

***See attached agenda update memo dated 3/19/21**



**Board of County Commissioners
March 23, 2021 - Regular Meeting**

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON TALLAHASSEE TRIP

Category

COMMISSIONER AGENDA

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Misty Servia

Action Requested

None

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Other (if applicable)

Reviewing Attorney

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A



County Administrator's Office
 1112 Manatee Avenue West
 Bradenton, FL 34205
 Phone number: (941) 745-3717

MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Stewart, Acting County Administrator

From: Diane Vollmer, Agenda Coordinator

Date: March 19, 2021

Subject: **Agenda Update for Meeting of March 23, 2021**

This memo and the changes indicated below are reflected in the electronic agenda.

Public Comments

Written comments submitted through the online Public Comment form were added to the following:

- Item 3 – Citizen Comments (Consideration for Future Agenda Items)
- Item 19 - Execution of Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 19-Ta003044cd for Design-Build Agreement for Manatee County East County New Library

Changes to Consent Agenda

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Item 31 - Execution and Recording of County Deed from Manatee County to Kevin P. Devine and Kathryn E. Devine for a drainage easement located at 11484 52nd Court East, Parrish

- The second to last bullet point in the Background Discussion section was updated to provide clarification.

Item 34 - Execution of Contract for Sale and Purchase with Lakewood Ranch Commerce Park Owners Association, Inc., for Property located near 44th Avenue East

- The Contract was updated and replaced to include a corrected Parcel Sketch (Pages 14, 23, and 34).

Changes to Advisory Board/Committee Appointments

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Item 42 - Appointment of Three Residents to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Citizens Oversight Committee

- The Background Discussion section was updated to correct the list of applicants.
- A Citizens Oversight Committee Roster was added.

Changes to Reports

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Item 47 - Presentation of Redevelopment and Economic Development Annual Reports

- Slide 17 in the PowerPoint presentation was updated and replaced to clarify the economic development process. Additional adjustments were made, with no substantial changes to content, for ADA compliance.

JAMES
SATCHER
District 1

REGGIE
BELLAMY
District 2

KEVIN
VAN OSTENBRIDGE
District 3

MISTY
SERVIA
District 4

VANESSA
BAUGH
District 5

CAROL
WHITMORE
At Large

GEORGE W.
KRUSE
At Large

Addition to Regular Agenda

HUMAN RESOURCES

Item 49 – 2:00 P.M. TIME CERTAIN - Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Acting County Administrator

- Request for Board direction to Human Resources on desired next steps towards identifying an Acting County Administrator.

Addition to Commissioner Agenda

COMMISSIONER SERVIA

Item 50 - Update on Tallahassee Trip



Board of County Commissioners
March 23, 2021 - Regular Meeting

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UPDATE ON TALLAHASSEE TRIP

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COMMISSIONER AGENDA

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Misty Servia

Action Requested

None

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Background Discussion

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Other (if applicable)

Reviewing Attorney

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A



MEMORANDUM

To: Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
From: Diane Vollmer, Agenda Coordinator

Date: March 22, 2021

Subject: **Agenda Update for Meeting of March 23, 2021**

This memo and the changes indicated below are reflected in the electronic agenda.

Changes to Consent Agenda

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Item 31 - Execution and Recording of County Deed from Manatee County to Kevin P. Devine and Kathryn E. Devine for a drainage easement located at 11484 52nd Court East, Parrish

- The second page of Exhibit A to the County Deed, which was inadvertently included, has been removed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Item 38 - Execution of Alternative Wastewater Connection Agreement for Rye Crossings with Linda M. Hirsch for the Developer to Connect Rye Crossing to the Manatee County Wastewater System via means of an Alternative Connection

- The agreement, executed by Ms. Hirsch and containing Exhibits A and B, was attached to this agenda item. Exhibits C and D, which were not a part of this agreement, were removed.

Changes to Regular Agenda

ADMINISTRATOR

Item 48 - Updates on CARES Act Strategies, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and Coronavirus Local Strategies involved with Testing, Local Data, Statistics, and Vaccine Distribution; Extension of Local State of Emergency

- The following presentations were added to this item:
 - American Rescue Plan 2021 – Coronavirus State & Local Recovery Fund
 - On-going Response to the COVID 19 Pandemic

HUMAN RESOURCES

Item 49 - 2:00 P.M. TIME CERTAIN - Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Acting County Administrator

- A Form Resolution and Contract for Dr Scott Hopes as Acting Administrator (provided by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge) was added to this agenda item.

Change to Commissioner Agenda

COMMISSIONER SERVIA

Item 50 - Update on Tallahassee Trip

Commissioner Servia's notes were attached to the agenda item.

Addition to Commissioner Agenda

COMMISSIONER VAN OSTENBRIDGE

Item 51 - Direction to County Administrator to set aside 200 COVID 19 Vaccines for Manatee Sheriff's Office Deputies or Corrections Officers who wish to receive a Vaccine

Manatee County BOCC trip to Tallahassee – March 16-18, 2021 Draft Notes

Manatee County attendees: Vanessa Baugh, Kevin Van Ostenbridge, George Kruse, Misty Servia, Charlie Hunsicker, Nick Azzara

FAC LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING March 17, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Secretary of State, Laurel Lee

- \$33.1 million in funding from the Governor will be devoted to libraries.
- Governor believes that libraries are critical and thanks local governments for providing financial support to them.

Secretary of Commerce, Jamal Sowell

- QTI (Qualified Target Industry) – tax refund program to help create good jobs for Floridians. Senator Joe Gruters supporting – SB 982.
- \$50 million in funds requested for the grant program.

FUN FACT: 87% OF THE State of Florida is rural, but only 8% of our population lives in these rural areas.

State Attorney General, Ashley Moody

- She is focused on protecting Florida citizens from problems associated with opioid addiction, sex trafficking, and protection of our seniors.

FDOT Secretary, Kevin Thibault

- Goals: Improve safety, enhance mobility, inspire innovation, and foster talent.
- 3 main funding sources for state transportation: 1) State dollars - 51%, 2) Federal dollars – 25%, and 3) Tolls – 18%.
- We have a \$1 billion-dollar shortfall. FY 2021-2022 budget is \$10.4 Billion
- \$9.47 billion – State Transportation Work Program and \$50 million – Economic Development Transportation Fund
- Gas tax is down due to fuel efficient vehicles and electric vehicles. We need to prepare for a funding shift. These funds will begin to decline in 2029.
- By 2030, Ford has announced that they will sell only electric vehicles in Europe.
- By 2040, Fedex will have converted their fleet to electric vehicles.
- By 2040, Florida could reach 35% of all vehicles being electric.
- The end of the ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) is here.

- The most important question to ask yourself when wanting a project funded, “Is it on the MPO list?” If not, why?
- The FDOT is fiscally constrained when delivering projects. If the plan changes and something is added, then something of equal value must come off the plan. Horse trading.
- Transportation is always regional.

Senator Bobby Powell

- SB 592 – proposes to expand unemployment from 12 weeks to 26 weeks

Commissioner of Agriculture, Nikki Fried

- Goals: expansion of broadband internet, concealed weapons permit, and cyber security. Attacks on local governments websites are up 59%.

MEETINGS

Representative Michael Grant, House Majority Leader, Charlotte County – District 75

Comments from the BOCC & Staff

- Baugh shared our top priority is the clean-up of Piney Point. We have asked for a \$6 million appropriation to be matched by local dollars.
- Baugh: The Board’s preference is deep well injection.
- Baugh: Board is asking for a \$3.6 million appropriation to match local dollars to complete the widening of Moccasin Wallow Road.
- Baugh shared the challenges created for our local Sheriff’s office because FHP does not have adequate funding and staffing.
- KVO shared the challenges with the 3 island bridges – Cortez Bridge, which is the only one funded for \$87 million, Anna Maria bridge, and bridge between Bradenton Beach and Longboat key. All bridges are nearing the end of life. Anna Maria and LBK bridge will take approximately \$200 million to replace. Anna Maria and Cortez can be fixed span bridges – LBK must be a draw bridge. All should be 3-lanes for public safety issue.
- Hunsicker explained our aquaculture program - oysters and clams. FAC platform aligns with our program. We passed through the committees last year, but it was vetoed by the Governor. Hoping it is funded this year. It is a very “research heavy” endeavor. Manatee County is using BPO money for our programs. The bivalve industry is struggling.

Comments from Representative Michael Grant

- Rep Grant discussed the 2020 raises FHP received.
- Public safety issue is recognized, and we have the same issues with our prison guards.

- Young people are a resource in short supply and this problem is the same all over the nation.
- Working on recruiting out of state employees.
- Money from the federal government – infrastructure, long term loans. Bridges have a 50-60-year life span.

Speaker of the House, Chris Sprowls, Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, Pinellas County.

- Baugh shared our top priority is the clean-up of Piney Point. We have asked for a \$6 million appropriation to be matched by local dollars.
- KVO shared the challenges with the 3 island bridges – Cortez Bridge, which is the only one funded for \$87 million, Anna Maria bridge, and bridge between Bradenton Beach and Longboat key. All bridges are nearing the end of life. Anna Maria and LBK bridge will take approximately \$200 million to replace. Anna Maria and Cortez can be fixed span bridges – LBK must be a draw bridge. All should be 3-lanes for public safety reasons.
- KVO Explained how inflation is driving up the costs every year.
- Sprowls: There is more money in the FDOT Trust Fund. All explained in the agreement
- Sprowls: We have \$1 billion for non-recurring transportation investments. The Governor agrees this is a valuable investment.
- Baugh explained that Manatee will be bonding road improvements.
- Sprowls said there is \$100 million for flood resiliency relief this year and mentioned a proposed Bill that would provide tax exemption of property taxes for homeowners who create flood mitigation on their property.
- Sprowls mentioned a proposed Bill that will change public notice requirements. Newspapers are antiquated and this would eliminate the subsidies that the government notices provide to newspapers.

State Representative Tommy Gregory

- Baugh: shared our top priority is the clean-up of Piney Point. We have asked for a \$6 million appropriation to be matched by local dollars.
- Baugh: The Board’s preference is deep well injection.
- Gregory sighed, indicating he did not like deep well injection. KVO asked if that changed his support for the effort, and Gregory replied, “yes”.
- Baugh explained that we are asking for 3.6 million of matching funds to widen Moccasin Wallow Road.
- KVO explained the need to replace the Desoto Bridge and the 3 island bridges. Said they are all nearing their end of life and explained the public safety concerns with getting emergency vehicles on and off the island.
- Gregory said that any infrastructure bills he will file, but for this year.
- Hunsicker explained the oyster and clam restoration efforts. He explained that a dredging project in the 1940’s removed all oysters from the Manatee River. He explained that we will see this sustainable effort from Tarpon Springs to Collier County. He also explained the business development opportunity for Port Manatee.

- Gregory asked, “Is it a commercially viable project?” Hunsicker explained that the business risks are 1) disease and 2) that the clams grow beyond market size for food, but these bivalves can help to prevent red tide since they naturally filter the water. Representative Rayner filed the bill this year.
- Hunsicker explained that sustainable American products are going to be the “new thing”. He explained that the State won’t allow clams to be placed over seagrass, but clams clean the water and then seagrasses grow over them.
- Gregory said that Rep Rayner has been a good partner for us.
- Gregory talked about the stand-alone transportation bill. He is trying to remove roadblocks for FDOT. He believes that DOT is overdoing landscaping at some of the intersections. He said the palm trees in Miami-Dade are everywhere, and then he learned that there is a 1.5% set aside for landscaping. He said that non-natives are an issue, irrigation, and pesticides, but removing this component is difficult.
- Gregory talked about rapid contracting up to \$1-million for dangerous intersections to fast track improvements. He explained that there is no appetite to go for a larger amount of money at this time.
- Baugh mentioned the Verna Bethany Road intersection and said that Manatee County will likely front the money for this improvement.
- Gregory: No tax increase is his objective.
- Gregory mentioned the internet sales tax bill that is proposed this year.
- Baugh mentioned Blue Nile is a competitor that gives her business challenges.
- Gregory: Over \$1 billion can be raised from this and then be used to offset unemployment increases.
- Baugh mentioned the FHP underfunding that is creating a problem for our Sheriff.
- Gregory mentioned that sunshine law revisions are needed and he would like to work on that.

State Representative Will Robinson

- Robinson told us that he is on the Professions & Public Health Committee.
- Baugh shared our top priority is the clean-up of Piney Point. We have asked for a \$6 million appropriation to be matched by local dollars.
- Baugh: The Board’s preference is deep well injection.
- Baugh explained that we are asking for 3.6 million of matching funds to widen Moccasin Wallow Road and that inflation is a challenge.
- Baugh mentioned more FHP funding and why it is needed.
- KVO discussed the Desoto Bridge replacement and that we are looking for capacity improvements.
- KVO explained the Cortez Bridge is funded at \$87 Million, 3 lanes, and that we are looking at park and ride opportunities to reduce the parking issue on the island.
- KVO explained that we would like to expedite the study and design phase of the Manatee Ave bridge. He also explained that the Longboat Key bridge must be replaced as a draw bridge.
- KVO: \$400-\$500 million in bridge money needed.
- Robinson asked if public engagement has taken place for the Desoto Bridge.

- KVO said that it will be important to show the community what it will look like underneath the bridge and that this is an opportunity to bring the community together, if presented well.
- Robinson said that the House is expected to be very conservative this year.
- Robinson had a conversation with DEP secretary – he said it was a good conversation and that the DEP Secretary had spoken with the Governor about Piney Point and they agreed that it is “OUR” problem collectively.
- Robinson said that he had spoken with Rep Rayner about clams and oysters.
- Hunsicker said that the commercialization of clams and oyster is coming soon and explained that FAC adopted Manatee County’s language as their platform for aquaculture.
- Robinson explained the “get me out of purgatory” bill that he filed. He explained that it narrows review time frames to 30-days for rounds 1 and 2 and 15-days for round 3.
- KVO asked about the bill that will remove the requirement to advertise in the newspaper for public notices. Robinson said that it will pass the House but may get bottle-necked in the Senate. Robinson said that it is good policy and should pass this year.

Senator Joe Gruters: (via zoom)

- Baugh shared our top priority is the clean-up of Piney Point. We have asked for a \$6 million appropriation to be matched by local dollars.
- Baugh: The Board’s preference is deep well injection.
- Baugh explained that Moccasin Wallow Road is an important east/west connector.
- Gruters explained that shovel ready projects will be in a good place to receive Cares funding. He said the Governor issued his budget for spending the Cares Act money on 3/16/21.
- KVO asked if he supports the bill to remove public notices from being advertised in the newspaper. Gruters said he does not support removing that requirement, as he thinks of the good conservative newspapers like The Observer that will be affected. Gruters said that if the bill doesn’t pass this year, it is unlikely that it will pass in the next 4 years.
- Hunsicker talked about oysters and clams, the water quality and commercialization components. He explained that sustainable American products will be commercially important and clams and oysters fit right in. He explained the need to return bivalves to the Manatee River and Bay and that they cannot naturally recover. They are a low tech – high value solution.
- Baugh explained that FHP needs more funding so that our local Sheriff is not over-burdened.
- Martha Edenfield suggested we may be able to tie the oysters/clams effort to resiliency funding. Now is the time to do it.

Senator Jim Boyd

- He is sponsoring an opioid bill that allows pharmacists to prescribe Narcan and a safety disposal kit – evidence shows it is saving lives.
- He was happy to hear that the Board prefers a deep well injection for the Piney Point waste. As a constituent, he hopes that after the Piney Point waste is disposed of that storage volume in the well is not sold to others.
- Baugh explained the need to expand Moccasin Wallow.

- Boyd likes the Green Bridge Recreation Pier replacement.
- Boyd said the budget is looking better than expected. He explained that the “hole is more shallow”. He said \$10 billion in federal money is expected.

DEP: John Truitt, Esq, Deputy Secretary and Alex Bickley, Director, Legislative Affairs

- DEP: Regarding the deep well injection, Manatee should expect a challenge based on technical geological issues. The good news is that there is a good history – the geology was not a problem with our last application and won’t be new or have changed.
- Hunsicker: Wanted to confirm that underground water moves to the west, and not to the east. DEP agreed that the data and science shows that our underground water moves to the west.
- DEP: The State of Florida has just under 2,000 deep wells and only 3 have ever had issues. Of the three with issues, two were in Miami and one was in Alico. South Florida geology has some issues and it is harder to use deep well injection in these areas.
- Hunsicker: Talked about how a regulatory process works – an application is made and the regulator reviews the data presented. DEP agreed and said that their role is agnostic and based exclusively on science and facts.
- How can we expedite the process?
- DEP: Most sections of the review cycle cannot be modified, but there is one 30-day period that we may be able to slightly reduce.
- DEP: any application for Piney Point will go to the top of the file. The Secretary wants to make sure this is handled. We can be assured this application will not fall to the side.
- KVO: How can we help you?
- DEP: Decide who will be the applicant. There are many scenarios and options. Joint applicants?
- KVO: HRK is in foreclosure.
- DEP: HRK listens to the DEP.
- Azzara: Can we craft the application to limit streams of waste since public dollars are going to be used?
- We are talking about a big timeframe. #1, dispose of the 750 million gallons of wastewater. #2 40-50 years of pour water. USC permits are good for 5 years. Renewals are NOT automatic.

FDOT Meeting - Secretary Kevin Thibault and Courtney Drummond

- Sec Thibault explained - oil prices - \$65/barrel, asphalt and concrete prices are up. They are getting an average of 5 bidders per job, which is good. FDOT is tracking pricing trends in comparison to 2006 – commodities are not that high yet, but we are trending in that direction.
- Baugh explained the need to expand Moccasin Wallow Rd.
- KVO asked that the Desoto Bridge study be expedited and that we have 20,000 more homes approved north of the river. The secretary said he has heard concerns of an elevated bridge from the community and their message has been consistent. KVO said that we need to explain what it will look like under the bridge. The secretary said there will be a workshop planned in the Fall.

- KVO offered a helicopter view of the city, as he and Richard Bedford previously offered. The secretary said that he will take him up on that after session and before the workshop. KVO said that he would organize a reception with the mayors – maybe at the hospital to meet with the Secretary.
- KVO explained the need to replace the 3 island bridges.
- Secretary said that the Cortez bridge will be constructed in 2026 and that the right of way is funded. He said Anna Maria will be #2 and LBK #3. He said to let the process run its course.
- Azzara asked, How do we position ourselves in the best light for the federal funding? The Secretary answered by explaining to help remove barriers. The biggest impediment will be r/w acquisition. It will take 18 mos to 2 years to condemn property. If a property owner is willing to sell, get that coordinated up front. He also explained that they used to look for “shovel ready” projects, but US Sec Buttigieg is looking for “shovel worthy” projects.
- Hunsicker explained that we have all of the r/w for the Anna Maria bridge, but not for the Cortez bridge.
- KVO explained that one of the main concerns of citizens about the Cortez Bridge is the length of time that the bridge will be out of service.
- Secretary said, if you know the preferred alignment, help us to make sure, for example, a 7-11 doesn't get approved within the alignment. Work with us. The secretary also explained that you cannot rush the process and that it is all about partnerships.
- Baugh mentioned that she was afraid the secretary was referring to Verna & Verna Bethany roads.
- Hunsicker provided a hand-out on the trails program and explained that we have good community support. The secretary explained that there was a big reduction in state money and trails have been deferred. Hunsicker said that we will try to get federal money to help and said that there is a lot of competition with the build grants. The secretary explained the current federal administration is very supportive of walkable communities.
- Baugh asked for an update on the I-75/US 301 interchange and the secretary said the design phase is later this year.
- Secretary asked what we need for Moccasin Wallow and Baugh explained that we asked for an appropriation and said that he helped us a lot last year and we need the same this year.
- Secretary explained that most of our ports had a small blip, but then it was back to business as usual, except for the ports that had cruise ships. They were hit hard and could not make up the losses.
- Secretary explained that the reduction in gas tax revenue is not unique to Florida – we should expect a federal standard soon. He explained that Utah and Oregon are taxing based on mileage. We may expect a tax per kilowatt hour as we move to electric fleets. Some are taxing tires, but the secretary felt that tires are so expensive that he hated to add a special tax to them.
- Secretary asked to tour the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport and Port Manatee when he is in town, which we promised to arrange.