

**MINUTES OF IRRIGATION WORKSHOP  
FIDDLER’S CREEK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS #1 & #2**

The Boards of Supervisors of the Fiddler’s Creek Community Development Districts #1 and #2 held an Irrigation Workshop on March 27, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., at the Fiddler’s Creek Club and Spa, 3470 Club Center Boulevard, Naples, Florida 34114.

**Present at the meeting for CDD #1 were:**

Phillip Brougham	CDD Chair
Robert Slater	CDD Vice Chair
Joseph Badessa	CDD Assistant Secretary
Joseph Schmitt	CDD Assistant Secretary
Torben Christensen	CDD Assistant Secretary

**Present at the meeting for CDD #2 were:**

Elliot Miller	CDD Chair
Victoria DiNardo	CDD Vice Chair
Bill Klug	CDD Assistant Secretary
Linda Viegas	CDD Assistant Secretary
John Nuzzo	CDD Assistant Secretary

**Also present were:**

Chuck Adams	District Manager
Cleo Adams	Assistant Regional Manager
Jason Olson	Assistant Regional Manager
Tony Pires	District Counsel
Terry Cole	District Engineer
Ron Albeit	Developer
Tony DiNardo	Developer
Shane Willis	Fiddler's Creek Security
Rich Garcia	Fiddler's Creek Golf Course
Mike Sidlovsky	Aqua-Matic Irrigation Systems, Inc.
Marlo McQuaker	Resident
George Serbe	Resident
Monique Irmen	Resident
John Campbell	Resident
Michael Buck	Resident
Charlie Tibbs	Resident
Joseph Vaccaro	Resident
Shannon Benedetti	Resident
Residents	

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mrs. Adams called the joint workshop to order at 1:30 p.m. Supervisors Brougham, Slater, Badessa and Christensen were present, in person, from CDD #1. Supervisor Schmitt was not present at roll call. All Supervisors from CDD #2 were present, in person.

Mr. Adams thanked everyone for attending, especially the village representatives. The three pump stations in Fiddler's Creek, the transmission system, controllers, water quality and maintenance requirements would all be discussed. Mr. Cole, the District Engineer, and Mr. Mike Sidlovsky, owner of Aqua-Matic Irrigation Systems, Inc., have been in Fiddler's Creek since the beginning and know the system.

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Presentation/Discussion: Irrigation  
Transmission System Hydraulics**

Mr. Cole reviewed a map of CDDs #1 and #2 and identified the three pump stations. One is for the golf course and the other two service the villages in each District. One pump station is in Lake 88 and the other is in Lake 85. The pump stations pump water into the distribution systems and then out to the irrigation lines in the villages. He discussed the various lines, the size differences, the interconnections and the size of the lines through the Districts and in the villages. The annual allocation permit allows for 1.1 billion gallons of water; meaning, 13.5 million gallons per month. The pump stations pump 18,500 gallons per minute, not including the one for the golf course. Phase 1 restrictions are followed, which state irrigation cannot be run during the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; odd numbered streets are irrigated Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and even are Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. There is no irrigating on Fridays. Irrigation can occur for six hours a day. There were stricter restrictions over the years. The annual allocation permit was renewed and is good through 2033.

Mr. DiNardo stated the Toro satellite system specs were used to develop and run the entire system; the only other system available is Rain Bird. The map was developed over many years and it was updated recently to show the locations of the controllers.

Mr. Slater asked if the two pump stations that cover the Districts were connected. Mr. Cole stated that they are looped together. Mr. Willis noted the pumps are variable frequency so they run as needed.

Mr. Brougham asked if the pump stations, valves and heads in the villages were based on the amount of shrubs and trees planned for each village. Mr. Cole replied affirmatively; it was based on the amount of land area that would need irrigation. Mr. Brougham asked, since it had been 20 years since the system was installed, had the landscaping in each village, as well as changing heads that impact coverage areas, been considered as staying within the permit allocation; meaning was there an impact. Mr. Cole replied affirmatively; there was an impact. Mr. DiNardo questioned Mr. Cole's response and then Mr. Cole said no. Mr. Miller asked if there was a variance in what was planned, 20 years ago, and what happened. Mr. Cole replied no; the land area to be irrigated did not change. Mr. DiNardo stated that the maps and system are constantly updated.

Discussion ensued regarding various irrigation matters.

Ms. Viegas asked if the change from multi-family to single-family homes, which have more green land area to be irrigated, made an impact. Mr. Cole stated that the same percentage of green area was used for both single-family and multi-family; therefore, there was no impact.

Mr. Schmitt discussed an issue in Mahogany, Mulberry and Isla del Sol, where homeowners have their own irrigation controls and set them to water more often than scheduled. The County is the one that would enforce and they only do it when there is a major watering restriction in place. He felt that, when Mr. Jim Vajen was in charge, there was more control. Mr. Sidlovsky noted that the Districts always irrigate following the Phase 1 restrictions.

Mr. Slater asked how many villages are simultaneously watered when the central controller is distributing the water. Mr. Sidlovsky stated that the computer sends out what gets watered and when. Mr. Slater believed it was not working that way because villages are not getting the same flow. There is a meter in his village, Bent Creek, but not all villages have meters. Mr. DiNardo stated that meters could be added to all villages so the flow could be monitored. He reiterated that there are only two systems available, Toro or Rain Bird.

Mr. Brougham asked if the current software would take care of the flows, if meters were installed everywhere. Mr. Sidlovsky stated that the current system would not support it, if meters were installed everywhere.

Mr. Schmitt asked for confirmation that The Rookery golf course has its own system. It was confirmed.

Mr. Sidlovsky stated that he has been in Fiddler's Creek since 1997. He installed all the pumps and intentionally over-designed the system in case Phase 3 restrictions were ever implemented. Since the system was oversized and the pipe system was designed for the worst-case scenario, that was not the issue.

Mr. Miller asked for a breakdown of the watering restriction Phases. Mr. Sidlovsky stated the County and State set watering restrictions, and reported the following:

- Phase 1: Cannot water between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and cannot water on Fridays.
- Phase 2: Allows watering twice a week and only from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. There are also restrictions depending on the acreage of a property.
- Phase 3: Unknown; the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) makes the determination.

Mr. Sidlovsky stated that only seven of 20 pumps were being used at a time, so the Districts were in good shape. The main line stub at the entry point to each village was done by each village's original irrigation contractor, which could cause issues. When individual landscapers replace broken heads and nozzles, it could change the amount of water those heads allow to be distributed. Mr. Miller asked if that information was known. Mr. DiNardo replied no; what each individual head is in the community is not known.

Mr. Slater stated when he turns on the heads in his village, the pressure and amount are fine when no one else is irrigating. When other villages are being watered, his water comes out at a drizzle. Mr. Sidlovsky stated the computer only does what it is told to do. When the irrigation computer was moved from the golf course to The Club, the wattage was changed. Mr. Albeit stated Mr. Kevin Powers, from Toro, was there when the computer was moved and the system was upgraded to make sure all the specs for the villages were in the new system. Mr. DiNardo stated that no one was policing the system so the HOAs have started running the system as they want. Mr. Sidlovsky stated that Toro has an upgrade that would prevent landscapers from using the standalone mode; during his review, he found that most of the villages were in standalone mode and many of the antennas used to boost the signal to the satellite were broken off by the hurricane; however, with the increased wattage, the antennas are not needed. He recommended the Toro upgrade to prevent landscapers from putting the

villages' systems into standalone mode. Village landscapers could call a central person to put their system into standalone mode when needed for new plantings, etc.

Mr. DiNardo stated the system was not the issue; the issue was the lack of control. Ms. DiNardo asked if, as part of the bidding, the bidders should be required to use certain heads to help with that issue. Mr. DiNardo stated that contractors would use generic heads and there was no way to control it. Mr. Sidlovsky stated that the nozzles were more the issue, not the heads.

Mr. Sidlovsky stated that Toro has new software worth considering. He thought it would work for Fiddler's Creek's needs in the future and it would be upgradeable. Mr. Christensen asked if it could communicate with the satellites. Mr. Sidlovsky replied affirmatively. Mr. DiNardo stated that the satellites must be upgraded; the computer and software was not the problem, as they were upgraded when they were moved.

Mr. Brougham felt that the control issue was in the distribution of the water and discussion should be about the steps to get it under control; there should be a new platform that the CDD Boards and the villages must address, and need to determine who has the responsibility to budget it. Mr. Miller felt that there were two issues; the technical issues and who would control it.

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Presentation/Discussion: Irrigation Water Quality and Maintenance Requirements**

Mr. Sidlovsky stated that the water quality must be improved and eradication of the snails must be addressed. Snail larvae are entering through the filters and surviving and reproducing. Bryozoa is even more of a problem than the snails; the blockage in filters recently taken apart was 60% Bryozoa and 40% snails. The CDDs are doing everything possible at the pump stations, with the chemical injections. He would further research an ultrasound treatment that kills the algae.

Mr. DiNardo stated that The Foundation knows policing the system is an issue. If The Foundation found out that someone was running their system beyond the scheduled time, The Foundation could fine them. While it makes sense to enforce, you need the ability to enforce which requires someone to inspect and police it. That requires knowledge of the system; therefore, they need a person who has the knowledge and can assess the individual village

problems as well. Mr. Rich Garcia, from the golf course, and Mr. Willis collaborated to create a program that would monitor and police the Toro system, but a dedicated person needs to be hired to do it. Training could be down to the safety patrol level so the patrol officers could shut off a valve when there is a break or irrigation is running continually. The plan would always be updated.

Mr. Klug asked about the reporting that used to be sent and if that was policing the system. Mr. DiNardo replied no; Mr. Vajen used to drive the community and report to Mr. Albeit. Mr. DiNardo felt that, while everyone wants new technology and satellites, the first step was to police the system. The second phase would be for the CDDs and villages to agree and upgrade their satellites and the Toro system. Mr. Christensen asked what could be done to curb excessive watering. Mr. DiNardo stated that nothing could be done now; everyone must wait for Mr. Willis' presentation.

**FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS****Presentation/Discussion: Irrigation System Controllers**

Mr. Willis gave a PowerPoint presentation and noted the following:

- Water distribution is the problem, not the water supply.
- Security would be called now to shut off the valves, not the landscapers.

Mr. Miller asked if the new hire would be a full time position. The answer was yes. Regarding whether The Foundation had someone in mind, Mr. DiNardo replied affirmatively and stated that there would be a \$90,000 cost, which he felt would not be fair for The Foundation to pay. Mr. Brougham stated that it would be cost-shared and the Districts need a proposal from The Foundation. The proposal should include an assessment of the current system, a recommendation for the upgrade, and a breakdown of the costs that each village and CDD would pay. Ms. Viegas asked who the new hire would report to. Mr. DiNardo stated that the person would report to Mr. Willis. Ms. Viegas asked if the new hire would also cover the golf course. Mr. DiNardo replied no, Mr. Rich Garcia would be responsible for the golf course. The new hire would assess the villages' needs.

Mr. Miller asked that a proposal be presented at the Boards' April meetings, along with a summary of how and when it would be implemented. There would be a contract between the Districts and The Foundation for the new hire.

Ms. McQuaker stated she met with Mr. Kevin Powers, from Toro, and the issue in Amador was Taylor Morrison (TM) putting the irrigation on battery packs and not connecting to the satellites. Mr. DiNardo stated that the satellites were always done by the builders who own the property. The new hire would make sure the builders are in compliance. Ms. McQuaker felt that, despite being compliant now, they are on stand alone because the rain sensor shuts off the system and does not turn it back on after the rain is over, causing plantings to die.

Ms. McQuaker asked who oversees the best time to water the plantings. Mr. DiNardo stated that Ms. McQuaker could talk to the new manager, once they are hired. Mr. Adams stated that the type of watering that is needed goes into the system. Mr. DiNardo stated that the new manager would talk to each village and review everything.

Mr. George Serbe, a resident, stated that his issue was with his village's clock, which was struck by lightning and destroyed. The clock was replaced but the landscaper did not know where the wires should go. He spoke to Mr. Sidlovsky and Mr. Willis and found out that, apparently, it does not work with the software. Mr. DiNardo advised Mr. Serbe to involve Mr. Powers. Mr. Serbe stated that the reports being received make no sense. Mr. DiNardo stated that the new manager would address it. Mr. Serbe noted that Mr. DiNardo said this could all happen within three weeks but it will take longer, since the proposal would not be presented until the April meetings. Mr. DiNardo stated the new hire would be brought in, under The Foundation and then transferred to the CDDs, if the Boards directed that. The CDD Boards were agreeable to Mr. DiNardo's plan.

**FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Adjournment**

There being nothing further to discuss, the joint workshop adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

**On MOTION by Ms. Viegas and seconded by Mr. Nuzzo, with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.**

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

COPEAL  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

F. Bingham  
Chair/Vice Chair