's get the water system problem solved, then look at the sewer.

. We need better publicity before the next meeting.

A majority of those in attendance voted to hold the next meeting on Thursday, June 3, 1993, at 6:00 PM, in the sanctuary of Blue Creek Baptist Church.

After thanking the pastor for the use of the fellowship hall for this meeting, the meeting was adjourned. A list of those attending is attached.

WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

5-21-93

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

John Millican	Dark Island	578-2495
Mickey Goodwin	Dark Island	912-382-6133
Louise Henricks	Keaton Beach	578-2039
Jim & Vonnie Grimes	Keaton Beach	578-2375
Bobby Lundy	Steinhatchee	498-3015
Jim & Jo Ross	Rt 2, Box 108, Perry	578-2339
Sandra Bolton	Rt 2, Box 227-B, Cedar Island	578-2674
Bob & Stella Meissner	Cedar Island	584-4679
Frank & Juanita Oakley	Rt 2, Box 221-B, Cedar Island	578-2790
Rufus & Maggie Pruitt	Rt 2, Box 222, Cedar Island	578-2565
Cliff Hunter	Dekle Beach	578-2801
Charlie Hunter	Dekle Beach	578-2683
Maxine Johnson	Rt 2, Box 231, Dark Island	578-2403
Glenn C. Johnson	Rt 2, Box 231, Dark Island	578-2403
Dan H. Chitty (Dark Is.)	P.O. Box 56, Starke 964-6116	578-2188
Jean J. Chitty (Dark Is.)	P.O. Box 56, Starke 964-6116	578-2188
John & Helen Mahoney	464 S Arthur Durham, Jax 32210	771-9014
Jim Moody	Rt 2, Box 18, Perry	584-7666
Mrs. J. C. Jones	Rt 2, Box 99, Dekle Beach	578-2696
Charles D. Carlton	Rt 2, Box 85, Dekle Beach	578-2441
James & Iva Slater	Rt 2, Box 252-10, Perry	578-2177
Tim Archer	Rt 2, Box 84A, Dekle Beach	584-4204
Sheila Wyllie	Rt 2, Box 84, Dekle Beach	578-2793
John & Kathi Kuykendall	Rt 2, Box 198, Cedar Island	
David Miller	Rt 2, Box 217B	578-2201
Selma Guthrie	Rt 2, Box 149B	578-2882
John A. Curtis & Lynn Aibejeris	Rt 2, Box 130, Keaton Beach	584-2637
Anita & Sid Stovall	3004 Wendover Rd, Valdosta (Cedar Island)	838-1776 578-2477
Dot & Joe P. Burns, Jr.	Rt 2, Box 226B (Cedar Is.)	912-242-1815 578-2522
Martha & Bill Hargesheimer	Rt 2, Box 142, Keaton Beach	578-2675
Diane Carlton	Rt 2, Box 85, Perry	578-2441
Lee & Mike McKinney	P.O. Box 1428, Cedar Island	578-2547
Albert Carter	306 Darby Ln, Brooksville, FL	34601
David & Carol Harden	Rt 2, Box 157, Perry	
Jim & Liska Gooding	Rt 2, Box 96, Perry	
Bob Ballinger	Rt 2, Box 237, Dark Island	578-2164
Louis & Mary Alice Lanier	102 Forest Dr, Perry	584-4160
Christele Woodford	Rt 4, Box 49, Perry	584-3748
Bishop Clark, Jr.	P.O. Box 48, Perry	584-6361
Carlton B. Hamilton	Rt 2, Box 106, Perry	578-2390
James C. Chupp	Rt 2, Box 441, Lake City	752-2416
Don & Kathy Everett	Rt 2, Box 216, Perry	578-2149
John W. Dorman	Rt 2, Box 182, Perry	578-2598
William S. Clark	Rt 2, Box 140, Perry	578-2216
Travis R. Beach	Rt 2, Box 131, Perry	578-2897
Elizabeth Nall	Rt 2, Box 171, Perry	578-2513
Leo Lichtveld	Rt 2, Box 181-C, Perry	578-2476
Sara & Gwen Faulkner	1209 N. Quincy St, Perry (Dark Island)	584-3680
Madelyn Collins	Rt 1, Box 121, Perry	578-2433 838-1530

COMMITTEE TO STUDY
CENTRALIZED SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS
FOR
TAYLOR COUNTY BEACHES

APPOINTED BY
TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING #4

JUNE 3, 1993, 6:00 PM

BLUE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

AGENDA

1. General review of activities
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
3. Meeting leadership turned over to Chairperson (or Vice-Chairperson).
4. Presentation by Mr. Mike McKinney about activities of Task Force on combining Cedar Island Water System with Taylor Beaches Water System.
5. Presentation by Mr. Jim Grimes on possible change in status of the Taylor Beaches Water System.
6. Receiving and answering questions from concerned citizens and receiving suggestions for further activities.
7. Plan future activities and next meeting.

Bol
Robert W. Meissner
Secretary

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farmers Home Administration

WATER RATES

SINGLE UNIT RESIDENTS:

First	<u>3,000</u>	Gallons	\$ <u>25.00</u>	minimum
Next	<u> </u>	Gallons	\$ <u> </u>	per 1,000 gallons
Next	<u> </u>	Gallons	\$ <u> </u>	per 1,000 gallons
Next	<u> </u>	Gallons	\$ <u> </u>	per 1,000 gallons
All Over	<u>3,000</u>	Gallons	\$ <u>1.19</u>	per 1,000 gallons

FOR TRAILER COURTS, CAMPGROUNDS, OR SMALL COTTAGES having no inside water facilities, the regular minimum charge will be made for meter services plus an additional minimum charge of \$ 5.00 for each service for tent, trailer space or cottage, whether occupied or unoccupied.

All excess water will be billed at the Corporation's regular published rate.

AUTO COURTS, DUPLEXES, OR MULTIPLE DWELLING BUILDINGS

Not Applicable

For service in an auto court, duplex, or multiple dwelling building, the minimum monthly charge shall be the total of the following: 1 - the regular minimum monthly charge for the meter size used; plus, 2 - for each additional living unit in excess of one, contained in the auto court, duplex, or multiple dwelling building, one half of the regular monthly minimum. For each one half of the monthly charge so included, the consumer shall be allowed _____ gallons of water. For example, a ten unit motel would have a minimum monthly water bill of \$ _____ and could use up to _____ gallons of water.

COMMERCIAL:

First	<u>3,000</u>	Gallons	* \$ <u>25.00</u>	minimum charge (3/4" meter)
Next	<u> </u>	Gallons	\$ <u> </u>	per 1,000 gallons
All Over	<u>3,000</u>	Gallons	\$ <u>1.19</u>	per 1,000 gallons

See Below

Businesses such as washerettes, schools, or industrial plants may negotiate with the Board of Directors for a rate schedule based on the water needs. Rates will not be established without the written approval of the Farmers Home Administration.

INITIAL OR MINIMUM CHARGE

(a) The initial or minimum charge, as provided in this rate schedule, shall be made for each meter installed, regardless of location. Each meter requires a separate meter reading sheet and each meter reading sheet shall cover a separate and individual account.

* Monthly Minimum charge per meter sizes: -
3/4" - 25.00 1" - 30.00 1 1/2" - 35.00 2" - 40.00

(b) The above minimum charges for additional residential units shall apply regardless of whether the residential unit is occupied or unoccupied.

(c) If the consumer takes exception to this method of established minimum charges, the consumer may request that a meter be installed for each residential unit, upon paying the Corporation the regular connection charge and deposit guarantee for each meter to be installed.

(d) Water furnished for a given lot shall be used on that lot only. Each class of service must be separately metered. Each consumer's service must be separately metered at a single delivery and metering point. Each commercial unit and each storeroom or stall used for business purposes shall have a separate meter. All commercial use, including storerooms and stalls for business purposes shall be metered separately from any residential use, and vice versa, whether now in service or to be installed in the future.

ADOPTION OF RATE SCHEDULE

Until further order of the Board of Directors of this Corporation, the rates as herein above set out are hereby adopted (subject to the approval of the Farmers Home Administration) as of the date hereof to become effective on or after July 18 1994.

Done this 18th day of July 1994.

By

W. L. Beach
President

Attest

James A. Sullivan
Secretary

Seal _____



IMC WINTER STORM TASK FORCE
PRELIMINARY MEETING
JUNE 3, 1993
PERRY, FLORIDA
1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following members of the Task Force or their designee were present:

Ms. Mary Anne McMullen, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs and Chairperson of the Task Force;
Mr. Bob McBeth, FEMA Regional Office, Atlanta;
Ms. Toni McCoy, Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting;
Mr. Richard Deadman, Department of Environmental Regulation;
Mr. Fritz Wettstein, Department of Natural Resources;
Ms. Tex Karl, Department of Labor and Employment Services;
Mr. Eanix Poole, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services;
Ms. Madelyn Collins, Taylor County;
Mr. Frank Day, Department of Transportation;
Mr. Oscar Garner, Dixie County;
Mr. Arthur Bellot, Dixie County;
Ms. Bridget Merrill, Department of Commerce; and
Mr. Paul Duval, National Weather Service

The following people were also in attendance: Mr. Ralph Cantral, Director, Florida Coastal Management Program, DCA; Mr. Ed Allen, County Administrator, Taylor County; Mr. Marty Dix, Attorney, Taylor County; Ms. Linda Bell, DEM/DCA, Flood Insurance; Ms. Jasmin Raffington, Coastal Program, DCA; Ms. Suzanne Woodcock, Planning Manager, DCA; Mr. Ken Goldberg, Legal, DCA; Ms. Chris McCay, Florida Coastal Management Program, DCA; Mr. Gordon Roberts, Division of State Lands, DNR; Mr. Harold Eastman, DCA/Housing; Mr. Mike Evans, Economic Developer, Taylor County; Mr. John Curtis, Small Business Owner, Chairman of the Taylor County Coastal Association; Ms. Lynn Abiperis, victim of the storm, Keaton Beach; Ms. Susan Moody, victim of the storm, Keaton Beach; Mr. Bob Ballinger, victim of the storm, Dark Island; Mr. John Millican, victim of the storm, Dark Island; Ms. Beatrice Zell; Mr. William Zell; Ms. Debbie Vance; Mr. J.R. Moody; and Ms. Dorann Wright, Scribe, DCA.

OPENING REMARKS

Ms. McMullen began the meeting stating that this Task Force was formed by Resolution of the Governor and Cabinet. This has been established to report to the Interagency Management Committee (IMC) and through them to the Governor and Cabinet. The IMC meeting we are targeting our efforts towards meets on August 4. Following that meeting, the IMC recommendations would go to the first possible meeting of the Governor and Cabinet. She stated

that the Resolution was passed because everyone in the agencies involved are very much aware of the severe devastating impact of the winter storm on the coastal counties in this part of the state. She stated that the Resolution directs this Task Force to identify the issues which are outstanding that need to be looked at and to make recommendations for possibly solving them and helping eliminate future problems. She noted that the first priorities should be to obtain information, to identify solutions to immediate problems, and develop suggestions for long-range problems. She stressed that recovery and rebuilding would be the two primary issues. She stated that the Task Force would involve Taylor, Dixie and Levy counties, and that meetings would be held in all three counties. She then asked for review of state agency activities.

STATE AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Health and Rehabilitative Services

Mr. Poole stated that HRS is currently holding a variance board meeting to review septic tank permit requests and that some waivers may be made. He stated that HRS is willing to work with residents who are allowed to rebuild and put in septic systems. He noted that DER is currently doing a feasibility study on a central sewage line. He also noted that all the storm related fees were waived including the variance fee.

Ms. McMullen stated that Mr. Poole brought up a very important point. She noted that one of the things that we will be doing at this meeting is identifying the information we need to have in order to make recommendations or decide what kinds of issues need to be resolved. She stated that having an idea of the numbers of homes and structures that may have problems with their septic tanks is one of the issues we will need information on.

Mr. Bellot asked if there was some mechanism in which the state or federal funds will be used to purchase properties that are not allowed to rebuild because of septic tanks.

Ms. McMullen stated that this was a long-range issue we will need to consider.

Department of Environmental Regulation

Mr. Deadman stated that DER has reduced their permit fees to \$1. He noted that they have received seven permits in the Jacksonville office at this time and all of those are dredge and fill permit applications. He stated that they are still in the early stages of review. He stated that they are working with other agencies and the Governor's office to determine the possibility of a funding source to purchase lots that are not permittable. He stated, as Mr. Poole had noted, that they are working on a feasibility study to determine the cost of a central sewer system. He noted the area of the study would include the communities of Dekle Beach, Jack Lee Island, Keaton Beach, Cedar Island and Dark Island.

Mr. Bellot asked if they planned to do similar studies for Horseshoe Beach and Jena areas.

Mr. Deadman stated that he believed so, and was hoping to get direction from the Task Force as to how to proceed on that.

Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Wettstein asked Mr. Roberts to address some of the issues that relate to the Bureau of Survey and Mapping and Bureau of Submerged Lands and Reserves.

Mr. Roberts stated that the Bureau of Surveying and Mapping is currently staking the existing mean high water line and doing some aerial digitation of what the mean high water line was prior to the storm. He stated that once these determinations were made, state sovereign lands could be identified.

Mr. Wettstein stated that in many cases that mean high water line would affect the septic tank permitting. He stated that the study should be complete in 30 days or so.

Mr. Roberts suggested that anybody who is getting ready to rebuild should contact the Bureau of Survey and Mapping, identify their lot and let Survey and Mapping give them an opinion as to where the mean high water line is, so there is no question of ownership. He stated that the person(s) to contact were Mr. Terry Wilkerson or Mr. Sim Smith at 488-2427.

Mr. Wettstein stated that in more of a regulatory capacity the Division of Beaches and Shores has two programs which may have some relationship to this Task Force's activities. The first is the Coastal Construction Control Line program which regulates coastal construction. He stated that they would be able to provide some technical assistance on coastal protection structures or if there is a marina that needs to be redesigned with jetties and groins on the navigation channels, since they have expertise in that area. He stated that there is also a potential funding source in the beach management program and the contact name there is Mr. Lonnie Ryder, 487-1262. He stated that they get legislative appropriations to construct beaches. However, he noted that since it is a state-wide program and all saltwater shorelines are eligible, it is a very competitive funding source. Mr. Wettstein also mentioned the derelict vessel program which administers grants for the removal of vessels that are derelict, the marine patrol which enforces resource laws, and shellfish harvesting. He stated that one benefit that might come from this event is the ability to clean up our waters and increase the shellfish harvest areas.

At this point, to begin the process of collecting information, Ms. McMullen asked the state agencies to identify program areas in their agencies and specific types of projects which might be relevant to the aftermath of the winter storm. She asked them to list the area, contact name and telephone number and submit it to Mr.

Cantral for distribution to each member of the Task Force and public represented. In addition, she asked that a list of potential funding sources be identified. She asked if HRS could report on the number and location of septic tank permits that are denied as a result of the variance board meeting. She stated that we may also need, from the counties, the number and actual locations of structures that may have difficulties getting rebuilt. She stated that Mr. Cantral will be the central information gathering point.

Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting

Ms. McCoy stated that they have been monitoring what has been going on in the agencies and keeping in close contact with them.

Department of Labor and Employment Services

Ms. Karl stated that they provided temporary unemployment to the disaster unemployment assistance, and also provided job assistance. She noted that they could provide training if necessary.

Department of Transportation

Mr. Day stated that the Department of Transportation's primary responsibility is immediately after the storm in debris clean up and keeping the highways open and making sure the integrity of any structures on those roads are is not compromised by any actions of the storm. He stated that he is working as a liaison between the county and the federal highway, because the county has a road which they are trying to determine exactly what they can or can not do in order to make that road more passable. The county has requested Emergency Relief funding and has not heard from the federal highway about this.

Mr. Allen stated that this has become a real difficult issue because the FEMA rule states that if you have a road that is a federal aid highway, FEMA will not provide assistance to rebuild that road, it must come through the Federal Highway Administration. However, Mr. Allen stated that the federal highway has not come to look at and evaluate the road in question. He stated that the county wants to repair the road.

Mr. Day stressed that federal highway only reimburses after the work has been done.

Mr. Millican asked if the Federal Highway Department needed to make some determination prior to the repairs being made in order for the county to be reimbursed.

Mr. Day stated no, the county can go in and do emergency repairs, which may qualify for FEMA or ER funding.

Mr. Bellot asked who would be responsible for repairing bridges.

Mr. Day stated that if they were county bridges then the county would be responsible for making those repairs. He noted however, that if damages were caused by the storm then they could be reimbursable either through FEMA or ER funding.

Department of Commerce

Ms. Merrill stated that they are still trying to identify different funding sources through the federal system and they are still working through the Rural Economic Development Initiative with the three counties providing technical assistance.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Mr. McBeth stated that FEMA has been heavily involved on this whole situation through public assistance programs, individual assistance programs and temporary housing. He stated that there is not funding available to help people rebuild and unfortunately, the standard flood policy does not contain any payment for code upgrades. He stated that the Kerry Bill, which is currently being worked on in Congress, calls for such a payment to be available under the standard flood policies. He stated that there is technical assistance available and that they are always available to try and help communities as much as possible.

Mr. Wettstein asked if any of the Upton Jones provisions apply.

Mr. McBeth stated that the Upton Jones provisions are very specific, a structure has to be in imminent danger of collapse in order to make a claim. If one thinks they are in that position to make a claim, they do so through their insurance agent. He stated that however, a lot of people didn't have flood insurance.

Ms. McCoy asked if residents who had insurance could bring the structure back to the point it was and then pay the upgrade themselves.

Mr. McBeth stated that residents could get payment for what damages occurred. However, the problem here is what they call the substantial damage rule. If a structure is damaged 50 percent or more it must be brought up to code, that means the structure must be elevated and there is no payment in the standard flood policy to cover that type of expense.

Mr. Allen stated that it might be well that the Task Force understands that the height elevation to be in full compliance is 16 to 18 feet above ground level.

Mr. Ballinger asked if FEMA could change the restrictions on flood insurance, the flood requirements. He stated that it was ridiculous for him to elevate his home to 17 feet when these storms do not occur yearly.

Mr. McBeth stated that they use the best and latest scientific technologies to project flood elevations. He stated that if this area were to receive a direct hit from a Category 1 hurricane, storm surge would be much higher than what this winter storm produced. He stated that unless FEMA were proven incorrect in their projections, there would be no changes to the restrictions. He noted that four or five years ago Wakulla County hired a consultant to restudy the area and in fact, the consultant came up with higher elevations in some areas, above what FEMA uses.

Department of Community Affairs

Ms. McMullen commented on the Department of Community Affairs' activities. She stated that the comprehensive planning staff people are available to work with the local governments and provide technical assistance. She then asked Mr. Eastman for any comments on the CDBG program.

Mr. Eastman stated that he was looking into what money may be available.

Ms. McMullen suggested that he contact the Housing Finance Agency to see what funding sources are available through them. She noted that the funding available through the Department is primarily geared toward low and low to moderate income level people.

National Weather Service

Mr. Duval stated that he was here to answer any questions anyone may have.

Mr. Bellot asked if Mr. Duval could address the 100-year flood mark, what computer models have found and how they relate to this storm.

Mr. Duval stated that in terms of the winter storm, it was like nothing we have ever seen in our records. He stated that what the storm demonstrated to him was the extreme vulnerability of this portion of the coastline of the United States to storm surges. He stated that computer models which take into account many details concerning the structure of the coastline, depth of the water offshore, the distance offshore of the shelf, and so on, predict that in a Category 4 or 5 hurricane moving out of the Gulf on a track very similar or perhaps slightly further east than this storm would produce storm surges anywhere from 25 - 33 feet above sea level over portions of Taylor County. He stressed that this area of the state is very vulnerable.

Mr. Bellot stated that following the storm he compared the track of the storm to a Category 1 hurricane, with the computer models, he noted that the storm surge was off by only six inches. He stated that he thinks these models are very accurate.

Mr. Duval stated that storms follow a natural cycle, which the Weather Service has not been able to predict. He noted that this area has been struck many times in the past by storms and they have every reason to believe that this relative lull in the frequency of major hurricanes and tropical storms, not to mention winter storms, is probably not going to continue in the future.

Ms. McMullen asked Mr. Duval to clarify the term 100-year storm.

Mr. Duval stated that the term 100-year storm is a statistical term in which all the information available is gathered, which is generally 100 years' worth, and computed. He stressed that people should not assume that because a 100-year storm occurred, they will not see another one in their lifetime, that is not true. He noted that it is possible to have three 100-year storms within three months.

Mr. Curtis asked why, with the sophistication of the computer models, the Weather Service was not able to give any warnings to what would happen.

Mr. Duval noted that the computer models were developed for tropical storms and hurricanes. He stated that this storm was neither. He stated that in order to predict the storm surge, you must be able to define the wind veer. This is the point where the strongest winds are. He stated that the strongest winds in a winter storm can be anywhere, whereas in a hurricane they are at the center. He noted that the water responds to the winds. He stated that unless there was some way they could define where the strongest winds are in a severe storm, they would be unable, even now, to predict where and how high the storm surge would be.

Taylor County

Ms. Collins asked what could be done about debris in the canals.

Mr. Allen noted that FEMA is reviewing the possibility of funding additional dredging of the canals. He stated that this would be for all county-owned and maintained canals.

Ms. McMullen stated that the direction of the Task Force was to surface those issues which can not be solved by going through the normal processes.

Ms. Collins asked how the central sewer and water system would be funded.

Mr. Deadman responded that DER was looking at funding sources as part of the feasibility study.

Ms. Collins asked if temporary systems could be put in with the understanding that the resident would hook up to the central sewer system when it became available.

Mr. Deadman stated that from DER's perspective there was no objection.

Mr. Poole noted that from HRS's perspective there would be a problem.

Mr. Millican asked if that meant that if a property owner did not meet the septic tank requirement then he could not rebuild until there was a central sewer system available.

Mr. Poole stated that yes, as far as sewage was concerned.

Mr. Evans stated that it was his understanding that this Task Force was formed to focus on two timetables for goals. One of the timetables was immediate, those goals needed so people could establish some type of quality of life; and the other would be more long term, sewer treatment studies and the overall feasibility of rebuilding.

Ms. McMullen stated that the issues the Task Force is dealing with are issues that surface which require coordination among state agencies. She noted that recommendations would be made to the IMC on August 4, but that the Task Force may be directed to continue their research.

Mr. Evans asked when were the questions going to be answered, what was the timeflow on specific issues.

Ms. McMullen stated that once the information is gathered and recommendations are made, the timeflow is August 4.

Mr. Millican asked if the decisions made by the Task Force will be governed by the timeclock for processing permits.

Ms. McMullen stated that the Task Force will not wait until every single permit is reviewed in order to have a ballpark idea of where the problem areas are. She asked the counties to encourage residents to file permit applications.

Mr. Allen stated that a key reason permit application may be slow in coming is that those who have severely damaged homes may be waiting before they decide if they are going to rebuild or not.

Mr. Millican asked if the objective of the Task Force and the state was to determine those locations that can not be rebuilt and to deal with them upfront.

Ms. McMullen stated that among other things, yes. She noted that issues need to be identified and then worked through the process. She asked for further comments from Taylor County.

Mr. Dix stated that he had been retained by the county to assist in helping the residents and the county. He stated that he had developed a questionnaire to gather pertinent information and asked the Task Force to review it and comment on it. He stated that once the information has been gathered, it would be presented to the Task Force to assist you in your efforts. He stated that he hoped to have results by the week of June 28.

Ms. McMullen asked the Task Force members to review the questionnaire and following the report by Dixie County, changes to the questionnaire would be discussed.

Dixie County

Mr. Bellot stated that they experienced a lot of problems with debris and that cleanup was going well. He noted that the National Weather Service is in the process of updating their equipment along the coast and that there will be no radar or equipment between Apalachicola and Tampa. He suggested that residents and members of the Task Force contact Washington and make their representatives aware of this oversight. He stated that the main concern for Dixie County was the road into and out of Horseshoe Beach. He stated that this road floods early and they are looking to build the road bed up to extend evacuation times of the residents. He noted that they had isolated problems in dealing with FEMA. Mr. Bellot also stated that they experienced problems with gasoline tanks at the marinas and residential and commercial propane tanks. He stated that in the storm surge, the water lifted the tanks, the tanks broke from their lines and spilled gas/propane everywhere. He stated that this could be something for the Task Force to look at. He suggested that tanks in flood-prone areas be installed to a better code.

Mr. McBeth stated that tanks are considered structures and should be regulated as such by local officials. He stated that they should be anchored or elevated.

Ms. McMullen stated that this was a public safety issue and should be looked at by the Task Force. She asked members to research any rules that relate to this issue as an information item. She requested that if the rule is currently being rewritten to include a contact person and telephone number.

Mr. Bellot asked if a representative from the Department of Education could be made a member of the Task Force as the county uses the school systems extensively for evacuation and sheltering. He noted that new school construction includes a lot of windows and he would suggest that the Task Force should look at recommending shuttering for the schools.

Ms. McMullen stated that the Department of Education, Mr. Jim Schoer, would be contacted to attend Task Force meetings.

Mr. Allen suggested that the Department of Insurance also be contacted.

Ms. McMullen stated that they would be and asked for any other recommendations.

There were no other recommendations.

Levy County

There was no representative from Levy County present.

Ms. McMullen then asked that anyone who had a suggestion for improving the questionnaire to mark it down and give to Mr. Dix. She suggested that Mr. Dix and Mr. Cantral coordinate to make sure all the issues are covered and the questionnaire is still short and simple. Ms. McMullen suggested that this questionnaire be generic so that it could be applied to the other two counties, if they wish.

Ms. Moody asked if homes that were destroyed in March were going to be on the tax roll for the entire year.

Ms. McMullen suggested that Mr. Cantral research the findings in South Florida on this issue and report back to the Task Force.

Ms. Raffington stated that most of the information on the questionnaire could be retrieved from the local building officials.

Ms. McMullen stated that the questionnaire would be used as only one part of the whole picture. Other sources would be included and referenced.

Mr. Allen noted that residents may not complete the questionnaire if they have to identify themselves.

Ms. McMullen suggested putting the word "Optional" in after the request for lot address and name.

Ms. McMullen asked Mr. Roberts to do an analysis of the information of what properties are impacted by the mean high water line based on their surveys.

Mr. Roberts stated that he would report back to the Task Force within approximately three weeks.

Ms. McMullen stated that at the next meeting there would be a status report on the surveying and on the feasibility study. She asked DER to include Dixie and Levy counties in the study if possible. She noted that the Suwannee River Water Management District would be contacted to send a representative to the Task Force. Ms. McMullen also stated that currently the issues for review are: septic tanks permitting; rebuilding for a variety of reasons

including the location of coastal setbacks and elevations; and storage tanks. She asked for any other issues.

Ms. Woodcock noted that hazardous materials management issues may be tied into the local comprehensive plans and there may be restrictions within those plans or if there are no restrictions, the local government may want to add restrictions on hazardous materials management.

Ms. McMullen suggested that Ms. Woodcock coordinate with the counties on comprehensive plan issues.

Mr. McBeth noted that there is a requirement when rebuilding in a coastal high hazard area that the structure and foundation be certified by an engineer or architect. He asked if there was a funding source for this certification process.

Mr. Wettstein noted that DNR staff may be able to consult or provide technical assistance.

Ms. McMullen asked Mr. Wettstein to check if state personnel could be utilized in this certification process.

Ms. Woodcock asked the extent of the storage tank facilities.

Mr. Wettstein stated that he would collect the information from the Office of Coastal Protection in DNR. He stated that they should be notified of all tanks over 50 gallons.

Ms. McMullen stated that DCA/DEM Hazardous Materials may also be able to provide that information.

SELECTION OF LOCATIONS AND MEETING DATES

Ms. McMullen suggested that the first meeting be held in Cross City on Tuesday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m.

There were no objections.

Ms. McMullen asked Mr. Bellot to contact Mr. Cantral with a meeting place and directions.

Ms. McMullen suggested that the next meeting be held in Levy County on Tuesday, June 29 around 4:00 p.m. and that staff will contact Levy County to firm a time and place.

There were no objections.

Ms. McMullen suggested that the third meeting be held at the Blue Creek Baptist Church (between Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee) on Saturday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

There were no objections.

Ms. McMullen asked Ms. Collins to contact Mr. Cantral with directions to the church.

Ms. McMullen suggested that the last meeting be held in Perry on Thursday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m. and if another meeting is needed, it will be set for the following week.

There were no objections.

Mr. Wettstein asked if buy-outs was an issue or a solution.

Ms. McMullen asked DER and DNR to coordinate this issue. She also asked Mr. Cantral to check with Ms. Peery, Florida Communities Trust and Mr. Farr, CARL, regarding this issue.

Ms. McCoy stated that neither of those programs were a possibility.

Ms. McMullen asked that Mr. Cantral receive confirmation of that in writing. She then asked Mr. Dix and the counties to target the end of June for a return on the surveys, with a preliminary report by June 29. She asked Mr. Poole to prepare a preliminary report on the septic tanks issue by June 22 for all three counties.

Mr. Deadman stressed that these reports would be very preliminary.

Ms. McMullen stated that the issues were not simple, however, we are talking about people's lives and properties and the sooner we can identify, narrow down and deal with the issues, and let the people know, then the better.

Ms. Moody asked if the cost of flood insurance would be an issue for the Task Force.

Ms. McMullen stated that this would be discussed after a representative from the Department of Insurance is appointed. She noted that issues can be added at subsequent meetings, but the Task Force is trying to deal with major issues.

Mr. Dix suggested that the DNR look into whether it may be relevant to waive state ownership rights, regarding mean high water and slow erosion.

Mr. Millican stated that the question of ownership was very important to a significant segment of the communities and it would be a disservice not to keep this issue on the table.

Mr. Poole noted that most residents would not need to complete a DER dredge and fill permit until they have been approved/denied septic tank permits.

Ms. McMullen stated that there being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:36 p.m.