

Summary of Coastal Property Engineering Presentation March 11th 2025 by Tom Pierro Principal

CPE said they will complete their scope of work in June; they are in process of hiring surveyor because they determined they need better elevation data to use in their modeling. This was very disappointing to hear because their scope of work should have been completed by now. In April they will give preliminary report and are willing to supply info for grant applications if funding is announced in near future. City Manager Lavallee supported the request for preliminary engineering solutions, non-conclusive data. Mr Pierro responded that CPE will work with City staff for grant application procedures.

CPE presented a handful of concepts to improve the system, which have been used elsewhere, but acknowledged that the Flamingo Ditch Project is complex and unique:

1. Elevating homes and roads (obviously not feasible except if individual homeowner elects to elevate homes or decides to sell property as construction lot, but this isn't going to stop garages from flooding)
2. Deepening the Ditch (CPE didn't elaborate)
3. Blocking the storm surge, but then you are blocking the other water getting out. CPE didn't think that would make sense because water would have to be first pumped upstream and then down...)
4. Channelizing (he didn't elaborate on what this consists of; we need to ask if this is piping some streets elsewhere instead of to the FD Outfall)

He advised the audience that at some point they will have to face the ownership easement problem, as the City now only claims a maintenance easement.

Mr. Pierro then offered more details about the challenges which are twofold:

Stormwater drainage water getting out. And keeping water out and sand build up from Storm surge

CPE understands the urgency of the process ahead, having listened to the concerns of affected households. Another hurdle will be the various permits that will need to be applied for after City decides on any options. These take time.

He showed a chart that they are right in the middle of the study right now,; once getting the model set-up they should be able to produce options very quickly as they are working closely with City staff. Another interim presentation this year to Council Members may be necessary.

Short-term concerns ahead of the Hurricane Season: Update the City's standard operating procedures on maintaining the ditch and keeping the outflow open.

CPE said that City should initiate short term measures in preparation of the upcoming storm season, to ensure that homes don't get flooded this summer. For example, CPE reviewed the City's standard operation system is 10 – 15 years old and still refers to the old wooden structure that was in the Flamingo Ditch. These are easy things to be updated, such as emergency contracts in place that if an event happens and closes the ditch off, the City has procedure in place to open ditch immediately. Having those contracts in place is a viable action. These are not solutions to the problem, but important to consider in the mean-time.

He mentioned commercial back flow valves are available and City could consider these as a temporary measure. It is clear by now that once the berm is open, water drains very quickly as during all the storms including Helene and Milton.

CPE said City should consider a Master Drainage Plan for the area; CPE said none of their recommended solutions will impede or conflict with a future Master Drainage Plan if the City decides to do one.

ICPR Model Development and GIS(Technologies CPE is using):

StormWise™ (formerly ICPR) is a hydrologic and hydraulic modeling engine that has enabled engineers and modelers to improve public safety, identify flood-risk zones, and model the flow of stormwater to reduce damages for over 40 years.

GIS Modeling is an application within Geographic Information System (GIS) technology that involves using space and time as key analytical dimensions.

The FD Steering Committee meets for a strategy meeting on Saturday, March 22nd 2025 at 11 AM at the House of Tina Nepip, 715 GB Blvd to discuss follow-up actions including the short-term maintenance concerns ahead of the Hurricane Season 25. Please bring your own chairs.

Agenda

Request City to update **its procedures for keeping the ditch mouth dug out in preparation of the upcoming storm season, and immediately hire an outside contractor** to respond as back-up after hours, weekends, holidays etc. until the re-engineering/infrastructure project is complete,

Discuss City Manager Succession

Should GB Neighborhood Associations engage in class action procedure for misappropriation of Stormwater Revenues charged to our Utility Bill?. For Negligence of storm water maintenance of public streets, costing us Millions of Dollars in property loss/damages by not keeping the mouth dug out?

Failure to provide safe and adequate storm water drainage

Discuss contacting the Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment located at Stetson University College of Law

Invitation to extended FD Steering Committee:

Sue Lang, Peggy Parys, Yvette Peterson, Jimmy Clifford, Steve Meinsen, Steve Oglethorpe, Tina Nepip, Brian Piper, Sandi Knepp, Tim Pederson, Israel Salinas, Bruce Caldwell, Mike Muhlbauer, Paul/Cindy Nowakowski, Chris Derbak, Tony Bedington, Tom/Marianne Robertson, Nancy/Andy Liscow, Béat Lehmann

Please RSVP to Béat at goldenbeachvenice@hotmail.com

The Agenda includes topics which have been raised and discussed among many of you. E.G. Addressing the implementation of a back-up plan suggested by CPE, in preparation of the upcoming storm season by hiring outside contractors to assist the Stormwater Team when they are not working, until permanent solutions are implemented.

Thank you for your support!! Béat

March 14, 2025