

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Joe and Israel

March 5, 2025

WATER CONTROL PLAN: A brief overview (see end of this update) will be given at the meeting and Board members will receive their notebooks to review prior to the April meeting. A full discussion on the plan will take place at the April meeting with Brandon Copper, our incoming District Engineer.

ASSET STUDY: Our carrier, Preferred Insurance, has completed a complimentary study of all our facilities and assets to determine appropriate values. This was last done in 2028. The study will be available to everyone when we receive it.

FORCE MAINS: A Developer Memorandum of Understanding is now in place for the continuation of the sewer system past the Bark Park to Blue Heron entrance.

12 HOURS OF PICKLEBALL: Will be coordinated by the Pickleball Club on Saturday, March 22. Begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 10 p.m.

TRAILS GRANT: All paperwork has been submitted for a Trailhead and Trail project that will extend from the Bark Park to the levee, to the ECO Park and Sunset Hill, and back down Duane Palmer to the Bark Park. This will be the last initiative until we get caught up with the other projects. The Trail grant is worth up to \$450,000.

EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES: Presentation will be made on the reports that are in your Board packets. Our mechanic will be here to answer any questions.

WEBSITE: We continue to maintain 100% compliance with ADA as well as 100% with the statutory guidelines. Use of the site in the month of February was 15,563 visits to the website, and our e-mail blasts average just under a 60% open rate, which is outstanding. The lawsuit update blast had a 72% open rate!

Water Control Plan Briefing

The original Water Control Plan (WCP) of 2010 came about as a result of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) placing Spring Lake under a consent order for failure to complete the original Plan of Reclamation. Originally issued to Westinghouse Corporation, who abandoned Spring Lake in the early 80's, it was left to the District to complete the plan. Without agreeing to finish the Plan meant that SFWMD would not allow construction of any kind to continue.

The WCP of 2010 dealt with a specific project: retention, storage, and water quality. It took until 2023 to complete that plan and begin the process of an updated plan.

An updated plan has given the District the opportunity to create a 10-year program instead of the required 5-year plan as outlined in Florida Statutes Chapter 298.

This new plan is actually a How To Do It Manual for all the various projects and activities that will take place over the next 10 years, as well as updating and upgrading current O & M plans.

When approved by the Board, a copy is required to be sent to Highlands County, and the District Engineer will work with staff to prioritize activities and oversee all projects.