MINUTES OF THE CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY WORKSHOP MEETING MAY 18,2026, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

Authority Members Present:

Marc Decker
Clay Browning (Chair)
Alisha Beck
Bradley Smith
RaShonda Croskey
Jerry (Gator) Sapp
Tim Stanley
Hattie Taylor
Jeff Patterson (Vice Chair)
Jeff Barnes

Others Present:

Melissa Arnold, Deputy City Clerk
Brad Simmons, Public Works Superintendent
Steve Ramunni, City Attorney
Larry Tibbs, City Manager
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Al Brown, Operator

ROLL CALL: By Patterson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation given by Taylor, Pledge led by Croskey.

ITEM 1: DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION FOR WWTP EXPANSION ALTERNATIVES:

Morales states Glades County did receive a Grant to make some improvements to the facility. Tonight, we want to take you through the alternatives and provide you with our professional opinion. We are looking at an $8 million dollar Grant that was secured from FDEP, the total project budget is $8.8 million. It was originally requested in the Legislative season 2024. The Projects intent is to provide capacity expansion. The way the budget is broken down in the Grant is the preconstruction is $600,000.00 there is bidding and contractor selection and then project management is a part of that. The bulk of the funds is being used in the construction. The budget we are using for construction is approximately $7.2 million. We are looking to expand the capacity to support the sceptic to sewer conversion as they occur. Just to give you a little Project history this 3-train Plant was originally 135,000 GPD, it was three trains at 45,000 GPD. It was an extended aeration basin; we expanded the basins to be able to flow 180,00 GPD each with membrane technology. We looked at the retrofit of these, and we expanded their capacity at that time and took it to the current operation which is 405,000 GPD today. What has occurred since this time is the MBR equipment is more than 15 years old and has exceeded its useful life and it is really aging. The maintenance is not there; it is very high maintenance and has an expensive replacement cost. It requires specialty contractors, it is operationally

very complex. We evaluated some alternatives. There are a lot of benefits to the eco system, a pro is that it provides a high level of treatment. You can discharge surface waters like rivers and lakes. That high level of treatment would be encouraged if you were to have the situation you have today. However, it does come with a very high cost, and a complex technology that requires specialized maintenance. It is higher than necessary treatment for the situation we have here in Glades County. To get to the full build it would be thirteen million dollars, this is also before all the additional piping and electrical work, which we estimate would be around two million dollars. So somewhere in the range of fifteen million dollars to implement this. The Davco system is currently being installed in Labelle, it does provide class one reliability. Davco is purposing two 515,000 GPD package plants. This is a four stage MBR process, which means within that package plant it is going from an anaerobic to an aerobic process. This for Labelle is going to cost them $8.8 million dollars installed then on top of that would be additional site improvements that we are estimating to be in the $2 million dollar range. That would have you will in the $11 million dollar range which is above the thresh hold of the grant you will currently have in hand. When we put the proposals together for the grant it was looking at replacement of the ageing MBR and retrofitting that third train to another MBR system. The equipment cost for replacement of the parts and added the additional train is around $3 million dollars, you would still have the additional installation cost of plumbing, electrical and site improvements with an additional estimated $2 million. This does fall within the budget, but the challenges we have had with the MBR are what you will have experienced over the last 15 years. Which is the complexity, importing parts and having to bring specialty contractors in to operate and fix the system. Reliability has really become a challenge with MBR, and the County has challenged us to find something that would be an improved alternative. That is where we come to the marolf system, where our professional opinion would be the best option of the County. This would be reverting to what you originally installed when the system was first installed. This would include putting in a cement extended aeration packaged plant, we would be retrofitting your existing trains back to extended aeration. So, returning the 135,000 GPD that was originally installed plus adding a 400,000 GPD plant west of the existing system. This comes just under the construction budget with the 400,000 GPD plant we are looking at $5.2 million dollars plus $1.9 million in site improvements. This is the preferred solution, you are getting that extended capacity with 400,000 GPD, we would be retrofitted your existing plant back to extended aeration and the total capacity you land you will where you would need to be.

Dobbs states I just wanted to give you an interdiction into the eco water system. I have been working with them for 12 years; this is a new system this is version 3 of the plant. We have gone through a pilot study at Spring Lake, we do have the results of that study, and we do exceed the class one standards with our discharge. If you have four trains, three of those trains will handle your total capacity.

Carlisle states what the cost is to convert the MBR Plant to the air train.

Morales states $200k. To get to Eco's full build out to get to the 560 is thirteen million, that is before site improvements.

Patterson states there is a reason we went to an extended aeration, so why are we wanting to go back to a MBR system.

Giarratana states when we did that expansion the Prison was expanding and we needed to add capacity quickly. The quickest and most effective way was to add to the existing facility.

Ramunni states would we fall into the same trap with that technology. We are going to be in the same boat.

Giarratana states no, the system you will originally had is one of the easiest to operate. It is biological, it is no physical chemical which is what your MBR system typically is. It is a very tried and true system it is also one of the least expensive to operate.

Ramunni states are comparing apples to apples because it sounds to me Eco has a much higher capacity and is a much higher price. But I would like to know if everything is on par with one another.

Morales states Eco's has come back with some phasing options with the gradual build out starting at $11.8 million. And option #3 with the full build out ended at $13 million.

Santiago states it starts at $7 million to cover the full capacity, and the following phases increase it to $13 million because that will double the capacity for reliability. With system the first stage is the separator, it separates the solids within 5 minutes. It is fully automated; every single component is off the shelf and can be fixed with simple tools. We can reuse the existing tanks and there will be a demolition cost. I advise you will look at the proposal and check out our website and look at the Plant. For 5 years we covered the parts and labor.

Patterson states what is the cost to put three trains in.

Morales states the original proposal started at $11 million and that was just for the equipment.

Santiago states that it was for all four trains.

Patterson states when you can put a presentation together to present.

Santiago states I can have one tomorrow.

Patterson states it is on the agenda for the meeting Tuesday.

Giarratana states one thing to remember is this treatment is a much higher level of treatment than what you will are required to have. This level of treatment is for potable water.

Patterson states okay can we get all the information and bring it back to the board.

ITEM 2: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: By Croskey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stanley. Motion carried.

Melissa Arnold, Deputy City Clerk **Clay Browning, Chairman**
Meeting adjourned at 6:18 P.M.