

**SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2013**

Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Mayor Ruane gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mayor Ruane, Vice Mayor Congress, Councilman Denham, Councilman Harrity and Councilman Jennings.

Mayor Ruane explained the reason for the Special Meeting. He further spoke to his trip to Orlando and Tallahassee.

City Council update regarding Lake Okeechobee Water Releases and discussion of the City's short term and long term priorities regarding the Lake Okeechobee Water Releases

Presentation by Natural Resources Director, James Evans

Update from Mayor Ruane on the Economic Impacts of Lake Okeechobee Water Releases, educating State and Federal Officials on the Economic Impacts and discussion of the City's Priorities

James Evans Director of Natural Resources and Mayor Ruane gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

Council Discussion

Discussion ensued regarding priorities of the 9 counties coalition, contacts made by different Councilmembers, water needs to go south and need additional funds, need to concentrate on the economy, need good water quality, concerned that if rain stops, Lake Okeechobee levels lower attention will stop, events taken place on Captiva, Rally on the Sanibel Causeway, something go on at Fort Myers Beach.

Public Comment

Karen Storijohan suggested state and federal official contact information be published.

Shane Spring, Board of Realtors spoke to members pushing their Board to be available. He noted that Senator Negron was pushing for a 120 day solution to put the water somewhere else.

Robert Brooks spoke to the professionalism of City Hall and appreciated staff. He was involved with an organization that was able to save the jersey shore from pollution. He suggested setting up non-profit and gathering signatures. He pledged the first \$500 if a non-profit was organized and was there anyway that eminent domain could be used to secure lands for water storage.

Chris Hedrick, spoke to hearing from several inn of guests cutting their stay earlier due to the water.

Herb Rubin spoke to seeing a story to fund the dike around Lake Okeechobee. He further spoke to his concerns and the water flowing south.

Jeff Powers spoke to defining long-term solutions and asked for ration of water to the east and west. He asked if the majority of water to the west.

Director Evans spoke to the following:

- 6,569 cfps to the west from S-77 out of Moorehaven
- 3,892 sfps to the east from S-308
- West gets the majority of the water
- Maximum capacity was approximately 9,000 cfps

Amy Costello asked when Mayor Ruane met with Governor Scott and was there support for projects.

Mayor Ruane noted that a recent letter from the Governor mirrored the request of the City and working to make sure he comes to Lee County.

Jonathan Tonygia spoke to the ACOE wanting to strengthen the dike and money would be better spent if the flow of water went to the south.

Director Evans noted that approximately \$300 million had been spent and need to manage to clean the water in order for it to flow south.

Richard Johnson spoke to his pride of Council's being proactive. He asked the audience to raise their hands if they were behind City Council.

Ralph Clark spoke to the pressure from the sugar industry and if there was an effort to offset that influence.

Director Evans noted there were willing sellers to purchase land and last week U.S. Sugar was willing to sell.

Discussion ensued regarding Senator Constantine interested in supporting purchase of lands, wife works for U.S. Sugar and he also understands that the water must be cleaned before it could be moved south.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pamela Smith, MMC
City Clerk