Welcome to WATER SCHOOL 2012!
Streamline Shuffle

- Create aerial view/design of your property
- You MUST have a stream run through your property
SHARE

HOW and WHY did you decide what you would put on your property?
REFLECT

Did you consider:

- Water pollution and minimizing land use effects?
- Areas of great concern for water quality?
- BMPs for your property?
GENERALIZE

Identify another example of where everyone’s input will enhance the solution to meet a common goal?
200 show up to talk about Warner’s Bayou

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BRADENTON — If Manatee County had been remiss in soliciting feedback from residents and boaters about controversial renovations to the Warner’s Bayou boat ramp, it made up for it Thursday.

A half-dozen county employees showed up at Palma Sola Elementary School to listen to and answer questions from an estimated 200 anxious people during a public workshop.

The county staffers were grilled by S.J. Cantolino, whose comments seemed to mirror those of many.

“As it is now, Warner’s Bayou is a busy place,” Cantolino told Tom Yarger, the county’s construction services manager. “Now you will be turning it into Coyote Island.”

Cantolino was referring not only to the county’s proposed plans to replace boat ramps, but also add brick and mortar bathrooms, bright lights and pave over much of the boat ramp parking area as part of an overall stormwater runoff strategy.

Outspoken longtime resident Dr. Robert Stobaugh said:

“They are trying to build a full-service marina in a neighborhood.”

“This is a boat ramp, not a park,” said resident Evelyn Treworgy. “I am concerned if these changes are implemented, parking will be taken away from boaters.”

There will be no Cony Island-type hot dog stands at Warner’s Bayou boat ramp, no jet ski or boat rentals, and no all-night access to bathroom facilities, said Cindy Turner, director of parks and one of the county staff who tried to allay fears.

“The bathrooms would be on a timer system,” Turner said.

As for the paving, Charlie Hunsicker, director of Manatee County natural resources, explained that some sort of stormwater run-off strategy must be implemented if Manatee County is to accept these funds, but it doesn’t have to be concrete.

“Right now, we have zero stormwater treatment at Warner’s Bayou before it goes in the river,” Hunsicker said. “We can still accomplish our mission leaving the sand and shell. We would use dry grass ponds for the runoff.”

Turner seemed to agree.

“I am hearing lots of opposition to the concrete tonight,” Turner told resident Susan Mitchell.

Once residents heard Hunsicker and Turner say the concrete could be optional, it seemed to relieve some anxiety.

County commissioner Joe McClash, however, asked Hunsicker if Manatee County could simply use some of the money to replace the north boat launch and nothing more.

Money for the $728,600 project is from the West Coast Inland Navigation District and the Florida Boating Improvement Fund.

“I think the best thing about tonight is that people were heard,” Chappee said.
The Big Questions

- How much water do we need?
- How much water do we have?
- Who gets to decide who gets to use how much?
- Who gets to use how much?
- From where?
- For what purpose?
Figure 5. Fresh groundwater and surface-water withdrawals in Florida by category, 2005.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey
Scientific Investigations Report 2009–5125
Policy Makers are between a rock and a Hard Place!
Water Allocation Policy and Law

- Historically, common law as the dispute settlement process.
- The Judge made the law which produced doctrines/decisions that established “precedents”
- Examples:
  - Riparian Doctrine
  - Reasonable Use Rule
Water Resource Act of 1972

- Created 5 water management districts.
- Placed policymaking authority in appointed governing boards.
- Declared all waters of the state are a public resource.
- Regulation of wells, water use, storage and management of surface water.
- Ad valorem taxing authority.
Tools for Policy Makers
Education

- Best Management Practices (BMP’s)
- Public Services Announcements
- Classes
Incentives

- Rebates
- Retrofits
Costs – Efficient Rate Structures

- Users respond to higher rate by reducing consumption.
- Low rate for block protects low-income need for affordable essential supplies.
- Higher rates for larger blocks discourage unnecessary consumption.
- Utilities can maintain revenues while reducing fixed charges.
Laws

- Resolutions
- Ordinances
- Policies
Public Engagement

- Voting
- Public Hearings
- Town Meetings
- Listening Sessions
- Communication with Elected Officials
How does public policy and the role of civic engagement tie into all of this?