

Unapproved minutes for April meeting.
MINUTES OF PRCA GENERAL MEETING on April 6, 2006
at the COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Meeting was called to order by the chairman, Al Jones, at 7:04 P.M. Commissioner Halas, Eugene Calvert, Director of Road Maintenance and Storm Water, Jerry Kurtz PE, Principal Product Manager and Stan Chrzanowski from the County were in attendance. The first order of business was a presentation of the Storm Water Committee by the committee chairman, Nick Hale. Large maps of the Pine Ridge Subdivision were used to show the elevation profiles. Nick stated that there were no significant problems with storm water 10 to 15 years ago. Most of the houses were small with large lots. He pointed out that the swales were not designed for the runoff from residential lots. Rather, they were to provide drainage of water from the roads. Nick described the flow from various lakes and swales. Ideally, the swales retain the run off water up to given level to allow percolation into the water table. After the design level is reached, the water flows to the ditches on the east and west borders of Pine Ridge.

Stan Chrzanowski reported that the County is planning to do a complete survey of our present ditches and their water flow. He pointed out that problems occur when the yards are graded with too much slope. Excessive slope doesn't permit the normal percolation of the water into the ground and results in excessive flow into the roadside swales. The normal requirement is that the floor level be 18 inches above the crown of the road. When higher floor levels are required, a stem-wall construction is preferable. These requirements are in place to limit the excessive grades in the yards. There have been complaints about the megahouses that cover a large portion of their lot. They tend to reduce the amount of lawn area subject to the desired water percolation.

There was a general discussion about the problem of high storm water levels in Mockingbird and Egret lakes. The County needs easement or some type of right-of-way between 8 houses to replace the defective pipes that have suffered severe cave-ins. They need an access fifteen feet wide to do the necessary work. The pipes from both lakes are nearly blocked. Their work would require about 4 months and would disrupt any interfering landscaping. The County could move ahead with permission of the affected property owners and with the application of ad valorem taxes to cover the expenses.

Commissioner Halas stated that storm-water management problems are not new nor are they unique to Pine Ridge. This is a problem that the Board of Commissioners has been ignoring for several decades. The County staff says that the solutions to solve the problem county wide would cost over 450 million dollars. The storm-water utility is budgeted for only 1.5 million dollars.

Jerry Kurz stated that a complete survey of Pine Ridge would cost about 89 thousand dollars. He estimated that the survey work for the pipes from lakes Mockingbird and Egret would cost about 11 thousand dollars. The total cost for replacing the pipes would be 400 to 500 thousand dollars. The drain ditch along Goodlette-Frank Road has been cleaned south of North Carica but they have not been able to clean north due to issues about the County right-of-way and property rights.

During the discussion period, Stan stated that the septic drain field should be 2 to 3 feet below the lawn surface. George Bunocore reported that the lake Bunting was 3 to 4 feet below the normal level. This is much lower than in any recent history. Rebecca Ivy reported that there were 6 feet of water in her back yard during hurricane Wilma. There was some discussion about the weirs down stream of the flow north through Pelican Marsh. There was a main weir where the water from Pelican Marsh enters the

Calooshatchie drain. There is also a fixed weir in Pelican Marsh that determined the height of water in the Goodlette-Frank drain ditch. It was requested that the storm-water committee inspect the drainage system through Pelican Marsh. There was some discussion about the use of eminent domain to obtain the right to clean the drain ditch north of Carica Road. Al emphasized the need for close cooperation between the County and Pine Ridge residents to solve our storm-water problems. He indicated that clearing up the drain problems from Mockingbird Lake should be given the highest priority.

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Door Prize—Drawings were held for a cheese cake by Naples Cheese Cake Company. Janet Long was a lucky winner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M. There were about 72 people in attendance.

Arnold DeHart, Secretary

Pine Ridge Civic Association