



Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Workshop

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Emergency Operations Center, Building 3, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL 32110

Workshop Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
3. Welcome: Flagler County Board Chair
4. Legislative Items Discussion
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

While this is a workshop only and no decisions are expected to be made by any of the governmental bodies, if a person decides to appeal any matter that may be discussed for a future proceeding, a record of the workshop may be needed and, for such purposes, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the workshop is made.



Flagler County 2019 Local Legislative Priorities

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POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Add an Additional Flagler County Judicial Position to Assist with the Increased Judicial Workload
2. Disaster Financial Assistance
3. Non-Disaster Financial Assistance
4. Keep Aviation Fuel Taxes
5. Renewal and Expansion of the Florida Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program
6. Restore and Protect Florida's Housing Trust Funds
7. Statewide Standardization of Adult Civil Citations for Misdemeanors and Non-Violent Offenses
8. Increase Small County Consolidated Grant Population Cap
9. Home Rule
10. Short Term Vacation Rentals – Maintain Status Quo

FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Public Library Construction Grant Program
Requested Funding: \$ 500,000
2. Flagler County Safe Drinking Water / Wastewater Project
Requested Funding: \$ 2,000,000
3. West Flagler County Flooding and Environmental Mitigation Water Control Project (Phase I)
Requested Funding: \$ 750,000
4. Sanitary Sewer Collection System for the Barrier Island North (Marineland to the Hammock Dunes Bridge)
Requested Funding: \$ 8,000,000



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POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Add an Additional Flagler County Judicial Position to Assist with the Increased Judicial Workload

Background:

Per the Florida Constitution, each County is entitled to have at least one County judge regardless of size. Of the 67 Counties, approximately 33 still have only one County judge today. Despite having experienced tremendous growth and doubling in size, Flagler County still has only one judge. As you might imagine, the workload has exponentially grown. For comparison purposes, Putnam County, our neighbor to west, has a population of 72,000 but has two County judges. For further perspective, smaller counties like Liberty (8,365), Union (15,200), and many other counties with populations ranging from 10,000-50,000 have the same number of County judges. Flagler and Citrus Counties are the only two coastal counties over 100,000 people that do not have two County judges.

New judicial positions are created through a process by which the 20 judicial circuits are able to submit for new positions that meet the statewide formulary for justification. These applications are then reviewed and approved/not approved by the Florida Supreme Court. Once approved, they are included as part of a report and recommendation to the Florida Legislature for budgeting/appropriation of the new positions. Statewide, no new County or City Judge has been granted by the legislature since 2006. During this time frame, Flagler County has received a recommendation from the Supreme Court for a second judge but was unsuccessful with the appropriation. Today, Flagler County is in that same position in that the Florida Supreme Court has recommended our County as one of just over a handful of County judge recommendations that now need funding approval from the legislature.

Requested Action:

Support funding through the State Budget Process to support the Supreme Court recommendation to appoint an additional County judge so that Local judicial matters will be handled in a more efficient manner for our citizens.

2. Disaster Financial Assistance

Background:



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The 2016 and 2017 Hurricane Seasons challenged the Florida statewide emergency management system, and in spite of widespread impacts, local government emergency management programs proved themselves to be well prepared, well trained, and coordinated. Despite this success, the federal disaster financial assistance programs and policies, as managed by the State of Florida's Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), have impeded local governments' ability to efficiently and effectively recover from the impacts of Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Michael, and recent wildfire seasons.

FDEM has implemented new, and reversed long-standing, disaster financial policies resulting in negative impacts on local governments. Flawed interpretations of federal disaster guidance, abrogation of specific legislative intent, repeal of effective protocols, and failure to provide adequate technical assistance on complex federal financial processes have delayed or suspended local government's access to federal disaster assistance. The consequences of these actions and inactions have potentially impacted government bond ratings, required local government to seek loans, drained local government budget reserves, and re-directed financial resources needed for competing projects and services.

Requested Action:

Support legislation, or clarification of legislative intent and fiscal guidance, that the following disaster financial programs and policies, which were available prior to 2016, are restored and maintained in a manner that directs FDEM to implement and support. These disaster financial programs and policies will ensure that:

- All FEMA approved local government Public Assistance projects, included Private Property Debris Removal, expenses are eligible for State match as outlined in Section 252.37(5)(a);
- If a local government is able to document a financial hardship, that they can become eligible for Advanced Payments similar to those outlined in Section 216.181(16), F.S.;
- School Districts, providing sheltering services pursuant to 252.385(4), F.S, are eligible for direct FEMA reimbursement (through the State) for FEMA Category B, Emergency Protective Measures, and Sheltering Expenses. This has put a very expensive new burden on counties during large public disasters;
- Disaster Funding Agreements between FDEM and local governments be issued, within 90 days following a Presidentially Declared Disaster Declaration, and not be delayed until



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FEMA reviews and obligates the first project. Also done bureaucratically on a project by project bases.

- Local government fire suppression assistance provided during wildfire emergencies be recognized as mutual aid to the Florida Forest Service, who is the lead agency for wildfire suppression.

3. Non-Disaster Financial Assistance

Background:

Florida's local emergency management agencies are recognized as national leaders that meet their complex set of state and local requirements with professional and well trained staffs, specialized equipment and facilities, develop skills through drills and exercises, and utilize access to best practices and lessons learned through multiple professional associations and venues. This success is due in part to the financial support provided through specific federal and state grant programs managed by the State of Florida's Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

Recent policy changes instituted by FDEM have resulted in significant delays and restrictions in local government access to funds appropriated to their programs by the Florida Legislature. Administrative actions have resulted in unnecessary levels of review, state pre-emption of local priorities and needs, and inadequate access to the full complement of funds appropriated, all causing significant disruption of the flow of funds to local programs.

Requested Action:

Support legislation, clarification of legislative intent, and/or fiscal guidance, to ensure that the following non-disaster financial programs and policies, which were available prior to 2017, are restored and maintained in a manner that directs FDEM is required to implement and support. These non-disaster financial programs and policies will ensure that:

- The Division is required to provide Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund (Section 252.373, F.S.) and Federal Emergency Management Performance Sub-Grant agreements to recipients for signature no later than ten business days following the Governor's approval of the General Appropriations Act;



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- The Division is required to execute the aforementioned agreements within 14 days of receipt of all required documentation from the recipient;
- The recipients, of the aforementioned agreements, be provided the entire one-year performance period to fully expend the allocated funds, without restriction as to the amount that must be spent per Fiscal Quarter;
- The recipients of the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund (Section 252.373, F.S.) agreements be allowed to procure and manage the funds in a manner that is consistent with State & Local rules and regulations; without the insertion of Federal rules that do not directly apply to State funds;
- Annual increase in the allocation of Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund (Section 252.373, F.S.) funds to counties that is tied to any increases in the Consumer Price Index for the State of Florida;

The Restoration of the local government grant program pursuant to Section 252.373(1)(b), Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 27P-19, Florida Administrative Code, in a manner that does not reduce the current allocation to County Emergency Management Programs.

4. Keep Aviation Fuel Taxes

Background:

The State's Aviation Fuel Tax funds the State Aviation Office (which regulates the state's non-commercial airports not regulated by the FAA), and the Aviation Grant program (which is vital to Florida's airports for infrastructure improvements, capacity planning and is key to economic development and the challenges to aviation in our high growth state). The fuel tax in essence uses proceeds from the aviation industry's activity to fund infrastructure and safety improvements that directly benefit the aviation industry in Florida, and our communities. Airport infrastructure in the State of Florida is second to none, and thus provides significant benefit to the state's tourism and aerospace industries. It is the "Golden Goose" that keeps on giving. The airline lobby effort to eliminate the tax is on top of the generous cut to the aviation fuel tax rate already enacted in 2016, which will take effect in 2019. The rate was cut from 6.9 cents to 4.27 cents per gallon. It seems that only a zero rate will satisfy the airlines.

Impact: Elimination of the State Aviation Fuel Tax will eliminate the funding the state's airports have relied on to cover the short falls in federal funding. It is a blatant attempt by



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the airlines to reduce their costs at the expense of the rest of the industry, Florida's airports, our aerospace and tourism industries and ultimately Florida's taxpayers. Most states have an aviation fuel tax, but the proceeds go to the general fund. Florida has exercised the foresight to use those industry tax revenues to further enhance the very infrastructure the airlines need to operate into the State of Florida. Elimination of the tax will kill the "Golden Goose".

Requested Action:

Keep Florida's Aviation Fuel Taxes, with no further reductions, that continue to provide key to economic development and vitally important infrastructure improvements in our high growth state.

5. Renewal and Expansion of the Florida Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program

Background:

We are asking the State legislature to renew funding (\$25 million) for the Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program in the FY2018 Appropriations and to expand this funding (an additional \$100 million) to include the unreimbursed costs for medically indigent patients in the managed care programs, 100% of which will be provided by reimbursement from the Federal government. The Agency for Health Care Administration obtained a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (4.19-B) that allows the State to reimburse public providers of emergency medical transport services for unreimbursed costs (certified public expenditures or CPE) of providing care and transportation to the medically indigent population.

This supplemental payment program was approved dating back to October 1, 2015. To date, the State has distributed over \$19 million dollars to public EMS providers. For FY 2018, it is estimated that the State will distribute another \$25 million dollars to public EMS providers. All of the funding for this program comes from a Federal match and there is no cost to the State. This program is providing vital funding to our County and its Municipal governments, with those entities who have the largest medically indigent populations getting the largest



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share. Currently, the program does not cover medically indigent patients who are enrolled in Managed Care Programs.

Requested Action:

Support legislation that will renew and expand the State's Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program for FY 2019.

6. Restore and Protect Florida's Housing Trust Funds

Background:

In 1992, the Sadowski Act increased the documentary stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions and placed these monies in a dedicated state and local housing trust fund. 70% of monies go to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program which funds housing programs in all 67 counties and larger cities. 30% of monies go to the State Housing Trust Fund for Florida Housing Finance Corp. programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.

In Flagler County, SHIP funds are used for several purposes that include:

- Repair of existing housing to allow seniors to age in place and provide retrofitting for persons with special needs.
- Disaster assistance for critical home repairs, assisting more than 50 families after hurricanes Matthew and Irma.
- Provide first-time homeownership with down payment and closing cost assistance as well as preservation of existing housing.

SHIP funds are strongly leveraged, with private sector loans and equity providing \$5 for every \$1 of SHIP funds in Flagler County. In addition, SHIP funds can be leveraged with federal funding such as the Community Development Block Grant and Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

Our community's affordable housing needs are greater than ever. According to the University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies:

- 17,215 households in Flagler County (40.5%) are headed by a person age 65 or older in 2016 (In comparison, 30.1% of households statewide average). Of these, 5,925 elderly households (34%) pay more than 30% of income for rent or mortgage costs.



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- 8,684 households in Flagler County (20%) are severely cost-burdened, paying more than 50% of income for housing.

Affordable housing continues to be out of reach for many residents due to high rents, low wages, and the lack of affordable rental homes. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a local worker must earn at least \$19.77 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent of \$1,028/mo. in Flagler County. But the average wage of a renter in Flagler County is only \$12.61 per hour. Furthermore, there are only 536 affordable rentals units in Flagler County, each having long wait lists.

Requested Action:

Urge the Florida Legislature to use ALL of Florida's housing trust fund monies for Florida's housing programs and stop the sweep of the housing trust funds.

7. Statewide Standardization of Adult Civil Citations for Misdemeanors and Non-Violent Offenses

Background:

Florida Statutes contain penalties for non-violent misdemeanor offenses to include possession of small amounts of marijuana that could lead to incarceration and a criminal record. Some local governments have adopted an adult civil citation process as another option, as provided for in the Florida Statutes, of enforcement of the law. These programs in no way decriminalize marijuana, but have resulted in varying processes, enforcement, and penalties across the State of Florida from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. While "Home Rule" is always important to local government, standardization and equal treatment in the criminal legal system ensure common criminal laws for all state residents.

Requested Action:

Support legislation that provides for statewide standardization of adult civil citation systems to include measures that address matters such as fines, number of citable offenses, a tracking system, processes, and similar components.

8. Increase Small County Consolidated Grant Population Cap

Background:



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The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) annually provides funding for contracted operating expenses associated with the closure permits of our past solid waste systems. Flagler County has received this type of funding since 2007. The awarded grant funds are used to reimburse the cost for monitoring and reporting requirements for the closed landfill permits for Class 1 and C & D sites located with Flagler County.

The funding for FDEP Solid Waste Grants comes from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund (SWMTF), which was created by the State of Florida in 1988 as part of the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act to address solid waste management concerns for counties in Florida. A minimum of 40% of this fund is used for solid waste management grant programs for small counties with a population of less than 110,000, which cover the costs related to general solid waste management, litter prevention and control, waste tire abatement, and recycling and education program (Florida Statutes 403.709 & 403.7095).

Each year, the County files a Small County Consolidated Grant Application in anticipation of receiving funds for landfill contracted operating expenses. One of qualifications specified in the grant and stipulated in the Florida Administrative Code is that "All counties with a total population of fewer than 110,000 are eligible for annual consolidated grants, pursuant to section 403.7095(1), F.S." The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Flagler County's population is either at or slightly above that threshold.

Flagler County, as defined by Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is a rural county, and eligible for the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program. As such, Flagler is also an economically distressed county, and while it has seen an increase in population, it cannot afford to be deemed ineligible for the much needed grant dollars to continue to operate the solid waste management for our landfill. Senator Hutson, are District Representative at the time, was critical in helping adjust the thresholds from 100,000 to 110,000.

Requested Action:

Increase the population cap to 130,000 for the for Small County Consolidated Grant by making the criteria match that of Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) county under Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, as it defines a rural county, and help Flagler County continue to receive the much needed grant dollars to continue to service our landfill solid waste management needs. This just determines how budgeted monies are split. With this proposal, no one will lose or gain funding.



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9. Home Rule

Background:

Local Government is closest to the people and the daily provider of the majority of public services Floridians rely on. In providing these various services, local leaders must determine how best to deliver services in their community while staying within their financial means. While there is no denying that the State Legislature plays an important role in standardizing some issues across the third largest state in the Country, we ask that issues coming before you be viewed through the lens of constitutionally granted “home rule” for local governments. It is imperative that local leaders are given the opportunity to lead and avoid a local dispute in one community from becoming the burden of every other City and County in the State.

Requested Action:

Seek local government input on possible legislative matters that have the potential of impacting local communities.

10. Short Term Vacation Rentals – Maintain Status Quo

Background:

Short-term rentals are causing problems in many counties and cities around the state by creating commercial activity in residential areas, essentially mini-hotels in neighborhoods. Problems include noise, inadequate parking, infrastructure intended for residential use is now being used on a commercial scale, and decreased property values in neighborhoods taken over by vacation rentals. Counties and cities were preempted from regulating vacation rentals in 2011. This legislation included a provision that “grandfathered” any ordinance regulating vacation rentals prior to June 1, 2011.

In 2014, the language was amended to allow counties and cities to regulate short-term rentals through life safety and building codes, as well as other codes specific to vacation rentals. However, counties and cities are still prohibited from regulating the duration and frequency of these rentals, as well as regulating these properties through zoning. Local governments are now powerless to directly regulate the location of these properties. Even “grandfathered” cities are reluctant to amend their ordinance out of fear of potentially losing their grandfather. Flagler County needs its Home Rule authority fully restored so we can effectively determine local solutions that work for their respective communities.



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Currently, Flagler County is leading the State in balancing private property rights and maintain health and life safety with its current ordinance when it comes to vacation rentals.

Requested Action:

Maintain the Status Quo in regards to local government regulations for Short Term Vacation Rentals.



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FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Public Library Construction Grant Program

Requested Funding: \$ 500,000

The Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, provides state funds to local governments to construct public libraries under an ongoing program in Chapter 257.191, Florida Statutes. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 and requires a dollar for dollar match unless the applicant is designated a rural community in accordance with Sections 288.0656 and 288.06561, Florida Statutes. Once applications are received and ranked, the Legislature will appropriate funding for this program during the budget process. Flagler County meets the designation as a rural community, however, we would likely forego this match waiver.

In 2016, Flagler County applied and was evaluated for this grant funding, and through that process was ranked #1. However, the Legislature did not appropriate any dollars for the program and even though the County was at top of the list, the county did not receive any funding to build. The County applied this year, and again we were evaluated and ranked #1 for funding for a new library. If the Legislature fails to appropriate funds for this program again this year the county may not be able to adequately fund and build a new library or it could delay the project further.

The Flagler County Public Library system has one library in Palm Coast that was built in 1999 using this construction grant program to assist with funding. That was the one and only capital library grant the County received some 19 years ago. With the population now over 100,000, the county can no longer delay the construction of a properly sized library in the Southern part of Flagler County. According to the Standards for Florida Public Libraries, Flagler County Public Library is more than 100% below the standard for facility square footage. This grant program is critical to the future growth of our Library and will provide better access to an underserved part of our community.

If at least \$1 million dollars is appropriated for the Public Library Construction Grant Program under Chapter 257.191, Florida Statutes ensuring Flagler County should receive a capital grant.



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2. Flagler County Safe Drinking Water / Wastewater Project **Requested Funding: \$ 2,000,000**

Background:

The Flagler County Utility System is a relatively small utility system which serves over 2,000 homes located in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The utility was acquired by the City of Bunnell and Flagler County in late 2013 for \$5.5 million in order to ensure the utility would be better managed in the future and to begin correcting known problems with the system affecting residents in Flagler and Volusia. Flagler County took over the system fully in October of 2015. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued a consent order for wastewater deficiencies prior to the acquisition. This deficiency was known and the County is making a capital investment of over \$4 million to upgrade those systems.

Midway through the 2015 legislative session the County learned that, in addition to the \$4 million investment needed to upgrade the wastewater systems, a significant capital investment in the water treatment process would be required in order to provide safe drinkable water. Recently, the County received notice from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that the finished water quality had failed to meet water drinking standards for the fourth consecutive quarter due to trihalomethanes and HAA5, a byproduct of the chlorination of organics in the raw well water. The aging lime softening water treatment system is inadequate to correct these issues in addition to the discoloration and odor problems prompted by the high levels of organics found in the drinking water.

In order to provide safe potable water, the County needs to replace the existing water treatment system with a Reverse Osmosis water system or similar treatment process, in addition to improving other water source and water distribution systems. It is critical that the County addresses the health and safety issues for the families served by the utility.

The Flagler County Utility System is a new utility with limited reserves. Rates have been increased by more than 70% to defray some of the costs; however, the utility rates are now one of the highest rates in the region as the total cost to upgrade the utility exceeds the financial capacity of this relatively small system. Although Flagler County is a Rural Economic Development Incentive county and has one of the highest unemployment



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rates in the State, the County is unable to qualify for the same grants and loan terms available to a City and is currently lacking the financial resources to address this unanticipated issue.

The County's overall request was for \$4 million dollars of an \$8 million dollar project. In 2016, the County received \$2 million dollars of the \$4 million dollar requested from the legislature. It was the County's plan to make do with that amount and proceed with the projects. However, since that time, the County has been hit with two hurricanes and the bids for the wastewater project alone came in at over \$7 million. While the County is value engineering both projects to reduce costs, it must now seek the full \$4 million it originally sought and request another \$2 million dollars through legislative appropriation.

3. West Flagler County Flooding and Environmental Mitigation Water Control Project (Phase I)

Requested Funding: \$ 750,000

Background:

Flagler County west of US 1 is predominately rural with a growing population of those seeking a quieter, slower, lifestyle, often in non-engineered subdivisions. Mixed in you will find cabbage and potato farms, and cattle ranches, that serve as a large portion of Flagler's economic engine and reflect its historical roots. Both are expected to flourish in the coming decades and both are dependent on the common the shared concerns of drainage/flooding, water usage/conservation, and environmental protection for wells and from septic systems and impacts to nearby swamps, fragile wetlands/ecosystems and water bodies.

The current system of canals, ditches, and drainage has been created over more than 100 years through makeshift adjustment by landowners with relatively no engineering or any type of stormwater analysis. Portions of the stormwater systems of the City of Palm Coast and the City of Bunnell rely on being able to drain westward through several of these canal/creek non-engineered systems. Not having a planned/designed system has led to flooding issues, fertilizer and pesticides issues with water bodies, and no overall method to evaluate any changes to the system or fix problems. In recent years, flooding has become more frequent and threatens farms and residents alike. Also, as



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the area grows, well water and septic tanks will become an even larger issue and eventually will lead to the need for some public water supply and treatment either due to over usage, contamination, or some combination thereof.

To address this problem, the County is seeking to model the stormwater system and create a master plan to identify a series of project improvements to improve the system. Conceptually, the idea would be to build a series of large reservoirs to hold and treat the stormwater. This held water would help with flooding, clean up the stormwater and later be used as a surficial aquifer, allowing for the treatment of potable drinking water and taking pressure off of the ground water aquifer. This same method has utilized in other areas such as the four county, Peace River Water Authority with the help of the Southeast Water Management District. To get this concept off the ground here, analysis and master planning is now needed.

Local financial support is not readily available as County property taxes cannot be used for this effort (City residents already pay for City stormwater services) and special assessment districts on agricultural property are severally limited by State law. It is hoped that with this seed money that projects would be developed and a variety of funding sources could be accessed to fix this problem.

This project is expected to be a long-term legacy project affecting the western half of the County for generations to come. It is hoped this will serve as a rural model of stormwater management for the State, while at the same time projecting a rural way of life for Florida and Flagler in particular.

If funding for Flagler County of \$750,000 for Phase I of the Project is appropriated, it would allow the collection of data and analysis and allow the creation of a blueprint for west Flagler County to develop projects that reduce flooding, treats stormwater before discharge, and potentially provide potable drinking water for residents and alternative water supply for agricultural usage for decades to come.

4. Sanitary Sewer Collection System for the Barrier Island North (Marineland to the Hammock Dunes Bridge)

Requested Funding: \$ 8,000,000

Background:



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Post Hurricane Matthew, and most recently Hurricane Irma, large portions of this area saw severe flooding. While flooding presents its own problems, these problems are compounded when the majority of those properties flooded are on septic tanks. While some of these systems are operating properly and are the best available alternative for wastewater disposal, there are thousands of septic tanks that are old and failing, discharging nutrients at high levels in environmentally sensitive areas. Even those that are working properly still discharge some nutrients into the environment. When these systems flood, as in recent weather events, the systems do not work properly for the homes and unwanted environmental discharges increase.

This area is a major part of the water that drains towards the Matanzas inlet. This drainage, when coupled with the continued bacterial and untreated stormwater pollution and freshwater discharges, impacts and threatens the remaining Class II shell fishing waters in both Flagler and St. Johns counties. Lastly, the impact to Class III water quality standards throughout the region can be reduced by a prudent investment/partnership with Flagler County today, which will help prevent this region of Northeast Florida from becoming the next Indian River Lagoon Restoration effort costing hundreds of millions more.

This project would actually be a regional project between the City of Palm Coast and Flagler County and ultimately the town of Marineland. The City would provide the sewer main, laterals, and the system, while the County would have to work with residents on the project and implement mandatory connection. Both sides would need funding. The City would need funding for the infrastructure. The County would need funding to pay connection charges to the City and buy down the physical costs for residents to connect to the system. The County would also need to finance homeowner's portions of the costs through an assessment district over 10-15 years. The project could be done in multiple phases over time.

If funding is appropriated for Palm Coast and Flagler County to begin phase one of this project, it would be the first step towards the elimination of septic tank pollution from the barrier island and the environment and add a layer of storm hardening for residents in the area for future events.