

*Viera East
Community Development District*

Workshop Agenda

June 8, 2023



Viera East CDD Workshop Meeting

Thursday
June 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church: Building C
5550 Faith Drive
Viera, Florida

Workshop Meeting

1. Roll Call
2. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop- General Fund & Capital Reserve
3. Discussion of Stormwater Management Education Project Updates
4. General Manager's Report
5. Restaurant Report
6. Lifestyle/ Marketing Report
7. Supervisor's Requests
8. Adjournment

SECTION II

Viera East

Community Development District

Proposed Budget

FY 2024



Viera East
Community Development District
General Fund
Proposed Operating Budget
Fiscal Year 2024

Actual FY 2022	Adopted Budget FY 2023	Actual Thru 4/30/23	Projected Next 5 Months	Total Projected @ 9/30/23	Proposed Budget FY 2024
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Revenues

Maintenance Assessments	\$808,157	\$1,378,973	\$1,352,558	\$26,415	\$1,378,973	\$ 1,378,973
Golf Course Administrative Services	\$56,280	\$56,280	\$32,830	\$23,450	\$56,280	\$56,280
Donations for Park Materials	\$5,975	\$5,000	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$5,000
Miscellaneous Income- Farmers Market	\$14,078	\$20,000	\$23,236	\$1,000	\$24,236	\$20,000
Interest Income	\$55	\$100	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$100

Total Revenues	\$884,544	\$1,460,353	\$1,408,625	\$51,365	\$1,459,991	\$1,460,353
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Administrative Expenditures

Supervisors Fees	\$26,933	\$30,519	\$17,111	\$12,222	\$29,333	\$30,519
Engineering Fees	\$3,430	\$5,000	\$1,288	\$1,000	\$2,288	\$5,000
Attorney's Fees	\$20,558	\$20,000	\$9,837	\$7,027	\$16,864	\$20,000
Dissemination	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$583	\$417	\$1,000	\$1,000
Trustee Fees	\$4,041	\$5,600	\$3,267	\$2,333	\$5,600	\$5,600
Annual Audit	\$7,500	\$6,500	\$3,792	\$5,008	\$8,800	\$8,900
Collection Agent	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,458	\$1,042	\$2,500	\$2,500
Management Fees	\$103,454	\$106,557	\$62,158	\$44,399	\$106,557	\$109,754
Postage	\$2,101	\$1,500	\$1,097	\$784	\$1,881	\$2,000
Printing & Binding	\$5,280	\$3,500	\$598	\$427	\$1,025	\$2,500
Insurance- Liability	\$6,996	\$9,607	\$5,141	\$3,672	\$8,813	\$10,368
Legal Advertising	\$12,687	\$1,500	\$1,947	\$1,000	\$2,947	\$2,500
Other Current Charges	\$277	\$1,500	\$269	\$192	\$462	\$750
Office Supplies	\$200	\$1,500	\$23	\$16	\$39	\$1,500
Dues & Licenses	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$0	\$175	\$175
Information Technology	\$4,250	\$4,378	\$2,554	\$1,824	\$4,378	\$4,509

Total Administrative	\$201,382	\$201,336	\$111,298	\$81,363	\$192,661	\$207,575
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Operating Expenditures

Salaries	\$155,761	\$159,817	\$86,363	\$61,688	\$148,050	\$162,392
Administration Fee	\$1,113	\$1,354	\$687	\$490	\$1,177	\$1,228
FICA Expense	\$11,229	\$12,226	\$6,976	\$4,983	\$11,959	\$12,423
Health Insurance	\$17,299	\$23,159	\$10,233	\$4,000	\$14,233	\$10,000
Workers Compensation	\$2,458	\$3,132	\$1,377	\$984	\$2,361	\$3,348
Unemployment	\$681	\$1,078	\$581	\$415	\$996	\$1,078
Retirement Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,872
Other Contractual	\$13,364	\$12,000	\$5,825	\$4,161	\$9,987	\$12,000
Marketing- Lifestyle/Amenities	\$19,110	\$18,000	\$22,394	\$15,996	\$38,389	\$28,800
Training	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Uniforms	\$0	\$500	\$263	\$188	\$451	\$500
Bonus Program	\$0	\$0	\$40,166	\$0	\$40,166	\$0

Total Operating	\$221,015	\$231,766	\$174,864	\$92,904	\$267,768	\$236,641
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Maintenance Expenditures

Canal Maintenance	\$9,990	\$14,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$14,000
Lake Bank Restoration	\$24,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Environmental Services	\$2,857	\$20,000	\$825	\$10,000	\$10,825	\$20,000
Water Management System	\$113,947	\$115,000	\$73,599	\$52,571	\$126,169	\$130,000
Midge Control	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Contingencies	\$3,157	\$2,000	\$1,650	\$500	\$2,150	\$2,000
Fire Line Management	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,500
Basin Repair	\$117	\$3,000	\$57	\$1,000	\$1,057	\$3,000

Total Maintenance	\$156,068	\$197,500	\$76,130	\$96,071	\$172,201	\$212,500
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Viera East
Community Development District
 General Fund
 Proposed Operating Budget
 Fiscal Year 2024

	Actual FY 2022	Adopted Budget FY 2023	Actual Thru 4/30/23	Projected Next 5 Months	Total Projected @ 9/30/23	Proposed Budget FY 2024
<i>Grounds Maintenance Expenditures</i>						
Salaries	\$134,363	\$176,074	\$82,214	\$58,724	\$140,938	\$214,392
Administrative Fees	\$2,226	\$3,010	\$1,180	\$843	\$2,023	\$2,320
FICA	\$9,836	\$13,970	\$6,720	\$4,800	\$11,520	\$18,268
Health Insurance	\$18,182	\$31,692	\$10,113	\$7,223	\$17,336	\$17,975
Workers Compensation	\$2,188	\$3,601	\$1,326	\$947	\$2,273	\$4,420
Unemployment	\$897	\$2,734	\$1,124	\$803	\$1,926	\$2,484
Retirement Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,432
Telephone	\$7,286	\$7,020	\$4,358	\$3,113	\$7,470	\$7,800
Utilities	\$9,600	\$10,032	\$5,182	\$3,702	\$8,884	\$10,032
Property Appraiser	\$1,989	\$1,990	\$1,989	\$0	\$1,989	\$1,990
Insurance- Property	\$2,635	\$2,479	\$1,684	\$1,203	\$2,886	\$3,411
Repairs	\$20,754	\$20,000	\$12,748	\$9,105	\$21,853	\$20,000
Fuel	\$21,478	\$21,000	\$11,130	\$7,950	\$19,080	\$21,000
Park Maintenance	\$12,838	\$17,500	\$21,437	\$15,312	\$36,750	\$30,000
Sidewalk Repair	\$0	\$10,000	\$6,057	\$2,500	\$8,557	\$10,000
Chemicals	\$3,309	\$4,000	\$1,339	\$956	\$2,295	\$4,000
Contingencies	\$3,857	\$4,000	\$635	\$454	\$1,089	\$4,000
Refuse	\$6,820	\$6,000	\$5,925	\$4,232	\$10,157	\$9,500
Office Supplies	\$0	\$750	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$0
Uniforms	\$3,378	\$3,000	\$1,794	\$1,281	\$3,075	\$3,000
Fire Alarm System	\$6,139	\$7,500	\$3,658	\$2,613	\$6,270	\$7,500
Rain Bird Pump System	\$28,041	\$27,581	\$16,549	\$11,821	\$28,369	\$27,585
Park Materials	\$2,773	\$10,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Bay Hill Flow Way Maintenance	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Lake Bank Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$164,000
Maintenance Reserve- Transfer Out	\$5,000	\$420,817	\$420,817	\$0	\$420,817	\$178,528
Maintenance Reserve- Transfer Out (Excess)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,554	\$51,554	\$0
Total Grounds Expenditures	\$303,588	\$829,751	\$617,977	\$209,385	\$827,361	\$803,637
Total Expenses	\$882,053	\$1,460,353	\$980,269	\$479,722	\$1,459,991	\$1,460,353
Excess Revenue/(Expenditures)	\$2,491	\$0	\$428,356	(\$428,356)	\$0	\$0

	FY 2023	FY 2024
Net Assessment- General	\$ 1,350,028	\$ 1,350,028
Net Assessment- Recreation	\$ 28,945	\$ 28,945
Total Net Assessments	\$ 1,378,973	\$ 1,378,973
Discounts @ 6%	\$ 88,020	\$ 88,020
Gross Assessment	\$ 1,466,993	\$ 1,466,993
Assessable Units - Residential	4,204	4,204
Assessable Units - Non-Residential	1,869	1,869
Total Units	6,073	6,073
Gross Assessment per Unit - General Fund	\$ 236	\$ 236
Gross Assessment per Unit - Recreation	\$ 129	\$ 129
Gross Assessment per Unit - Debt Service	\$ 139	\$ 139
	\$ 504	\$ 504

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Revenues:

Maintenance Assessments

The District will levy a Non-Ad Valorem Assessment on all the assessable property within the District in order to pay for its operating and maintenance expenditures incurred during the Fiscal Year.

Golf Course Administrative Services

Represents Golf Course Fund portion of salary and benefits for employees paid from the General Fund

Description	Annual Amount
Base	\$ 75,000
10% of Maintenance Supervisor	\$ (7,280)
50% of Labor Position	\$ (11,440)
Total	\$ 56,280

Interest Income

The District will earn interest on balances invested during the year

Administrative Expenditures:

Supervisors Fees

The amount paid to each supervisor for the time devoted to District business and meetings is determined by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, at \$200 per meeting. Amount is based on five supervisors receiving fees for two meetings per month.

Engineering Fees

The District's engineer, Robb & Taylor Engineering Solutions Inc, will be providing general engineering services to the District, which includes preparation and attendance of monthly board meetings.

Attorney Fees

Legal Counsel:

Shutts and Bowen LLP

300 South Orange Avenue
 Suite 300
 Orlando, FL 32801
 Telephone: (407) 835-6759
 Fax: (407) 849-7288

The District's legal counsel, Shutts and Bowen, will be providing general services, which include attendance and preparation for monthly board meetings. Also, services include reviewing contracts, agreements, resolutions, rule amendments, etc.

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Dissemination

The District is required by the Security and Exchange Commission to comply with Rule 15c2-12(b)(5), which relates to additional reporting requirements for un-rated bond issues.

- Series 2020 Special Assessment Revenue Bond \$1,000

Trustee Fees

The District will pay annual trustee fees for Series 2020 Special Assessment Revenue Bond.

Annual Audit

The District is required to annually have its financial records audited by an independent Certified Public Accounting Firm. The estimated cost of the audit is based on the prior fiscal year and will be shared with the Recreational Fund.

Collection Agent

Fees incurred by GMS-Central Florida, LLC for calculating, levying and certification of the District’s Non-Ad valorem Maintenance Assessments with the Brevard County Tax Collector.

Contractor	Services	Monthly	Annual
GMS- Central Florida, LLC	Assessments	\$ 208	\$ 2,500

Management Fees

The District has contracted with GMS-Central Florida, LLC to provide Accounting and Administrative Services for the District. The services include, but are not limited to, recording and transcription of board meetings, administrative services, budget preparation, financial reporting, annual audits, etc.

Postage

Mailing of Board Meeting agendas, checks for vendors, overnight deliveries and any other required correspondence. Amount is based on prior years cost.

Printing & Binding

Printing and binding agenda packages for board meetings, printing of computerized checks, District Brochures, correspondence, stationary, envelopes etc.

Insurance- Liability

The District’s general liability, public official’s liability, and automobile insurance coverage is provided by EGIS Insurance and Risk Advisors.

Description	Admin Amount	Field Amount	Annual Amount
General Liability	\$ 6,377	\$ -	\$ 6,377
POL/EPLI	\$ 3,991	\$ -	\$ 3,991
Property	\$ -	\$ 3,411	\$ 3,411
Total	\$ 10,368	\$ 3,411	\$ 13,779

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Legal Advertising

Advertising of monthly board meetings, public hearings, and any other legal advertising that may be required.

Other Current Charges

Any miscellaneous expenses incurred by the District that were not previously budgeted.

Office Supplies

Any supplies that may need to be purchased during the Fiscal Year, e.g., paper, minute books, file folders, labels, paper clips, etc.

Dues & Licenses

The District is required to pay an annual fee to the Department of Community Affairs for \$175. This is the only anticipated expenditure for this category.

Information Technology

Costs related to District's accounting and information systems, District's website creation and maintenance, electronic compliance with Florida Statutes and other electronic data requirements.

Operating Expenditures:

Salaries & Wages

The District currently has a General Manager and 1 full time employee to handle the operations of the District. The proposed amount includes a 3% cost of living increase for qualifying full-time employees.

Administration Fee

Represents fee to Applied Business Solutions for administration of pay and benefits. Applied Business Solutions charges an administration fee of \$14 per employee.

FICA

Represents the estimated amount due for Social Security (6.2%) and Medicare (1.45%) based upon the proposed salaries and wages.

Health Insurance

Full time District Employee's are eligible for the following health benefits.

Provider	Policy Number	Insurance Description
United Healthcare	591637	Health, Accidental Death, Dental, Vision, Life, and Long Term Disability
Colonial Life	E3682663	Life, Accident, Short Term Disability
Combined	007394312	Accident and Disability

Workers Compensation

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

The District provides Workers Compensation Insurance for each of its employee's based upon statutory requirements and rates determined by Applied Business Solutions.

Unemployment

The District pays State and Federal unemployment for each employee based upon current rate structures.

Other Contractual

Miscellaneous fees and contracts incurred for the District.

Description	Annual Amount
ADT Security	\$ 5,423
Ecolab Pest Elimination	\$ 4,920
Xelar Copier	\$ 1,444
Additional Contract Funds	\$ 213
Total Annual Budget	\$ 12,000

Marketing- Lifestyle/Amenities

The District is in contract with Unique Webb Consulting to provide Lifestyle and Marketing services which include, but are not limited to social media publications, strategy planning, blogging, videography, photography, event planning, and marketing.

Training

Expense involved in providing training for staff.

Uniforms

Expense involved in providing uniforms for the administration staff.

Maintenance Expenditures:

Canal Maintenance

Represents cost associated with the maintenance of the canals located east and west of I-95. The canals east of I-95 are maintained by various contractors paid by the District on an "as needed" basis. The canals west of I-95 are maintained by A. Duda & Sons and billed to the District

Lake Bank Restoration

Allocation of funds dedicated for lake bank restoration throughout the District.

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Environmental Services

The District will incur the following costs related to maintaining and managing the various conservation areas (wetlands and uplands), which are the responsibility of the District. The amount is based upon the current contract with Kevin L. Erwin, plus an allowance for additional services from other providers that may be required. Services provided under this budget item may include the following:

Wetland Monitoring Reports as required by SJRWMD and USACOE.
Wetland Maintenance, removal of exotic species as required to conform to permit requirements.

Habitat Management, including burns of preserved areas as required within the approved Habitat Management Plan(s).
Permit Compliance and General Services as required.

Water Management System

The District currently has a contract with ECOR Industries, Inc. to provide Aquatic Maintenance Service for the District's Lakes.

Description	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
Natural Areas Management	\$ 4,012	\$ 48,149
Wingate & Auburn Lake Aquatic Weed Control	\$ 809	\$ 9,704
Bayhill Wetland Maintenance	\$ 380	\$ 4,560
Natural Vegetation Management (Bi-Monthly)	\$ 200	\$ 1,200
Woodside Park	\$ 200	\$ 2,400
Aquatic Weed Control	\$ 4,147	\$ 49,768
Header Canal Maintenance (Quarterly)	\$ 1,540	\$ 6,160
Unanticipated Repairs/Improvements		\$ 8,059
Total	\$ 11,288	\$ 130,000

Midge Control

Lake spraying for midge control throughout the CDD.

Contingencies

Any miscellaneous expenses incurred by the District that were not previously budgeted.

Fire Line Maintenance

Expenses related to the maintenance of the various Fire Lines throughout the District. This mainly includes the mechanical removal of vegetation between homeowners' property and conservation areas in order to slow or stop the spread of wildfire.

Basin Repair

Expenses related to the repair and maintenance of the drainage structures at District Basins III, IV, and V. The drainage structures that get repaired are the outfalls (connect lakes) and the flowways (connect lakes to St Johns River).

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Grounds Maintenance Expenditures:

Salaries & Wages

The District currently has a 5 full time and 1 part time employee's to handle the grounds maintenance of the District. The proposed amount includes a 3% cost of living increase for qualifying full-time employees.

Administration Fee

Represents fee to Applied Business Solutions for administration of pay and benefits. Applied Business Solutions charges an administration fee of \$14 per employee.

FICA

Represents the estimated amount due for Social Security (6.2%) and Medicare (1.45%) based upon the proposed salaries and wages.

Health Insurance

Full time District Employee's are eligible for the following health benefits.

Provider	Policy Number	Insurance Description
United Healthcare	591637	Health, Accidental Death, Dental, Vision, Life, and Long Term Disability
Colonial Life	E3682663	Life, Accident, Short Term Disability
Combined	007394312	Accident and Disability

Workers Compensation

The District provides Workers Compensation Insurance for each of its employee's based upon statutory requirements and rates determined by Applied Business Solutions.

Unemployment

The District pays State and Federal unemployment for each employee based upon current rate structures.

Telephone

Expenses incurred for the telephone and fax machine.

Vendor	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
Blueline Telecom Group	\$ 606	\$ 7,272
Contingency		\$ 528
Total		\$ 7,800

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Utilities

The District has the following utility account with Florida Power and Light to provide electricity for the maintenance building.

Vendor	Account	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
FPL	83490-45156	\$ 680	\$ 8,160
Contingency			\$ 1,872
Total			\$ 10,032

Property Appraiser

Fees incurred for the Brevard County Property Appraiser performing work in support of processing and distributing non-ad valorem assessment information. The cost for the FY2024 year will be \$1,990.

Insurance- Property

Represents the amount paid for the property portion of the insurance premium with EGIS Insurance and Risk Advisors. The property includes vehicles, equipment, etc.

Description	Admin Amount	Field Amount	Annual Amount
General Liability	\$ 6,377	\$ -	\$ 6,377
POL/EPLI	\$ 3,991	\$ -	\$ 3,991
Property	\$ -	\$ 3,411	\$ 3,411
Total	\$ 10,368	\$ 3,411	\$ 13,779

Repairs

Any costs related to miscellaneous repairs and maintenance that occur during the fiscal year.

Fuel

Costs related to fuel purchased for grounds maintenance machinery that occur during the fiscal year.

Park Maintenance

Represents cost associated with the maintenance of the parks and trails located within the district.

Sidewalk Repair

Represents cost associated with the repair of the sidewalks located within the district.

Chemicals

Includes fungicide applications, herbicide applications, insecticide applications needed to maintain the grounds.

Contingencies

Represents any miscellaneous expenses incurred by the District that were not previously budgeted.

Viera East

Community Development District

General Fund Budget

Refuse

Estimated costs for refuse services to empty dumpster(s) twice monthly by Danny's Recycling & HAU is:

Contractor	Services	Monthly	Annual
Danny's Recycling & HAU	Empty Dumpster	\$ 750	\$ 9,000
	Contingency		\$ 500
Total			\$ 9,500

Office Supplies

Costs for items used in office.

Uniforms

The District is in contract with Unifirst to supply uniforms for the Maintenance staff. Unifirst comes to the District weekly to deliver clean uniforms to the staff.

Vendor	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
Unifirst	\$ 219	\$ 2,624
		\$ 376
Total		\$ 3,000

Fire and Burglary Alarm System

The District is in contract with ADT to provide monthly fire and burglary alarm system monitoring and maintenance. The services will be split between the Golf Course and Operations.

Description	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
System Monitoring	\$ 98	\$ 1,176
Equipment Lease	\$ 511	\$ 6,135
Contingency		\$ 189
Total Annual Budget		\$ 7,500

Rain Bird Pump System

The District will be financing a new pump system for irrigation through Rain Bird.

Vendor	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount
Rain Bird	\$ 2,298	\$ 27,581
Total Annual Budget		\$ 27,581

Maintenance Reserves – Transfer Out

Funds allocated annually to insure available cash for ongoing operations of the District and for major repair or replacement of capital items.

Maintenance Reserves – Transfer Out (PY Excess)

Represents projected excess funds above operating capital requirements in the General Fund.

Viera East
Community Development District
 Capital Reserve Fund
 Proposed Budget FY 2024

Adopted Budget FY 2023	Actual Thru 4/30/23	Projected Next 5 Months	Total Projected @ 9/30/23	Proposed Budget FY 2024
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Revenues

Beginning Fund Balance	\$848,174	\$837,933	\$0	\$837,933	\$1,551,698
Interest Income	\$500	\$3,145	\$500	\$3,645	\$500
Reserve Funding - Transfer In (General)	\$420,817	\$420,817	\$0	\$420,817	\$178,528
Reserve Funding - Transfer In (Golf)	\$252,806	\$0	\$252,806	\$252,806	\$219,899
Reserve Funding - Transfer In (General Excess)	\$0	\$0	\$51,554	\$51,554	\$0
Reserve Funding - Transfer In (Golf Excess)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Revenues	\$1,522,297	\$1,261,896	\$304,860	\$1,566,755	\$1,950,625
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Expenditures

Capital Outlay	\$100,000	\$14,997	\$0	\$14,997	\$100,000
Truck Maintenance	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Sign Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Bank Fees	\$0	\$30	\$30	\$60	\$0

Total Expenditures	\$125,000	\$15,027	\$30	\$15,057	\$145,000
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Excess Revenues (Expenditures)	\$1,397,297	\$1,246,868	\$304,830	\$1,551,698	\$1,805,625
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Potential Capital Reserve Split			
	General Fund	Golf Course	Total
Beginning Balance- 9/30/22	\$ 276,518	\$ 561,415	\$ 837,933
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,645
FY23 Contributions	\$ 420,817	\$ 252,806	\$ 673,623
FY22 Gross Profit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY23 Projected Excess	\$ 51,554	\$ -	\$ 51,554
FY23 Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (15,057)
Projected Excess Revenue Fund End of FY23	\$ 748,889	\$ 814,221	\$ 1,551,698

SECTION III

May 25, 2023

To: Pete Carnesale, Assistant Secretary, VECDD

From: Terry Mott, Volunteer Community Coordinator for the Stormwater Management Education Project

Re: Update re the VECDD Stormwater Management Education Project

► **Status of application for the FDEP grant:** Carlos Cuevas had advised that the application is going through a final internal review at the Brevard Natural Resources Management Department (NR). Carlos will advise me once the process has been completed.

► **An unexpected benefit:** As you know, up until a couple of months ago, we were in the process of planning to create an additional stormwater demonstration site to include with the FDEP grant application. And then the VECA—as an independent activity—approved a request submitted by Raleigh T. Berry, III, to allow him and his crew of NR volunteers to restore VECA's pond at Clubhouse Park. Mr. Berry is NR's Sr. Environmental Scientist for the Ecosystems Management, Environmental Resources Management Program.

As I believe you know, the reason Mr. Berry was looking for a project for his NR volunteers was because the group used to assist the NR in managing the Viera Wetlands, but lost that duty due to internal changes in policy between two Brevard County agencies.

The good news is that Mr. Berry and his crew of volunteers—most of whom are trained Florida Master Naturalists—created a stellar demonstration site at the pond, along with a kiosk that was constructed to educate the general public on the best management practices for stormwater pond maintenance.

I've confirmed with Carlos that since the Clubhouse Park falls within the VECDD, Mr. Berry's project can be used to satisfy the FDEP grant application requirement for a demonstration site.

I've also discussed our stormwater education project with Mr. Berry, and he was specifically interested in one of the major challenges facing our community: erosion of our stormwater ponds and the incline of the slopes that has resulted. When I advised Mr. Berry that Bach McClure, P.E., NR's Stormwater Program Administrator, had suggested a way to naturally mitigate the slope incline along our pond shorelines, Mr. Berry was interested in getting with Mr. Bach to learn more about that procedure.

During my discussion with Mr. Berry, he also mentioned that he had obtained photographs from decades ago that showed the natural state of the VECA pond and that he was planning to continually restore that pond back to its natural state with his crew of volunteers.

► **My recommendations for moving forward.** In light of the VECDD's change in policy to now allow individual homeowners to be voluntarily engaged in shoreline restoration of the buffer zones that abut their properties, I'd like to suggest that the VECDD consider taking the actions listed below. While I had originally suggested that the VECDD create a written policy concerning this process, after having attending the Florida Chamber's Foundation (FCF) 2023 Florida Prosperity & Economic Opportunity Solution Summit today, I believe we can incorporate some of the FCF's ideas into our program.

As you may know, the FCF has a statewide goal of reducing childhood poverty by 50 percent by 2030. While their mission is not associated with the stormwater challenges facing the VECDD, after attending two of their annual summits, I believe we can learn from the extensive research they have conducted to tackle a problem that impacts myriad agencies and needs several types of organizations to resolve.

Using some of the FCF's ideas, I'd like to suggest the following actions. That the VECDD:

- Create a *VECDD Stormwater Pond Management Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Viera East Homeowners*
- Provide an overview of the importance of stormwater management and how individual homeowners can be involved in the process.
- Divide the SAP into two major sections: 1. Stormwater Pond Management Education Program and 2. Stormwater Pond Shoreline Restoration Program
- Explain in detail what resources are available for each program
- Provide a list of all of the organizations in Brevard (and beyond in the state) that are working to improve the state's policies and procedures for stormwater management
- Specifically list the agencies that have offered to assist the VECDD in conducting both of these programs (and as you know, I have created an extensive list of agency resources and contacts that have agreed to offer assistance to us)
- Establish a formal structure and process for any homeowner that wants to be involved in shoreline restoration. I believe this process should include mandatory online training (which would be easy to create giving the many online/webinar programs available) and also a Memo of Understanding which each homeowner would have to sign stating clearly what is expected, allowed, not allowed. Standards need to be set to include a list of species that may and may not be used in shoreline restoration, in addition to the types of procedures that are allowed. I would also include a release of liability clause in the MOU as shoreline

restoration does carry an element of risk, which should not be passed on to the VECDD community.

- Create a list of entities willing to assist the VECDD in both of these programs. I believe that just like the issue of childhood poverty, which is being addressed statewide by the FCF, stormwater challenges are not the problem of the VECDD, they are a community problem and the solutions are not going to be found unless as a community, all of the governing entities—including VECA and the individual HOAs and homeowners—work together.

▶ **Creating a scholarship program for VECDD residents:** I would like to see the work with local businesses and NGOs to create a scholarship program for VECDD residents to attend UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist (FMN) training. Dr. Marty Main, Director of the state’s FMN program, has created a new course entitled Freshwater Systems, which is about to roll out in August or September 2023. I would like to see a scholarship program created where local residents could attend this program on a scholarship basis as long as they committed a certain amount of time to the VECDD to help both educate our residents and also assist in the stormwater pond restoration project. My husband and I are offering to provide funding for this program to get it started.

▶ **Mapping procedures to measure progress:** I’d like to see a map of all 84 of the VECDD ponds posted somewhere at the golf course where residents could measure progress of our stormwater restoration program. One of the mantras of the FCF’s initiative is that unless a project is measured it’s not likely to achieve success.

▶ **Inspiring ownership of our ponds:** I’d also like to see individual HOA’s within the VECDD to be inspired to “take ownership” of the stormwater ponds within their communities. I believe that once our residents understand how important our stormwater pond maintenance program is to the long-term quality of our community, they will be interested in helping to maintain the ponds within their specific neighborhoods.