

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on the above date. The Chairman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Fowler led in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States' Flag. Following the calling of the roll, the Board proceeded with its discussion of the construction of wastewater facilities in the Homosassa area.

**Commissioners:** Vicki Phillips, Chairman; Brad Thorpe, First Vice Chairman; Roger Batchelor, Second Vice Chairman; Jim Fowler; and Gary Bartell  
**Clerk:** Elicia Kuhl and Theresa Steelfox, Deputy Clerks  
**Attorney:** Larry M. Haag, Attorney  
**Administrator:** Gary W. Kuhl

The Chairman opened the meeting. Mr. Kuhl stated that Ken Cheek, Water Quality Project Coordinator, would present an update of the construction overview for the Homosassa Wastewater Collection System Project, as well as a breakdown of the infill areas. He explained that the project should be underway by December and that there had been a delay due to the delivery of pipe from the manufacturer.

Mr. Cheek presented the following:

- ❖ Phase 1 extends from the intersection of Venable and Rockcrusher, westward across US-19, adjacent to the Riverhaven Wastewater Plant; that the existing wastewater plant would be taken off-line and the plant (Meadowcrest WWTP) would serve the Riverhaven Subdivision, KC Crumps, Sportsman Town Homes, and the Riverside Inn, etc.
- ❖ Phase 2 extends north and south on US-19, down Yulee Drive; was currently under design, with permitting in mid-December and at the first of the year bids would be solicited, etc.
- ❖ Phase 3 would be the reuse component to provide upgrades to the wastewater plant in order to use the reclaimed water for offsite irrigation.
- ❖ Future phases would be to create a wastewater master plan in order to determine the other phases, e.g., extend service areas down US-19, down Mason Creek Road, areas east of US-19, etc.
- ❖ Funding sources are being explored continuously, i.e., state and federal grants, Southwest Florida Water Management District Cooperative Funding, etc.

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Status</b>
Phase 1-A & B	\$2,388,900	Rowland, Inc. was the low bidder at \$1,576,403.50.
Phase 1-C&D	\$1,386,450	Under design by Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc., Inc. Land acquisition for lift stations underway.

Phase 2	\$4,820,000	Yulee Drive to Old Homosassa (Cherokee Drive) Funding sources: ❖ SWFWMD - approved by Basin Board ❖ State Revolving Fund Loan (20 years) @ 35%
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(I-6:15 P.M.)

Mr. Kuhl extended appreciation to David MacColeman, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Weston Stow, Coastal Rivers Basin Board Member, SWFWMD; E. D. "Sonny" Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD for their assistance in the County's water quality projects.

Citizens that spoke included: Eugene Hough, Ted Archambault, Hal Seckinger, Mike Moore, Patricia Holt, Ken Ricca, Diann Schultz, Dan Armstrong, and Jim Bitter.

**The Staff and Board Responded to questions' raised:**

Mr. Cheek stated that placement of a permanent hard surface on top of the pipe line would make it more difficult to do repairs, that the pipes extending across the river would be mounted on the side of the bridge, but any modifications to the bridge would be the responsibility of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mr. Kuhl stated limerock could be considered as a covering for the pipeline; that staff was seeking funding assistance for the conversion of septic tanks; that various options were being reviewed, etc.

Mr. Haag explained the assessment process:

- ❖ Board initiates engineering services.
- ❖ Public hearing is held with preliminary cost estimates available.
- ❖ If approved, the Board authorizes an engineer to prepare specific plans.
- ❖ Construction commences and the final costs (construction and connection fee costs) are determined.
- ❖ A second public hearing is held at which the amount and terms of paying for an assessment is provided.

The Chairman stated that the Board was sensitive to the costs for these types of projects, and realized that the costs would in turn be passed on to the citizens.

Mr. Kuhl agreed with Mr. Archambault that the one cent sales tax proposal was a reasonable, minimal way to help, but it failed with the voters, and that the Board and staff continue to explore avenues to minimize and offset the costs to the citizens, etc.

David MacColeman, FDEP, explained that the playground at the Homosassa Elementary School was low and was frequently flooded, that the onsite wastewater treatment plant was old, that the decision was made to include the School within Phase 1 in order to improve an existing sanitary problem, that it was in the best interest of the citizens, it was FDEP permittable, etc.

