

Columbia County
Joint Utility Committee

Minutes of
August 2, 2023

The Joint Utility Committee met in the auditorium of the Duval Place Building, 971 west Duval Street, in the executive conference room at 8:30 a.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance: Rocky Ford, Ron Williams

Board Members in Attendance: Carl King
Tom Ottum
Toby Witt

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus (“CM”)
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (“ACM”)
Stacy Cowart, Utility Director
Staz Guntek, Project Development Manager
Greg Bailey, North Florida Professional Serv
Brian Roche, North Florida Professional Serv
Trevor Noryes, North Florida Professional Ser
Connie Brecheen, Town of Fort White Clerk
Deputy Clerk Tricia Carter

Public Comments

None.

North Florida Mega Industrial Plant (“NFMIP”)

Stacy Cowart offered a five week look ahead on the expected progress and stated they are on schedule. Continuing to work toward the goal for the water side and the electrical plant is moving along well. Greg Bailey gave update on the master plan for the week ahead. Recommended the need for a discussion with the Department of Transportation regarding a new rail crossing that will be created in the first phase of constuction. Currently have a two million gallons a day water use permit. Brian Roche stated on the sewer side a location for a lift station had been pin pointed that will pick up initial customers.

Ellisville to Ft. White Water Line

August 1st, 2023 was the last day for questioning for vendors. Bidding will open on August 8th, 2023.

Ellisville WWTP Expansion

A current punch list of items still needing completion has been made. Once completed the plant will be operational. Plant should be operational in the next week and a half to two weeks. The peroxide permit has been approved.

Ellisville WTP

Greg Bailey gave update on the plan moving forward. Busy Bee project has had a large impact on the Ellisville WTP project. The development area has now doubled with the Busy Bee project. DOT is requiring Busy Bee to build an access road which will create another development corridor. Additionally, DOT is wanting to develop a truck parking area. He will meet with the water management district concerning the cups. Stacy Cowart to research the costs and updates needed at the existing plant to handle the increase in developments.

There is a need for an interim fix to handle Busy Bee as well as a long term plan for future developments.

Discussion by the committee.

Dale Williams offered comment.

Ft. White WTP

Stacy Cowart updated committee that a pilot study approval letter will be issued. Study will test the effectiveness of Katalox Light Media Filters and the existing Granular Activated Carbon Filters. Test results should take sixty to ninety days to come back. Greg Bailey gave update on the first phase of construction. Several loops need to be closed out in regards to the water system. Areas for future lift stations were recommended. Brian Roche gave update on the meeting with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Grant will have four requirements. A rate structure, the mandatory connection, a methodology for revenues and expenses, and the adopted facility's plan. Connie Brecheen stated the Town of Fort White's attorney has started working on a mandatory connection ordinance and the rate structure ordinance.

Discussion by the committee.

Next Advertised Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16th, 2023.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

ATTEST:

Rocky Ford, Chairman

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court