

# SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## *Public Utilities*

**TO:** Sarasota County Commission  
**THROUGH:** Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator  
**FROM:** Dave Cash, Interim Utility Director, Public Utilities  
Molly Williams, P.E., Stormwater Utility Manager, Stormwater Division  
**DATE:** August 27, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** **Dona Bay Project Update**

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION(S) OR ACTION(S):**

Presentation of the Dona Bay Water Quality Project quarterly update.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The existing Dona Bay watershed has been significantly impacted by man-made drainage activities, which increased the volume of freshwater being discharged to its tidal estuary. A portion of the Myakka watershed has been diverted to Dona Bay by the man-made Cow Pen Slough (CPS) canal, increasing the watershed size from 15 to 75 square miles.

In 2005, the County teamed with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to develop the Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan (DBWMP) using the principles of Comprehensive Watershed Management that are consistent with guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The DBWMP recommended a phased implementation to achieve five objectives: 1) Provide a more natural freshwater/saltwater regime in the tidal portions of Dona Bay; 2) Provide an opportunity for alternative water supply development; 3) Provide flood protection; 4) Provide pollutant load removal; and 5) Provide rehydration of wetlands. The DBWMP concluded that it is possible to simultaneously attain watershed improvements, reduce freshwater flows to the estuary, and potentially provide up to 15 million gallons a day (mgd) for public water supply.

### **RELEVANT PRIOR BOARD ACTION:**

1. November 2011 - BCC Approval of FY2013 and FY2014 cooperative funding requests to the SWFWMD.
2. November 2012 - BCC Approval of FY2013 and FY2014 cooperative funding requests to the SWFWMD.
3. November 14, 2012 – Board approved Contract Amendment No. 1 (Contract No. 2013-136) to Contract No. 2009-147 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for additional design and permitting services (5-0 vote).
4. March 6, 2013 - Quarterly Update on Dona Bay Watershed Restoration Project.

5. June 18, 2013 – Board approved Contract Amendment No. 2 (Contract No. 2013-417) to Contract No. 2009-147 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for additional design services (5-0 vote).

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Dona Bay Conveyance System**

A peer review with a multi-disciplinary team of County staff and an independent review by MWH Global was conducted at the 60% plan submittal and 90% plan submittal. The concerns identified in the reviews required additional geotechnical work and modification of the design. Kimley-Horn & Associates has assured the County that the concerns have been addressed.

The draft 100% design plans were submitted to the County on July 25, 2014 and are currently under review by a multi-disciplinary team. County staff and the design consultant, Kimley Horn & Associates, continue to work together with the SWFWMD staff to address their comments to secure the Environmental Resource Permit for the project.

County staff has discussed the Dona Bay Conveyance System with SWFWMD staff regarding the SWFWMD funding sources and it was determined that the Facilitating Agricultural resource Management Systems (FARMS) program funding was not appropriate for the Dona Bay Conveyance System. FARMS program funding may be suitable for future projects that may use the North Pinelands Storage Facility as a water source.

County staff and SWFWMD staff negotiated the terms of the grant agreement for the Dona Bay Conveyance System project. The grant agreement will be presented to the SWFWMD Governing Board on August 26, 2014 for approval. The estimated eligible cost for cost sharing was determined to be \$12,500,000 with a SWFWMD total contribution of \$6,250,000. The grant agreement to be presented to the SWFWMD Governing Board is for FY15 funding of \$3,100,000 with the expectation that the County will submit a grant application for FY16 funding for the remaining \$3,150,000.

The measurable benefits for the Dona Bay Conveyance System include creation and enhancement of 280 acres of wet detention and 83 acres of wetland rehydration. A conservative schedule was negotiated for the SWFWMD grant agreement. The schedule includes initial construction starting by June 2015 and construction completion by December 2017.

The Dona Bay Conveyance System project includes moving in excess of 1.7 million cubic yards of soil. In comparison, the recently completed Celery Fields Phase 3 project moved over 1.1 million cubic yards of soil. Based on the volume, the Dona Bay Conveyance System project is primarily a large-scale earth moving project and the County may benefit in both time and cost savings from a modified procurement process. County staff is initiating the Bid Phase for the project and met with Procurement to discuss procurement options to minimize risk and improve the probability of attracting a highly qualified contractor.

The schedule and budget contained in this update are based on Kimley-Horn & Associates adequately addressing concerns raised in the 60% and 90% plan submittals in the 100% plan submittal received on July 25, 2014. As of August 20, 2014, Kimley-Horn & Associates is still revising the 100% Plans and bid documents.

### **Dona Bay Surface Water Storage Facility - Venice Minerals**

The survey and geotechnical reports are complete. Additional analysis by MWH Global has identified existing soil conditions that will require plan modifications to address the onsite conditions.

A meeting was held with a representative of the Venetian Golf and Country Club to discuss the option of supplying stormwater runoff for their reuse system. County staff will meet with the City of Venice to discuss the opportunities to use the Dona Bay Water Surface Water Storage Facility - Venice Minerals site as a source for reuse.

This project supports Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives, policies and native habitat management guidelines:

*Water Objective 1.3: Continue to explore and use alternative and supplemental water resources to conserve and replace the use of traditional water supplies.*

*Water Objective 1.4: Protect the functions of natural ground water recharge areas, natural drainage features, and surface water bodies.*

*Water Goal 2: Sarasota County shall provide programs which... enhance, protect and conserve the hydrologic and ecological functions of natural systems including estuaries, freshwater and groundwater systems; and ensure safe, efficient, economical, and sustainable water supplies that provide customers the appropriate water quality for the intended use.*

*Water Policy 2.2.1: The County shall implement its Watershed Management Plan consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) permit issued to the County by FDEP. The Comprehensive Stormwater Quality Program shall provide for management and control of stormwater runoff to reduce pollution at the source and discharge of pollutants into receiving waters from the County's stormwater system to the maximum extent possible.*

*Water Policy 2.2.2: The County shall require that the treatment of stormwater discharge meet standards which will ensure that there will not be adverse impacts on the quality of natural surface waters.*

*WATER Policy 2.3.2: Stormwater Quality: no discharge from any stormwater facility shall cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards in waters of the State as provided for in County Ordinances, Federal Laws and State Statutes. Water quality levels of service shall be set consistent with the protection of public health, safety and welfare and natural resources functions and values. (continues)*

*Water Policy 3.1.6: Sarasota County will continue to explore sustainable alternative water supply resources in cooperation with State, regional and local agencies and other local governments.*

*ENV Goal 2: Protect and enhance wherever possible, the quality of the estuarine environment in Sarasota County.*

*ENV Objective 2.1: Improve surface water quality including estuarine, freshwater, coastal streams, rivers, and bays, including the Myakka River and its tributaries.*

*ENV Objective 4.3: Protect and conserve surface and groundwater resources*

*ENV Policy 4.3.2: Sarasota County will coordinate with other governmental and private entities to protect water resources*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

N/A

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. PowerPoint Presentation