

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:39 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: Fwd Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU Proposed Wastewater System on Little Gasparilla Island

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

Antonia Hover

From: Karl Cheuvront <krclou@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Fwd: Docket # 20200226-SU

Commissioner Passidomo: I urge you to vote no on the Docket # 20200226-SU

Thank you
Karl R Cheuvront Jr.
14 Palm Drive
Placida FL
Krclou@icloud.com

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Karl Cheuvront <krclou@icloud.com>
Date: March 15, 2022 at 12:27:21 PM EDT
To: Clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Clerk of the PSC:

I'm writing you today as a 12-year property owner on "Palm Island" and in regard to my strong opposition to the EU's application for a waste water service on our island.

I'm sure that you and our Commissioners are having some of the many questions regarding this project that property owners are having... in fact, more questions than answers... which is generally not a good way to proceed on an expensive, invasive public project that the vast majority of property owners are in NOT in favor of...

Questions such as, who brought the "proposed" project to your attention and maybe more importantly... why? What is the genesis of the application??? Every neighbor I have talked to is opposed. We've worked hard, purchased on properties, pay our taxes and maintain the infrastructure of our home & lots.... Is it a problem for the only business on the island? Are they maintaining their infrastructure? Should we pay for their lack of maintenance? Or, am I going down the wrong path here? We just have not been told why this is necessary? Have you?

The current system is working for individual home owners. Our current system is environmentally friendly and is working.

Who has made the application... on who's behalf? What is the background of the people behind the EU? What is their professional expertise and professional abilities on projects such as these? I've heard very little. What is their "financial incentive/arrangement for this EU? Why is it a "No Bid" "Public Project?" What data have they presented to the Commission.... They have not presented any to the property owners? Who does the project benefit financially and otherwise?

Financials: of the company proposing to do this job... how solid are they?
What are the financial implications on the homeowners? On the Palm Island resort?
How are rates determined for both? Square footage, numbers of toilets & kitchens? Size of homes, size of property? Cost to remove systems, maintaining new system plus a generator and keeping a septic? What are the Payment options?

I'm a pretty Simple guy and was always taught, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"
Our systems work just fine... I'm not sure who wants this and why? If its only a problem of the Resort... perhaps like individual property owners, they need to fix their own problem... There are way too many questions and way too many good reasons to keep our current septic system in proper running order!

I would, via this e-mail, appreciate your fair review of this very important proposal and I officially request that the PSC DENY the EU's application for waster water service.

Thank you.
Karl R Chevront Jr
14 Palm Drive
Placida, FL. 33946. (Palm Island)
502-396-3875
Krclou@icloud.com

Sent from my iPad

Antonia Hover

From: Bruce Kelsey <bruceckelsey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:16 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU Proposed Wastewater System on Little Gasparilla Island

March 15, 2022

From: Bruce C Kelsey
9798 Little Gasparilla Island
PO Box 3462 Placida, FL 33946
bruceckelsey@yahoo.com

To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo

Please deny the proposed wastewater system on Little Gasparilla Island.

In my opinion the proposed system is a greater risk to the environment than the individually owned septic tanks and drain fields. I also do not trust EU to have the experience to maintain the system.

As a retired professional engineer in Florida and having owned a home and property on Little Gasparilla Island for over 50 years, I urge you to consider my observations and opinions. Note my comments primarily refer to Little Gasparilla Island as follows:

1) This barrier island is only accessible by boat and has very few full time residents. The vast majority of properties consist of vacation homes, week end homes and rental con units. All of these non full time properties have a very low occupancy rate.

2) Have the consultants and engineers considered the occupancy rate of the homes and units on the island. I have used the county maintained online aerial photos at [Charlotte County GIS](#) to estimate the number homes and condo units compared to the boats moored at the docks. The number of boats at the docks imply an occupancy rate of less than 10% when the photograph was taken. A similar study of a Google Maps aerial photograph taken in 2022 implies an occupancy rate of 25%. Surely the occupancy rate is higher at other times but the overall average is probably far less than 50%.

Charlotte County GIS

3) Have the consultants and engineers estimated the amount of effluent based on the gallons of domestic water used on the island? The owner of EU also owns Little Gasparilla Island Water Company that supplies all of the water on the island and could provide the total gallons billed each month. This could be used to estimate the yearly gallons of effluent and the impact on the environment. I suspect due to the low occupancy rate, the effluent per acre on the island is far less than other water front communities on the mainland.

4) The proposed low pressure system requires each resident to have an electric pump to transfer fluids from a holding tank to the main sewer pipe line. Surely the main line will require numerous lift stations to pump the effluent to a central treatment plant. The system would require considerable maintenance and subject to power outages and/or flooding during a storm or unusual high tide. Accumulating all the sewer effluent into one treatment plant on the island would have the risk of a major spill into the bay due to damage or malfunction. Damage to the main sewer line and lift stations could also result in a massive spill. I also own property in a low area in Polk County that relies on several lift stations to pump the effluent. The pumping stations require continuous maintenance and are frequently jammed due to items flushed down resident's toilets. Surely the risk due to an electrical and mechanically operated central system on the island is much greater than the risk due to the individually owned septic tanks and drain fields that have no moving parts.

If there is truly an environmental risk due to septic tanks on the island, why doesn't the county provide a conventional system with a connection to a safe central treatment plant on the main land rather than accept the risk of a system on a barrier island maintained by an inexperienced private company? Resident's would be more confident in the reliability and true cost of a county installed and maintained system. The county could start at the more densely populated islands north of Little Gasparilla Island and extend south in the future as needed.

Property taxes on the island are much higher than the main land in Charlottee County but few services are provided. If the implied sewer rates are implemented, my family will need to sell our property that we have enjoyed for 50 years. Property taxes, water rates and rates for an unnecessary sewer system will force out the old timers like myself and make the island only affordable to the ultra rich.

Thank you,
Bruce C Kelsey