

Charlie Smith

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Barrier Island Wastewater Collection Systems; Wasterwater Collection Systems; Wasterwater Collection on Barrier Islands; Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Charlie Smith

From: sln5685@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, May 11, 2024 11:07 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Charlotte County Commissioners,

Here we go AGAIN.

Please help me understand. In 2022 there was a proposal to put sewers on Palm Island. At that time there was a huge wave of home and property owners that wrote and came to the meetings you provided. At that time there was a decision the sewage system on Palm Island would be denied.

To refresh your memories,

- Environmental Utilities (EU) proposed a sewage system that would cost each property owner a significant increase to sewage removal
- Create a huge environmental disaster to install this system because there would be damage to not only existing landscaping but would tear up sea oaks and sea grapes that are protected foliage that protect our homes during hurricanes and tropical storms.
- Environmental impacts will be enormous:
- Would not eliminate septic tanks, but would tear up existing, well maintained septic tanks and replacing them with smaller septic tanks. I do not see the advantage of that process
- Then, there will be a pump (the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain) added to that there will be electricity needed to power the pump (the responsibility of the homeowners to maintain).
- Added to that there would be an expensive monthly cost for this unwanted system that only removes the gray water.
- As mentioned the initial installation would tear up existing protected plants.
- Enormous cost to owners to hook up to this travesty
- A potential catastrophic environmental disaster if (perhaps during a major storm and there is a power outage) . Water would back up into these homes because there would not be power to run the pump, sewage would back up into the street then into properties and then into the Gulf of Mexico.
- There are a lot of rentals during the cold weather months. Are these renters going to be responsible to maintain the pump if there is a problem. They will not bother - so sewage would run unchecked into the properties creating a stench due to raw sewage backing up, and a disaster to the environment and death to flora and fauna.
- The said sewage gray water would need to be pumped under the Intercoastal. How about the environmental disaster that would create until that leak would be identified and then the cost to repair the leak.
- Where would that money come from? I guarantee that the cost of that repair would be show up in an increase to the homeowners sewage utility bill.

All of the above were mentioned in 2022. These reasons are still valid! There has not been any change to the island with the exception of the building boom. If there is truly a concern to the environment, why then has the County continued to issue building permits that include adding additional septic systems. Why not put a moratorium on all building.

There has not been any more proof as far as I could determine, that EU has offered any guarantee that there would be enough money to put this proposal in effect. There has been no comfort to the home and property owners that EU would have backup money to handle any problems they face that would delay the completion of this proposed system. I find it extremely aggravating that there was a fancy hand out explaining the use of this system, but there was 2/3 of the fancy handout was devoted to all the restrictions that the homeowner is expected to do or mostly not do. There are a lot of DO NOTS.

My input to EU's proposal has not changed since 2022. In fact, I am more opposed to the EU and their fancy handouts that make it sound that this system is an absolute. If the pressure of the people has anything to say we should once again say ABSOLUTELY NO.

As I mentioned, there are a lot of snowbirds on our island. It appears that EU has chosen a time when many of these folks are already in their northern homes. I don't believe that was just a coincidence, so please keep that in mind as you evaluate this proposal.

Please, please deny this proposal ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

Thank you,

Susan Noto - homeowner
181 North Gulf Blvd.
Placida, Florida 33946

sln5685@comcast.net we go AGAIN. Please help me understand. In 2022 there was a proposal to put sewers on Palm Island. At that time there was a huge wave of home and property owners that wrote and came to the meetings you provided. At that time there was a decision the sewage system on Palm Island would be denied.

Charlie Smith

From: David Cohen <david.paul.cohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 11:20 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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To the Clerk and Commissioners of the FL PSC,

I am writing to ask that you deny the application for EU to provide the services as outlined in Docket #20240032-SU.

This letter begins to deal with various missing financial, environmental and county impacts that must be part of a complete submission to the commission.

As the Commission is well aware, The cost of living in FL is getting higher and higher. You are currently holding hearings on the cost of electricity and learning the impact it has on various households and businesses.

The same is true for the impact, both initially and ongoing, for the sewer system in question.

As I am sure you have heard from many, the provided cost estimates grossly underestimate or completely neglect to correctly specify the actual costs to the clients and county as well as a lack of sound financial planning, including but not limited to:

- Right of Way issues that have been ongoing for some time on Knight and Don Pedro Islands. There is a great number of non-permitted ROW and Clean Area blockages with boulders and other hardscape obstacles that, to date, the county has refused to deal with as obligated by ordinance. Finally dealing with physical and political issues will add considerable cost that would be passed on to the clients as well as the county as greatly impacted timelines as the county itself is currently insufficiently staffed..
- Endangered species habitat and migration considerations.. There are a great many endangered species that make a home on the islands. Further, there are well documented migratory species, some endangered, that use the island as layover or nesting areas over the course of the year. There is no environmental study or submitted plans to deal with relocation of endangered species in the right of way or on the easements of nor a plan to prevent interruption of migratory patterns. This adds a great deal of time, permitting and cost that would be passed on to the clients.
- The actual costs of providing electrical connection with a separate panel and emergency power such as a client provided generator have not been specified.
- There are completely unknown costs associated with the land composition of the barrier islands. This is sand, not dirt. The roads are sand, not dirt and, except for 1 mile, not asphalt. How will required manholes be dealt with on sand roads? Will we be able to even maintain sand roads that have manholes? These are complete unknowns as they have NEVER been dealt with at scale. There is no study and no understood financial impact in dealing with this type of challenge.
- There are no submitted plans to deal with an emergency that has a wide scale impact. Loss of electricity for more than 8 hours prevents the system in question from operating quickly. What is the financial

capability of the EU LLC to deal with a 2 week lack of power, highly restricted access to the island and regional lack of fuel to operate the local septic tanks on a bridgeless barrier island and to then quickly restore hundreds to individual systems to say nothing of the collection system itself? That is to say, what is the disaster plan and why is it not part of the submission?

These actual costs, to the client the county and EU have not been analyzed correctly, resulting in the EU application being materially erroneous in its cost to clients and even the county.

Further, there is no verified disaster recovery plan with sufficient capital reserves. Surely the commission is aware of major spills that occur with central sewer systems even without a major disaster. With an LLC running the operation as opposed to the county, who is going to pay for any incurred costs of cleanup for fines levied by various government agencies? I have seen no capital reserve or disaster reserve financial planning.

Thank You,
David Cohen
201-600-1450

Charlie Smith

From: Jim Mckinney <jimmckinney6724@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Barrier Island Wastewater Collection Systems

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Dear Commissioner Fay,

I am in support of a Centralized Wastewater collection system for the barrier islands.

I have family that lives on the coast and when we visit, we love to go boating and visit the islands. Each barrier island is unique and gives you a special feeling, along with an assortment of wildlife. But lately we have noticed more and more a decline in water quality. I believe that a Centralized Wastewater Collection system would help to preserve the waters, which in turn would keep a healthy ecosystem for all wildlife.

This is why I do support a Centralized Wastewater Collection system for all barrier islands.

Thank you,

James McKinney

Charlie Smith

From: Rodney Luke <rodney.lukebrothers@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:58 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Wasterwater Collection Systems

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Dear Commissioner,

I am very much in support of a Centralized Wastewater collection system for our barrier islands.

I live and work in Charlotte County and believe that our waters need to be protected.

The barrier islands have septic tanks which can become unstable without the proper care, not to mention when storm water covers the islands, the drain fields leach sewage into the waterways.

I do support a Centralized Wastewater Collection system for all barrier islands.

Thank you,

Rod Luke

--

Rodney E. Luke, President

Luke Brothers Custom Homes

941-769-0332

www.lukebrotherscustomhomes.com



Charlie Smith

From: Joyce Luke <joroluke@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Wasterwater Collection on Barrier Islands

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Dear Commissioner,

I am very much in support of a Centralized Wastewater collection for our barrier islands.

I live and work in Charlotte County, and staycation on barrier islands around Florida. I truly believe that our waters need to be protected.

A lot of the barrier islands have septic tanks which are not inspected by the respective county; the homeowner “maintains” their unit. Also, when there are storms that are bad enough to cover the islands, the drain fields are compromised and untreated sewage can flow into the surrounding waters.

I am really in support of protecting all our waters so future generations can enjoy the beauty and wildlife that lives therein.

Thank you,

Joyce Luke

--

Joyce Luke, Vice President
Luke Brothers Custom Homes, LLC
Fire It Up Grills & Outdoor Features LLC
941-769-1730
www.lukebrotherscustomhomes.com



Charlie Smith

From: Novak, Richard M <rmnovak@uic.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear respected commissioners:

My name is Richard Novak, and my address on Little Gasparilla Island is 9498 Alborado Rd. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed central sewage system. We have been on the island for the past decade, and have functioned very well with our existing septic system. There is no established need for a central sewage system, and this appears to be largely driven by a for-profit utility company EU, for the purposes of making a profit at the islanders' expense. Furthermore, this particular company lack experience owning and managing a wastewater facility. It appears then that an inexperienced company wants to fix a problem that does not exist for the purposes of making a buck at the local citizens' expense. Please reject this proposal on behalf of all islander residents.

Sincerely,

Richard Novak, MD