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Flagler County purchases 8 pumps to ease flooding

October 4, 2017 – Flagler County officials on Wednesday approved the purchase of eight pumps to add to the arsenal of pumps already in use in northeastern Flagler County.

“We are looking for creative solutions in the Marineland Acres area to remove the standing water ahead of any more rain events – which are predicted for the coming days,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We already have (per state resource procurement procedures) two 6-inch pumps and one 8-inch pump in use since Monday in the MalaCompra area, and two county 3-inch pumps in the neighborhoods. This will give the county 10 3-inch pumps in the neighborhoods.”

Though hundreds if not thousands of gallons of water are being pumped back to the ocean, standing water levels are not receding as expected. Exceptionally high tides are hindering the progress and more rain is expected.

Commissioner Greg Hansen and Coffey on Tuesday night met with the Hammock Community Association to provide an update on the measures being implemented to ease the situation. The question of pumps was raised at the meeting and Hansen jumped on the idea.

“It is a difficult situation because we have flooding all over our county,” Hansen said. “Some areas in the Hammock are more challenging to pump out, because there isn’t a good location to pump the water to.”

Similarly, in western Flagler County, the Haw Creek gauge on Tuesday measured to water level to be 6.08 feet above Russell Landing, which is considered to be “major flood stage.”

Sand placed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at Washington Oaks State Park has washed away and high tides are topping the dunes there.

“We’ve asked the DEP to help reestablish the dune barrier at Washington Oaks State Park. Also, we asked for immediate pumping in the park to drain the large amounts of standing water,
because the staged water is negatively affecting the overall drainage system,” County Engineer Faith Alkhatib said. “We are very appreciative of the State Parks quick response.”

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