



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

AGENDA

Pinellas County Stormwater/Wastewater Task Force
Working Group Meeting #3
November 4, 2016

Location: Pinellas County Utilities, Training Room, 6730 142nd Avenue N., Largo

1. Attendees:

Marty Reich, City of Pinellas Park
Dave Floyd, City of Pinellas Park
Nan Bennett, City of Oldsmar
Irv Kety, City of Largo
David Porter, City of Clearwater
Bill Breckinridge, Pinellas County
Randi Kim, Pinellas County
Rahim Harji, Pinellas County
Jorge Quintas, City of Dunedin
Paul Stanek, City of Dunedin
Paul Smith, City of Tarpon Springs
Claude Tankersley, City of St. Petersburg
Don Sopak, City of Gulfport
Steve Andrews, Redington Shores
Libby Bolling, Pinellas County
Kelli Hammer Levy, Pinellas County
Patrick Flynn, Utilities Inc. of Florida

2. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Approved minutes
- b. Website is being developed by Pinellas County
- c. Dropbox for sharing info

3. Discussion of Specific Topics:

- a. Private property issues
 - i. Laterals
 1. Magnitude of I&I can range from 20% to 75%
 2. Need for development standards to require stormwater underdrains to

control groundwater infiltration

3. Point of Sale inspections/certification programs are a good method to ensure private laterals are maintained. Pinellas Real Estate association is voicing strong opposition to Point of Sale inspections/certification programs.
4. Alternately, municipality can adopt stronger or newly adopted code enforcement for private laterals.
5. Ordinances to allow for inspection of private lift stations.
6. Pinellas County Environmental Enforcement Act that authorizes ordinances. Enforcement authority for sewage releases to surface waters or stormwater system from private laterals, septic tanks, lift station. Up to \$10,000 per violation per day. Act covers soil/ground but ordinances have not been adopted for soil/ground.
7. Funding
 - a. Typical cost for private lateral repair \$2,000 - \$5,000 per house to replace line.
 - b. State Grants
 - i. Reimbursement program akin to Pinellas County septic connection program in Largo area where septic tanks were failing.
 - ii. Prefer program whereby:
 1. Utility conducts inspection and notifies homeowner. Could opt to have contractor conduct inspection. Needs to be part of I&I program that identifies I&I "hotspots" target areas based on age or high I&I flows based on monitoring.
 2. Need ordinance that permits enforcement.
 3. Homeowner applies for grant.
 4. State administers program.
 - c. Loans (SRF) – state funds can't be used for private laterals?
 - d. State-level Gulf Coast Consortium for Restore Act funding
 - i. State won't allow use of funds for lateral or septic tanks.
 - ii. Restore funding available through estuary program.
 - iii. St Petersburg put in for private lateral program - \$500K.
 - iv. NOAA NRDA funding for sanitary sewer projects \$8.8B
 - e. Use of BP Funding for private lateral program
 - f. CDBG funds
 - i. Can be used for private property in conjunction with public project, e.g., replacing public laterals/gravity sewers.
 - ii. Must be economically disadvantaged areas.
 - g. Cost sharing programs
 - h. Insurance programs
 - i. Maintenance contracts
 - j. MSBU – municipal service assessment fee for inspections/repairs, non-advalorem tax
 - k. Private Utilities (e.g., Utilities Inc.) would not be able to receive grants. Would need public entity to administer program.

8. Private property access
 - a. Administered by Utility
 - b. Pre-qualify plumbers
 - c. Incentive programs with rebates (similar to My Safe Florida hurricane program for house hardening). Free inspections with insurance rate incentives.
 - d. Inspections from Utility side of lateral. Small cameras for lateral inspection.
- ii. Private sewers and lift stations
 1. Tarpon Springs, Pinellas Park, Largo have ordinances that allows for inspections.
 2. Pinellas County and other Cities do not have ordinances.
 3. Inspectors can develop a diplomatic relationship with “customers”.
 4. Possibly develop County-wide ordinance to be consistent.
 5. Database of private sewers/lift – not all Cities have inventories.
 6. Possible acquisition of private sewers. Some residents will be resistant to paying individual sewer bills.
 7. Need flow monitoring to monitor I&I, surcharges for escalated flows.
 8. Ask FDEP to increase enforcement of private systems.
- iii. Reference: “Private property inflow and infiltration control,” WEF Publication
- iv. Septic tank connections
 1. Defer discussion considering focus on I&I and capacity issues.
- v. Equalization Tanks to handle I&I capacity
 1. Typically \$1M per 1M storage tank capacity
 2. Don’t have the real estate for the tanks
 3. Would need to maintain tanks when not in use, which is expensive.
 4. Additional peak capacity - \$3/gallon capacity vs. \$10/gallon for I&I. Recognize I&I is more expensive and takes longer to implement so need to add capacity in interim. Need to perform modeling to define level of service, cost, risk management.
 5. Level of Service (LOS) – can’t guarantee that we will never have a sanitary sewer overflows as a result of all storms, grease blockages, non-flushables.
- vi. Education and outreach program to promote regular maintenance
 1. House plumbing (flappers)
 2. Private laterals
 3. Cleanouts – making sure caps are in place
 4. Campaign to find out what people know about their sewer systems
 5. How bills can go up?
 6. Setting expectations for Utility level of service
 7. Countywide program – holistic approach
 8. Potential state funding available – TMDLs, 319, SWFWMD
 9. Current media methods - PSAs in movie theaters, vehicle wraps, events, social media, digital media
4. Talking points for Legislative Delegation (11/16/16)
 - a. Summary of goals, work to date, preliminary findings, timeline for initial action plan
5. Action Plan Format

- a. Powerpoint format
 - b. Develop outline for presentation by next meeting
 - c. Communcations to assist
6. Next Meeting
- a. Stormwater issues impacting sanitary sewer system
 - i. Illicit connections
 - ii. Flooding and drainage area “hot spots”
 - iii. Stormwater master plans
 - b. GIS Tools and data sharing
 - c. Sea Level Rise
 - d. Groundwater/Stormwater models