

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 22, 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 (departed at 10:23 am), Vice Chair Doherty, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, 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 9:00 am,** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Changes to the Agenda**

**Change #1:** Item 1, Added attachment - Presentation.

Requested by: Utilities

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

Requested by: Utilities

**COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

### **Public Input**

Percy Angelo remarked on Affordability Index, environmental effectiveness, pollutants, Cape Haze, nitrogen removal costs, advanced wastewater treatment (AWT), Coral Creek, Jones Edmunds, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) language and control technologies, and sewer management plan.

### **Taken Out of Order**

#### **4. 2020 Sales Tax Discussion**

Dave Watson, Utilities Director gave a brief overview of Water Quality Infrastructure Sales Tax (2020) Budget \$7,000,000 - Tier 1, Sales Tax Project Funding - Tier 1, Available Sales Tax Project Funding, responded to State Road (SR) 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, July 15, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update, West Port and Rotonda Water Reclamation Facilities (WRFs), Englewood Water District, Membrane Reactor (MBR) plant, and AWT improvements.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed Available Sales Tax Project Funding, Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility, capacity challenges, consent decree, incremental approach, and cost allocation. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Available Sales Tax Project Funding, SR 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, cost, identified funding sources and projects, Percy Angelo

comments, AWT, and East Port WRF. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Available Sales Tax Project Funding, West County Projects, benefitted properties, cost distribution, SR 776 Wastewater Force Main Replacement, Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade, West Port WRF, and AWT.

## 5. Fee Discussion

Mr. Watson gave a brief overview of Charlotte County Utility Connection Fee Structure Review: Table 1 - Comparison of Water Connection Fees, Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, and Table 3 - Charlotte County Utilities, Florida Analysis of Water and Wastewater Miscellaneous Fee and Charges.

**Chair Tiseo** spoke to indexing methodology, Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, bids, stakeholder input, Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) Annual Index, and stakeholder meeting notification and feedback. **Commissioner Constance** discussed Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, fee subsidies, inflation, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, low pressure sewer (LPS) system tank cost, and connection responsibility. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) financial picture, LPS cost and rates, Utilities Financial Update Meeting, July 15, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update, and Table 3 - Charlotte County Utilities, Florida Analysis of Water and Wastewater Miscellaneous Fee and Charges. **Commissioner Truex** commented on Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, LPS system fee subsidies, Utilities Financial Update Meeting, and Table 3 - Charlotte County Utilities, Florida Analysis of Water and Wastewater Miscellaneous Fee and Charges.

Murray Hamilton, Raftelis Vice President replied to Charlotte County Utility Connection Fee Structure Review: Table 1 - Comparison of Water Connection Fees, Table 2 - Comparison of Wastewater Connection Fees, June 11, 2024 Utilities Rate Model Update Presentation, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) needs, FPSC Annual Index, LPS installation, and calculated costs.

County Administrator Flores replied July 15, 2025 Utilities Department Quarterly Update and fee feedback.

Jeremy Frost, Utilities Operation Manager responded to LPS tank cost and homeowner responsibility.

## 6. Mandatory Sewer Connections

Mr. Frost gave a brief overview of Utility Loans - Mandatory Sewer Connections.

**Chair Tiseo** noted funding sources, Utility Loans - Mandatory Sewer Connections, capacity, statutory requirement, policy decision, affordability, obligations, Community Action Agency Advisory Board (CAAAB), Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), limitations, challenges, Human Services, and hardship programs. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Utility Loans – Mandatory Sewer Connections and homeowner responsibility. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Utility Loans - Mandatory Sewer Connections, connection requirement and process, LPS systems, homeowner responsibility, plumbers, Septic to Sewer (S2S) Projects, public right-of-way, Utilities Financial Update Meeting, private sector, and hardship program options. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned timeframe, financial hardship and private sector options, and Utilities Financial Update Meeting.

Mr. Watson replied to loan program down payment, homeowner's connection costs, financing options, Resolution, and funding sources.

## 7. US-17 Development Sewer Modeling

Tom Friedrich, Jones Edmunds Senior Consultant gave a brief overview of Agenda, Central States Water Resources (CSWR) US-17 Development and Phases, 2045 Wastewater (WW) Flows for US 17 Development, US-17 Development Forcemain Connection to East Port Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), Recommended Connection Locations to CCU East Port WRF Collection System, Impact to East Port WRF 9 million gallons per day (MGD) Expansion, responded to flushing velocities, and service areas.

**Chair Tiseo** commented on Metro Forecasting Update, fee responsibility and schedule, subsidies, policy, Grants, and DeSoto County. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Impact to East Port WRF 9 MGD Expansion, growth, CSWR US-17 Development & Phases, expansion cost, responsibility, and rate structures. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Recommended Connection Locations to CCU East Port WRF Collection System, US-17 Development Forcemain Connection to East Port WRF, potential service area, velocity, cost transfer, annual assessments, and Peace River. **Commissioner Truex** discussed CSWR US-17 Development & Phases, fee calculations and schedule, ownership, service areas, capacity, Impact to East Port WRF 9 MGD Expansion, and DeSoto County.

Mr. Watson replied to US-17 Development Forcemain Connection to East Port WRF, service area, CSWR, DeSoto County, and Babcock Ranch.

## 8. Septic to Sewer Affordability

Mr. Friedrich gave a brief overview of Agenda, Affordability of S2S, Is the 4.5% Affordability Index from Stratus Consulting Appropriate, County-wide Median Household Income vs. Median Income of S2S Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Areas, Septic to Sewer (S2S) Areas and Census Tracts, and Conclusions and Discussions.

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned Sewer Master Plan, affordability, subsidies, policy decision, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards, Percy Angelo comments, pollution control, EPA, regulatory mandates, and Grants. **Commissioner Constance** commented on County-wide Median Household Income vs. Median Income of S2S CIP Areas, affordability, annual assessments, cost, policy, March 6, 2024 City of Cape Coral Water and Sewer Capital Expansion Fee Study, Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC) connection and expansion fees, Florida Impact Fee Act, methodology, and US-17 Corridor. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted County-wide Median Household Income vs. Median Income of S2S CIP Areas, inflation, population, S2S Program, potable water and sewer line delivery, and commitment. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to County-wide Median Household Income vs. Median Income of S2S CIP Areas, Stratus Consulting, natural disasters, insurance premiums, S2S Program annual assessments, payment amortization, affordability, cost, life cycle, and Giffels-Webster Engineers President Jonathan Cole. **Commissioner Truex** discussed County-wide Median Household Income vs. Median Income of S2S CIP Areas, rising costs and waters, Resolution, MSBU rates, Englewood East, adjustments, transparency, Percy Angelo comments, Florida Administrative Code 64E: Construction Standards for Drainfield Systems, affordability, State Revolving Fund (SRF), Grant funding, Congressman Greg Steube, methodology, El Jobean East Wastewater Expansion Project, ERC, restrictive incomes, and US-17 Corridor expansion.

County Administrator Flores responded to S2S Program annual assessments, affordability, East West Spring Lake and El Jobean East Wastewater Expansion Projects, SRF, and Grant funding.

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager replied to assessments, Resolution, Ackerman S2S Project, and additional costs.

## 1. Fiscal Update

**(Change #1)** Added attachment – Presentation.

Mr. Arthur highlighted Fiscal Update, responded to Projected Rate Adjustments, impacts, Comparison of Capital Planning Scenarios, and CCU Capital Needs Assessment (CNA).

Mr. Hamilton gave a brief overview of Recent Updates to the Financial Plan, Summary of Operating Considerations, Summary of Major Assumptions: Base Case, Projected Peace River Operating Expenses, Peace River Financing Plan, Projected (All-in) Purchased Water Costs, Capital Planning Approach, Financial Scenarios/Planning Criteria, Minimum Reserve Targets, Comparison of Capital Planning Scenarios, Projected Rate Adjustments – Residential Water and Wastewater Bill Comparison: FY 2026 – FY 2030, FY 2031 – FY 2035, and Adequacy of the Projected Rates.

**Vice Chair Doherty** mentioned Recent Updates to the Financial Plan, Summary of Operating Considerations, Peace River Financing Plan, Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) bond issuance, proportionate share, rate payer benefits, Comparison of Capital Planning Scenarios, Utilities Financial Update Meeting, Capital Projects, AWT, benefits, connection fees and rates review, and existing customers. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Recent Updates to the Financial Plan, adjustments, Projected (All-in) Purchased Water Cost, maximum capacity, new and existing rate payers, future expansions, resiliency factor, and benefits. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted Metro Forecasting Update, Comparison of Capital Planning Scenarios, and Projected Rate Adjustments. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to Recent Updates to the Financial Plan, Comparison of Capital Planning Scenarios, connection fees, options, FY 2031 – FY 2035, future needs, timeline, S2S Program required expansion, US-17 Corridor, Englewood East, and Cape Haze.

## 2. Utility Update

**(Change #2)** Added attachment – Revised Presentation.

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), Cause of SSOs, Customers Per System Type, Water Reclamation Facilities Percent of Capacity - Last 12 Months, New Customers, Burnt Store WRF Remaining 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, and 2025 Utility Topics.

**Vice Chair Doherty** discussed East Port WRF, Wastewater/Reclaim Events, SSO cost responsibility, Burnt Store WRF Remaining ERCs, additional capacity, Burnt Store WRF Timeline, Kimley-Horn & Associates contract, modification, package plants, and Peace River System. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Wastewater/Reclaim Events, contractor and subcontractors, SSO cost responsibility, potable water spills, Burnt Store WRF Remaining ERCs, and AWT. **Commissioner Truex** commented on Water Service Installs, Wastewater/Reclaim Events, directional drilling process, fine policy, and contractor responsibility.

### 3. Projects Update

Kenneth Stecher, Utilities Operations Manager gave a brief overview of Engineering Projects, Development Projects, East Port Expansion, Burnt Store Expansion History, Burnt Store Expansion Update, Ackerman - Water Quality Improvement, Ackerman Septic 2 Sewer Connection - Zones 1 and 2, Lakeview/Midway - Water Quality Improvement, Water Authority Phase 2B Joint Project Hillsborough Water Main, MT003: Resiliency and Modernization Grant, replied to aerobic granular sludge (AGS) technology, Florida Department of Health (FDOH), and failed septic systems.

**Vice Chair Doherty** spoke to Burnt Store Expansion History, McKim & Creed, engineer's cost opinion, contract termination, May 27, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting, technology, efficiency, capital and operations and maintenance (O&M) cost savings, West Port WRF, Burnt Store Expansion Update, Ackerman - Water Quality Improvement, Ackerman Septic 2 Sewer Connection - Zones 1 and 2, LPS sequencing, functioning and failing septic systems, FDOH Administrator Joseph Pepe, and evaluation process.

#### **AA. County Administrator Comments**

County Administrator Flores noted BCC Schedule Changes and June 19, 2025 Utilities Financial Update Meeting.

#### **BB. County Attorney Comments - None**

#### **CC. Commissioner Comments**

**ADJOURNED: 11:43 am**

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**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**