

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) of Citrus County, Florida, met in a special joint workshop with the Crystal River City Council (CRCC) on the above date in the Crystal River Council Chambers, 123 Northwest Highway 19, Crystal River, to discuss the City of Crystal River (City) Small Communities Disadvantaged Wastewater Grant Program, which would assist the City in cleaning up King's Bay (Bay) by the removal of septic systems around the Bay.

Mayor Kitchen called the joint workshop to order at 3:00 P.M. Commissioner Wooten asked the Clerk to call the Commission roll, and the CRCC and the Board proceeded with its business.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	CRYSTAL RIVER COUNCIL
<p>COMMISSIONERS: Josh Wooten, Chairman; Vicki Phillips, First Vice Chairman; Roger Batchelor, Second Vice Chairman; Commissioners Gary Bartell and Jim Fowler</p> <p>ADMINISTRATOR: Richard Wm. Wesch COUNTY ATTORNEY: Robert Battista DEPUTY CLERK: Theresa Steelfox</p>	<p>MAYOR: Ronald E. Kitchen, Jr.</p> <p>CITY COUNCIL: Roger B. Proffer, Sr., Susan Kirk, and Kitty Ebert. Robert Holmes and John Kendall (absent)</p> <p>CITY MANAGER: Susan R. Boyer CLERK: Louise Stilson</p>

Chuck A. Pidgeon, principal planner for Berryman & Henigar, presented a PowerPoint presentation (filed with the Clerk's agenda) regarding the Small Communities Wastewater Grant Project. He explained that the City had received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for infrastructure construction and improvements, with the primary goal of the grant to provide necessary wastewater system infrastructure to remove septic tanks from service and to provide central sewer for existing needs and new construction. He stated that the total grant amount was \$10,126,645, with a preconstruction amount of \$861,645 that had already been awarded to the City, and a construction amount at \$9,265,000 to remove existing septic tanks from service and expand the City sewer service area.

He reviewed the first two phases and the elements of each phase in the Master Plan/Facilities Plan and stated that Phase 1 was completed in 2002. He stated that the grant areas and eligible grant project elements were 14-unsewered areas (11 areas within the City limits with approximately 87 parcels and 3 areas outside the City limits with approximately 827 parcels). He added that additional identified needs were existing system upgrades and improvements, and improvements to the water/wastewater treatment plant. He specifically identified the three areas outside of the City limits as the areas around the Plantation Inn, the Hourglass Subdivision, and the Palm Springs area.

He also reviewed the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Grant Project Component Cost. He stated that the total project would cost \$11,860,000 with \$10,900,000 for grant areas and \$960,000 for non-grant areas. He explained that the City was required to contribute 15 percent toward the grant project or \$1,787,055 plus the \$960,000 for non-grant system upgrades and improvements, totaling a shortfall of

\$2,747,055. He advised that the identified funding sources to pay for the shortfall were (1) State Revolving Loan from the FDEP, (2) annual grant disbursements (\$750,000/year), (3) Capital Recuperation Plan (wastewater assessment districts or impact/connection fees), and (4) existing City expansion fee funds.

He stated that the total project would be completed at the end of 2006, with the three areas outside of the City being the last areas to be completed. He outlined the County's involvement as follows:

☒ **Assist with public awareness of the project**

- Refer questions to the City
- Understand the benefits to Kings Bay and Crystal River

☒ **Plans review and permitting**

- Review the construction plans and impact to County roadways
- Process right-of-way utilization permits
- Allow use of existing easements

☒ **Assessment district involvement**

- Assist the City with implementing the program for sewer assessment
- Conduct required public comment hearings
- Authorize staff to begin preliminary investigation for a sewer assessment district

He then displayed a map showing the grant areas and service areas. He advised that the cost estimate to citizens would be approximately \$4,000 to \$4,500 per assessment with a one-year timeframe to hook up to the system.

He reviewed the different sewer system alternatives that were researched, such as standard and conventional gravity sewer systems, low-pressure type sewer systems with small pumping units, small clusters of sanitary sewer connected with pumping stations, and vacuum sewer systems. He stated that they would continue to investigate the alternatives to the sewer system as they move toward the final design.

He advised that the residents would have connection expansion fees to pay along with fees associated with any existing septic systems, which would have to be crushed, filled in with clean sand, and properly abandoned. He added that those fees could be rolled into the assessment and paid over several years as part of the tax bill.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Batchelor stated that he had worked on many similar issues since being a member of the Board and that the areas described in the presentation were some of the areas that he had the most concern. He hoped that there were future grants that would help the north end of the Bay, Indian Waters subdivision, and further down Fort Island Trail. He mentioned the preliminary work that was done for the Indian Waters Subdivision and thought that it might be helpful in the future.

Mr. Pidgeon stated that they had met with the FDEP several times to include the Indian Waters Subdivision in the grant; however, due to the timing of the grants and the original grant application not including that area, it was not possible. He added that the

FDEP was open for suggestions for future grants, and Indian Waters could be the next targeted area.

Commissioner Phillips concurred with Commissioner Batchelor and was glad that the environment would be improved. Mr. Pidgeon replied to Commissioner Phillips' question regarding the removal of the septic tanks by stating that the cost of septic tank abandonment was included in the grant amount at approximately \$1,000 per septic tank.

Commissioner Bartell complimented Mr. Pidgeon on his presentation and agreed with Commissioners Batchelor and Phillips. Mr. Pidgeon replied to Commissioner Bartell's question by stating that hook-up costs would be approximately \$14,000 each and the majority of the cost would be paid by the grant. He also stated that the service areas were based on need and proximity to the river, and on the interlocal agreement between the City and the County.

Mr. Pidgeon replied to Commissioner Fowler's question by stating that the FDEP had defined the grant areas and in order for the grant to pay for the improvements, the City could not go outside those limits; however, any other funding through more assessment districts could expand the project. He explained that Berryman & Henigar became involved in the process after the original grant application was prepared and awarded to the City. He added that the grant service area included approximately 1,000 parcels and 650 of those were improved.

He replied to Commissioner Batchelor's question regarding private sewage treatment plants by stating that the FDEP would encourage the owners of the private sewage treatment plants to connect to the municipal system when it was available to them.

Commissioner Wooten commented that there were not a lot of \$10 million grants being offered and that there should be no boundaries when protecting the environment. He affirmed that he thought the Board would allow staff to help facilitate this project.

Mrs. Boyer replied to Commissioner Wooten's question regarding Indian Waters Subdivision by stating that the preliminary work that was completed years ago would have to be reviewed to determine if it was still valid. She added that County participation would be needed.

Mr. Wesch stated that staff had heard the direction of the Board and would be glad to coordinate the Indian Waters Project with the City.

Discussion continued regarding the Board and the City being united in this project, the need for more grants for water improvements, the Legislative Delegation knowing the need for water improvements, funding being available for reuse to golf courses, the need to expand the City reuse spray field in the future, more expansion could be completed if the final costs were lower, etc.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bonnie Taylor commented on waterfront property owners who were concerned that their drain fields were going bad and therefore, ran their washing machine water directly on the ground.

Mr. Pidgeon replied to Sumner Waite's question by stating that several of the design decisions had been made for areas within the City; however, the final design decision for the largest area within the County had not been made.

Mark Flint, also with Berryman & Henigar, reviewed the alternative sewer technologies that were recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as viable systems.

Mr. Flint and Mr. Pidgeon replied to Bob Bennett's questions by stating that the individual sewer systems had storage included in the design, that most gravity systems in Florida relied on power, that the sewer plant had auxiliary power generators in the master pump station that would be located in the southern end of the City and would serve the County areas, that there were no plans to loop or connect the City system into the County system, etc.

Mr. Pidgeon thanked the Commissioners and staff for coming to the workshop and advised that the project was posted on the City's website www.crystalriverfl.org, and there would be periodic updates.

There being no other business to come before the Board and the CRCC, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (4:06 P.M.)

ATTEST: _____, Clerk _____, Chairman