

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 15, 2025

A Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance (via teleconference), Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Savino. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda

Change #1: Item 7, Added attachment - Revised Presentation.

Requested by: Utilities

Change #2: Item 7, Added attachment – Revised II Presentation.

Requested by: Utilities

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Public Input

Bob Mudge discussed Ackerman Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU), meeting notices, East/West Spring Lake, assessment increases, and utility connections.

1. Fiscal Update

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of Options, Next Steps, responded to June 19, 2025 Utilities Department Financial Update Meeting, connection fee study, stakeholder input, capital growth component, and Building Industry Oversight Committee (BIOC) communication.

Chair Tiseo mentioned Next Steps, Options, rate adjustments, connection fees, stakeholder input, and December 9, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Next Steps, Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) Rate Index, October 14, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting, and Options. **Commissioner Truex** noted Options.

Dave Watson, Utilities Director replied to stakeholder input.

2. Utility Update

Mr. Watson gave a brief overview of Monthly Purchases from Water Authority Average Daily Per Month, Water Produced at Burnt Store Average Daily Per Month, Reclaimed Distributed, Water Distribution, Water Service Installs, Wastewater/Reclaim Events, Sanitary Sewer Overflows Per Calendar Year, Source of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), Causes of SSOs, Customers Per System Type, Water Reclamation Facilities Percent of Capacity - Last 12 Months, New Customers, Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Remaining Equivalent Residential Connections (ERCs), Burnt Store WRF Timeline, East Port WRF Remaining ERCs, West Port WRF Remaining ERCs, Rotonda WRF Remaining ERCs, Peace River System, Burnt Store System, Miscellaneous Data, Business Services, Accounts Turned off for Non-payment, Customer Support Data, Public Relations, Employee Performance Measures, Department Overtime, 2025 Utility Topics, replied to fee-free payment options, and payment vendor bid process.

Chair Tiseo spoke to Water Service Installs, installation waiting period and policy, systemic improvements, Accounts Turned off for Non-payment, payment method options, third-party vendors, rate payers, convenience fees, bid process and interested parties, and Paymentus contract and fee threshold. **Commissioner Deutsch** discussed payment methods. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned Monthly Purchases from Water Authority Average Daily Per Month, June 4, 2025 Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) Meeting, drought impacts, convenience fees, auto-payment option, and convenience. **Commissioner Truex** commented on Water Service Installs, meter installation payment, and waiting period.

Sandra Weaver, Business Services Supervisor responded to payment method options, third-party vendors, convenience and penalty fees, data security, Paymentus accreditations and enrolled customers, City of North Port, Cape Coral, and fee negotiations.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb replied to Paymentus contract.

3. Burnt Store Update

Lewis Bryant, Kimley-Horn and Associates Professional Engineer gave a brief overview of Agenda, Current Flows and WRF Capacity, Burnt Store WRF Flow Projections, Temporary Treatment Timeline (0.43 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) Units), Temporary Treatment Alternatives: 19-month Duration Scenario, 37-month Duration Scenario, Temporary Treatment Plant Plan Recommendation, Temporary Treatment Plant Plan, responded to storage requirements, technological differences, Rotonda WRF, and filtration process.

Chair Tiseo noted Temporary Treatment Plant Plan Recommendation, 37-month Duration Scenario, purchase option, maintenance, resale value, cost challenges, and package plants. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Cloacina MEMPAC-R Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) and AUC Group Conventional System technology differences and maintenance issues. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Temporary Treatment Alternatives: 19-month

Duration Scenario, 37-month Duration Scenario, rental and purchase cost estimates and benefits, compatibility, and Temporary Treatment Plant Plan.

Mr. Watson replied to Construction Manager at Risk review, Temporary Treatment Plant Plan, and site considerations.

4. Projects Update

Kenneth Stecher, Utilities Operations Manager gave a brief overview of Engineering Projects, Development Projects, East Port Water Reclamation Facility Expansion, Burnt Store Expansion Update, Ackerman - Water Quality Improvement, Ackerman - Completed Connections, Ackerman Zone Map, Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, Water Authority Phase 2B Joint Project Hillsborough Water Main, MT003: Resiliency and Modernization Grant, State Road 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, State Road (SR) 776 Force Main Replacement, Midway Boulevard Force Main Project, Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade, Examples of Municipal-Owned Utilities in Charlotte County, Non-County Owned Valuation and Transfer Policy, and Engineering Design Manual Update.

Chair Tiseo mentioned construction delivery method determination, Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, alternatives, State Road 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, Englewood Water District, agreement requirements and mechanics, funding reallocation, statutory requirements, project prioritization, Non-County Owned Valuation and Transfer Policy, Examples of Municipal-Owned Utilities in Charlotte County, and upgrade costs. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Midway Boulevard Force Main Project and map request. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, CMAR, plant construction, phased approach, unit costs, project delivery methods, PRMRWSA, and scheduling challenges. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to Ackerman - Water Quality Improvement, bid bond letter requirement, Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, CMAR, Non-County Owned Valuation and Transfer Policy, Little Gasparilla Utilities, bulk agreement, financial challenges, upgrade costs, Examples of Municipal-Owned Utilities in Charlotte County, and Engineering Design Manual Update.

Mr. Watson responded to project delivery methods, Englewood Water District, water and sewer service areas, bulk service agreement requirements, State Road 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) Project, Non-County Owned Valuation and Transfer Policy, and Board approval process.

5. Ackerman MSBU

Ms. Weaver gave a brief overview of Issue, Three Considerations: 1 - Ability and desire to assess vacant lots, 2 - Convert all Unity of Title to Deferment, 3 - Deferment, Financial Variables, Questions/Comments, Next Steps, and Informing Future Decisions, replied to East/West Spring Lake MSBU, capital costs, new build septic tank installation, and State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Scott Ericson, Financial Manager gave a brief overview of Financial Variables, responded to SRF loans, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), expended and reimbursed costs, and funding allocation cap and requests.

Chair Tiseo discussed 3 - Deferment, vacant lot values, tracking, sewer connections and expansion requirement, deferment pilot program and improvements, infrastructure, Financial Variables, Ad Valorem Taxes, Questions/Comments, prepaid estimated residential connections (ERCs), shortfalls, MSBU assessments, cost difference funding options, Next Steps, Urban Service Areas, advanced wastewater treatment, Sewer Master Plan affordability component, SRF caps, Commercial Paper, construction inflation index, and rate payer value. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Questions/Comments, prepaid ERCs connection totals, Financial Variables, system delivery costs, contract renegotiations, pricing increases, transparency, timespan increases, funding sources, rate payers, and MSBU assessments. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on contracts, challenges, fair treatment, and program commitment. **Commissioner Doherty** noted East/West Spring Lake, Capital Improvement costs, Policy changes, 3 - Deferment, Financial Variables, vacant lots, connection fee limitations, Questions/Comments, prepaid ERCs, assessment and financing methodologies, Ackerman MSBU, cost estimates, Bid proposals and contracts, system life expectancy, Lakeview/Midway Wastewater Expansion, and SRF. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to Questions/Comments, Capital Improvement and construction cost increases, payment options, Next Steps, funding sources, program commitment and modifications, rate payers, and plant capacity.

Mr. Watson replied to cost differences, Three Considerations: 1 - Ability and desire to assess vacant lots, 2 - Convert all Unity of Title to Deferment, 3 - Deferment, and October 14, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting.

6. Credit Collection Policy

Ms. Weaver gave a brief overview of Credit Collection Policy.

7. Fee Discussion

(Change #1) Added attachment - Revised Presentation.

(Change #2) Added attachment - Revised II Presentation.

Ms. Weaver gave a brief overview of Proposed Increases to Miscellaneous Fees and Charges: Account start-up, Pretreatment fees, Other, responded to inspection requirement determination, compliance, and neighboring municipality comparison.

Chair Tiseo discussed fats, oils, and grease (FOG) Program and inspection requirements, Pretreatment fees, application process, billing methods, Lee and Sarasota Counties, cost recovery, disposal service providers, frequency determination, and Geographic Information System (GIS) map utility availability layer. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned cost recovery, surrounding counties comparison, fee indexing, Pretreatment fees, and safe

service. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Other, fire flow test costs, plan review fees, and single residential or commercial building permits. **Commissioner Truex** noted Proposed Increases to Miscellaneous Fees and Charges: Account start-up, dedicated service, Pretreatment fees, cost recovery, monthly inspection, site visit and utility service availability report fees, rate payers, tank sizes, Other, lien search and account payoff fee timeframe, labor costs, consistency, and building permit application process.

Mr. Watson replied to FOG program fee and service personnel, engineering review, Pretreatment fees, cost recovery, county comparisons, and October 14, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting.

AA. County Administrator Comments - None

BB. County Attorney Comments - None

CC. Commissioner Comments

Chair Tiseo spoke to Englewood Beach parking lots and phased approach.

ADJOURNED: 4:20 pm

Joseph M. Tiseo, Chair

DATE ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk