

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 10, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioner was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman Loftus, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner D'Aprile, and Commissioner Moore. Also in attendance were County Attorney Knowlton, County Administrator Shoemaker, Chief Deputy White, Executive Assistant Blair, and Minutes Supervisor Nice. The following members were absent: None. The meeting was called to order at **9:00 AM**.

The invocation was given by Dr. David Blood, New Hope Christian Fellowship, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda:

Addition #1: County Attorney, Agenda Item Z-3 - RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Request the Board repeal Resolution No. 2007-075 which declared a temporary state of local emergency in Charlotte County due to extreme drought conditions and the threat of wildfires and b) Request the Board repeal Ordinance 2007-040 which banned open fires and burnings in Charlotte County due to extreme drought conditions and the threat of wildfires.
BUDGETED ACTION: None

Deletion #1: Redevelopment, Agenda Item VI(1) - RECOMMENDED ACTION: Continue the July 6, 2007 Public Hearing to review and act on proposals received for the Sale and Disposition of Real Property in the Murdock Village Redevelopment Area.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Motion Carried 5:0.

Special Recognition

Proclamation - Commissioner Tricia Duffy

**COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE PARKS AND RECREATION PROCLAMATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.
Motion Carried 5:0.**

Joann Lawson accepted the Proclamation and gave a slide presentation on the benefits to the community and individuals.

Commissioner Cummings stated this is the appropriate time to recognize Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources staff efforts and commented on the benefits to the youth.

Employee Recognition - Commissioner Tricia Duffy and Assistant County Administrator Shoemaker

5 Years: Donald Ham, Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources and Joanne Vernon, Public Works;

10 Years: Patrick Ferriter, Public Works;

15 Years: Frank Avila, Jr., Utilities;

20 Years: Wayne Sallade, Public Safety/Emergency Management; Sonny Shorter, Building Construction Services; and Mary Webster, Community Development; and

and 25 Years: Gary Kleynen, Fire/EMS.

Award Presentation

The United Way of Charlotte County awarded the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners a check in the amount of \$24,000 for use in the operations of the County's 2-1-1 Health and Human Services call center by United Way CEO Cecy Glenn and accepted by Human Services Director Victoria Carpenter and 2-1-1 Supervisor Faezeh Andrews.

Chairman Loftus acknowledged United Way's efforts. Mrs. Carpenter expressed appreciation for United Way's support and recognized Kay Tvaroch (CARE) and Ms. Andrews. Ms. Tvaroch

informed the Board that volunteers give \$75,000 worth of time to the 2-1-1 program. Ms. Andrews thanked United Way for the check and expressed appreciation to CARE volunteers, Victoria Carpenter, the Board, and County Administrators for supporting the program.

Commissioner Cummings commented in support of the outreach and Human Services staff 2-1-1 efforts that promote efficiency and effectiveness.

I. CITIZEN INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Captain Ron Blago requested the Assistant Sea Grant Agent position be saved for at least one more year and stated the position is important to the artificial fishing reef program and an associated \$72,000 grant from Fish & Wildlife. Richard Heller assisted Captain Blago by displaying the mangrove fringe in Charlotte Harbor map before and after Hurricane Charley.

Glenn Bond commented in support of funding the Assistant Sea Grant Agent position especially for the artificial fishing reef and mangrove restoration programs in order to maintain the quality of fishing and economic enhancements from fishing events.

Michael Heller expressed support for saving the Assistant Sea Grant Agent position for educational programs for youth and commented on the tracking of fish and mangroves restoration that impacts recreational programs promoted by Economic Development and Tourism.

Allyson Hickey encouraged the Board to retain funding for 4-H Programs by outlining some of her recent experiences in leadership training, the exchange program with 4-Hers from Kentucky, and stated 4-H Programs are important to the youth of Charlotte County.

Jamie Hoag petitioned the Board to save the Program Assistant for 4-H Programs which are vitally important to the youth including educational programs for agricultural, health, State and Federal legislative and government issues to prepare children for leadership in the future.

Jim Joseph commented in support of retaining the Assistant Sea Grant Agent position and promoting grant funding.

Diane Hickey commented in support of maintaining the 4-H Program Assistant position and outlined 4-H Programs that have had positive impacts on her children and family.

Al Cheatham commented in support of maintaining the 4-H Program Assistant position based on the benefits achieved by family members e.g. his daughter is now a veterinarian assistant and encouraged the Board to provide funding to CHEC as leverage for grant funds.

Commissioner D'Aprile commented on the importance of preserving the environment and Marine Advisory Committee work programs and requested the Board to re-evaluate these two positions. **Commissioner Cummings** opined the State has imposed significant revenue restrictions on counties and economics must change; stated a key element is that Federal and State governments are providing less infrastructure and public safety and counties and taxpayers are having to pay more for a bigger share of the workload while cutting the counties' authority to collect impact fees, reducing revenue sharing, capping ad valorem taxes, and eliminating MSBU fees; and urged citizens to speak to Legislators to turn the train around before it wrecks.

(County Administrator Bruce Loucks replaced Assistant County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker for the remainder of the meeting.)

II. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Charlotte County is seeking volunteers to serve on the following Committees:

Ackerman Waterway Unit Advisory Board - Seeking five (5) members and one (1) alternate to serve on the Ackerman Waterway Unit Advisory Committee. Applicants must reside in the Ackerman Waterway Unit. Terms for members will be drawn by lot at the first meeting.

III. REPORTS RECEIVED AND FILED

Charlotte Assembly Policy Statement 2007
Charlotte Harbor-CRAAC June 28, 2007 minutes
Murdock Village-CRAAC June 29, 2007 Minutes

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE IV. CONSENT
AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.
Motion Carried 5:0.**

Clerk of the Circuit Court

A. Finance Division

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Clerk's Finance Memoranda:

Memorandum #1 - Status of Contingency Reserves - FY 05/06
Memorandum #1A - Status of Contingency Reserves - FY 06/07
Memorandum #2 - Total Disbursements for the Period June 19
through July 2, 2007 in the amount of
\$22,689,637.21
Memorandum #3 - Quarterly Report Unclaimed Excess Money for
\$236,072.60 Balance to the Board
Memorandum #4 - Excess Funds on Tax Deed Applications in the
amount of \$983,385.33

BUDGETED ACTION: None

B. Minutes Division

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve minutes for:

8:00 AM 5/31/07 Budget Review Workshop
8:00 AM 6/04/07 Budget Review Workshop

BUDGETED ACTION: None

Board of County Commissioners

C. Commission Office - No Items

D. Administration - No Items

E. County Attorney

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a Resolution requesting the U.S. congress to appropriate funds necessary to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike into compliance with current levee protection safety standards and to expedite funding through prompt enactment of Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2007-089

F. Budget Office - No Items

G. Community Development - No Items

H. Economic Development

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Set a Public Hearing for 10:00 a.m. on July 24, 2007, or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider changes to the Economic Development Incentive Ordinance. BUDGETED ACTION: None

J. Environmental Services - No Items

K. Facilities Construction and Maintenance - No Items

L. General Services

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve award of Bid #07-334, Pirate Harbor Sanitary Sewer System, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Mitchell & Stark Construction Co., Inc. for a total cost of \$1,112,521.21. BUDGETED ACTION: Budgeted amount is \$1.4 million for FY 07.

(2) RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve award of Bid #07-339, Supply & Installation of Fencing-Environmental Parks, to Peace River Custom Fence, Inc., at the linear foot price indicated below with an initial contract term beginning from date of award through and including December 31, 2007; and b) Authorize the County Administrator to approve renewal options for up to two additional one-year terms, at the same prices, terms and conditions, by mutual consent. BUDGETED ACTION: Budgeted within the Parks Division for land management.

(3) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve Award Bid #07-342, Install 24-inch Water Line Seyburn Terrace, to Expertech Network Installation, Inc. of Boca Raton, FL, for the total cost of \$676,857.89. *BUDGETED ACTION:* Budget available for this expenditure is \$900,000 in CIP c330602 Water Distribution Piping

(4) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Award Bid #07-343, Como Street Water Main, to Flow-Line, Inc. of Lake Placid, FL in the amount of \$119,124.37. *BUDGETED ACTION:* Budget available for this expenditure is \$260,000 in CIP c330602 Water Distribution Piping.

(5) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* a) Approve to authorize staff to enter into negotiations on Bid #07-355, US 41 Gateway Landscaping Phase I, with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Juniper Landscaping, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL; and b) Authorize the County Administrator to award the negotiated contract amount. *BUDGETED ACTION:* The FY07 budget contains \$295,000 for this work as part of the US 41 Beautification Project.

(6) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve deletion of the property inventory items listed on the attached for the month of July, 2007. *BUDGETED ACTION:* None.

M. Human Resources - No Items

N. Human Services

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve 2007-2008 Department of Juvenile Justice contract for grant funding. Grant funds were awarded in the amount of \$30,000 (with a \$6,000 in-kind match from Charlotte County) to administer the Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) program for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Authorize Chair to sign contract after review by County Attorney's office. *BUDGETED ACTION:* The \$36,000 NAB funds are included in the FY08 Family Service Center's Budget request.

Grant 2007-017

P. Information Technology - No Items

Q. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a grant of a Sovereign Submerged Lands easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida to Charlotte County to be located in a certain portion of Section 9, Township 41 South, Range 20 East, also know as Oyster Creek Regional Park, for a boardwalk across Oyster Creek. *BUDGETED ACTION:* None.

R. Public Safety - No Items

S. Public Works - No Items

T. Real Estate Services

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve the attached Resolution approving the release of a portion of a ten-foot (10') wide drainage easement located in Port Charlotte Subdivision, Section Forty-Four; and, five (5) ten-foot (10') wide utility and drainage easements located in Port Charlotte Subdivision, Section Forty-One, and further authorizing the Director of Real Estate Services to execute the County Deeds releasing said portions of easements as described. (Owner: Nicholas J. Tedeschi, and Murdock Carbomed, L.L.C.) *BUDGETED ACTION:* None.

Resolution 2007-090

(2) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve a Resolution authorizing the exchange of the County's interest in one platted lot located in Rotonda Meadows Subdivision for the interest in one privately owned platted lot that is also located in Rotonda Meadows Subdivision for the purpose of constructing a lift station in the Rotonda Meadows area. *BUDGETED ACTION:* None.

Resolution 2007-091

V. Tourism Development - No Items

W. Utilities

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve the Chairman to sign the Certification of Financial Responsibility for the annual

cost estimate to conduct plugging and abandonment of Injection Wells at the Burnt Store Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Certification of Financial Responsibility is a permit requirement for the new Deep Injection Well that will be constructed in conjunction with the Burnt Store Reverse Osmosis Plant Expansion. BUDGETED ACTION: None.

X. Building & Construction Services - No Items

Y. Constitutional - No Items

V. REGULAR AGENDA

Z. Regular Agenda

(1) *Environmental and Extension Services* - RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt amendments to Charlotte County's Inter-Local Agreement with Lee County that will permit mutual access to solid waste programs and services; Lee County's Gasparilla Island residents will have access to Charlotte County's recycling centers and Charlotte County's Gasparilla Island residents will have access to Lee County's solid waste programs.

Jim Thomson explained the purpose of the amendments to the Interlocal Agreement and introduced Barbara Kula. Ms. Kula commented on revenues collected by the recycling facilities in West and Mid-County as a result of aggressive promotion efforts that raised over \$10,000 in two months e.g. \$6,000 from the Mid-County center and \$4,000 from the West County center.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE (1) ENVIRONMENTAL AND EXTENSION SERVICES - RECOMMENDED ACTION: ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH LEE COUNTY THAT WILL PERMIT MUTUAL ACCESS TO SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; LEE COUNTY'S GASPRILLA ISLAND RESIDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S RECYCLING CENTERS AND CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S GASPRILLA ISLAND RESIDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO LEE COUNTY'S SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Motion Carried 5:0.

(2) *Administration* - RECOMMENDED ACTION: Review the financial impacts of property tax reform and provide the Board with the

opportunity for discussion and staff direction as related to budget reduction scenarios.

Raymond Sandrock reviewed the handout on budget reductions of \$8.6 million overall with a potential of \$5 million from the General Fund; a current year impact of frozen and cut positions of \$1.1 million that will create a higher beginning balance next year; a delay in hiring by the Sheriff's Office for almost \$1.1 million from the General Fund and Public Safety Fund; this reduction will allow the Board additional time to review and prioritize services and the need for cuts; outlined the result of re-estimation of interest earnings totaling about \$750,000; commented on the suggestion of Jim Thomson to initiate a host fee for the land fill which could generate an estimated \$1 million. Mr. Thomson stated this would be in addition to the premium charged currently and it would be a negotiated amount. **Commissioner Cummings** questioned the additional space to be used to generate the extra \$1 million. Mr. Thomson stated the life expectancy of the land fill would be reduced by about 10 years. **Commissioner Cummings** stated that is about what is projected for growth. Mr. Thomson stated the estimated future growth and expansion of all cells would be 2053, closure of the existing cell would be about 2023, and it would not significantly impact landfill operations. Mr. Loucks requested the additional trip generation. Mr. Thomson estimated 40 to 45 trucks on US 41.

Mr. Sandrock continued the presentation on item number 7 to have single covered employees contribute \$26 per pay period to health insurance, \$100,000 from the Punta Gorda CRA, and a reduction of \$367,000 in funding requests for non-profit organizations. Mr. Loucks reported \$600,000 of funding would remain in place. Mr. Sandrock advised Paul Payette has developed a list of properties for the sale of excess County properties and commented on the need to consider prioritization of the jail. Mr. Sandrock calculated the total reductions in the General Fund amount to \$5.4 million but there are increases in valuations of the Murdock Village and Charlotte Harbor CRAs; stated there is a potential for a health insurance premium increase but the amount is unknown; options to cover the increase might be achieved from utilizing the rate stabilization fund or have employees subsidize it; and the Event Center and West County Regional Library operational costs will be discussed during the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Workshop. Mr. Sandrock summarized

page 8 dealing with the current versus proposed departmental budget reductions totaling \$5.6 million in the General Fund. Mr. Loucks pointed, out on page 8, the \$13,762,704 reduction of which \$5.6 million is in the General Fund. **Commissioner D'Aprile** recognized staff's efforts to reduce the budget; agreed with **Commissioner Cummings** that Federal and State governments are pushing more funding obligations onto local governments; stated he has had a lot of telephone calls complaining about increases on MSBU Public Hearing notices for Fire/EMS and infrastructure; and stated he does not want any tax increase. Mr. Loucks stated the TRIM notice that deals with taxing millage rates for ad valorem will be mailed in August and reiterated the notices recently sent out dealt with MSBUs and special assessments. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated people want decreases and they will need to realize that reductions cause a cut in services and infrastructure. **Commissioner Duffy** questioned the availability of the presentation on power point. Mr. Sandrock apologized but stated he worked until late last evening on the handout. **Commissioner Cummings** acknowledged Mr. Sandrock's efforts, commented on the \$1.4 to \$3 million per net cost per year relative to Murdock Village, and expressed uncertainty about the impacts as part of the budget process. Mr. Sandrock stated most of the funding is in the CIP that will be reviewed at the workshop. **Commissioner Duffy** requested clarification on the cuts already made by staff. Mr. Sandrock stated this list is beyond the \$5.6 million. Mr. Loucks advised these are non-departmental reductions; additional department reductions will be considered; and requested direction from the Board. **Chairman Loftus** stated this is the time for the Board to take the initiative. **Commissioner Duffy** stated reductions should not impact residents, there is waste and duplication of services in County departments and budgets, the bigger departments have not cut costs on the same scale as small departments. **Commissioner Moore** indicated uncertainty about budgets for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Community Development and advised he needs to review the budgets with staff.

Commissioner Moore commented on the uncertainty of impacts from Legislative actions; indicated support for staff's proposal; and opined more discussion is needed. **Chairman Loftus** reiterated this is the time to give direction to the Administrator on wants and cuts to provide for needs. Mr. Loucks referenced page 1, the fourth column from left to right on millage rates; stated

these rates will be brought to the Board on July 24, 2007, and anything over the rates from Tallahassee will require a super majority vote. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated the County intends to make budget cuts but he is concerned about the adverse impact of the Super Exemption. **Commissioner Duffy** agreed with **Commissioners Moore and D'Aprile** on cuts that should be made by larger departments e.g. Community Development and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources that has a 13% increase. Mr. Sandrock explained increases resulting from new methodologies for charge outs and impacts from property insurance. **Commissioner Duffy** commented in support of the recommendation from the Charlotte Assembly regarding cuts for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. **Commissioner Duffy** stated inequities regarding homestead exemptions need to be addressed and she is concerned about the impact of the Super Exemption that might be passed by voters in January 2008. **Commissioner Cummings** stated that people hurting under the exemption are suffering from 300% increases not 10% increases; budget reductions will impact service levels; the Legislature does not have any idea of the impacts of its actions on residents and the quality of life; expressed concern about the County trying to comply with reductions imposed by State and Federal governments that will promote long-term deficits; and suggested developing five-year cost and revenue projections. **Commissioner Cummings** stated evidence shows that the Community Development Department is not up to a level to achieve goals and directions given by the Board. **Commissioner Cummings** questioned the \$1.33 million in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services budget. Mr. Sandrock explained the increase was derived from Central and Direct Costs based on updated statistics and expenditure charges. **Commissioner Cummings** concluded that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department utilize services from Public Works, County Attorney, and Purchasing and the department is using more of these services. Mr. Sandrock explained the reduction in Central and Direct Costs of Utilities was achieved by moving these costs from the Enterprise Fund to the General Fund. **Commissioner Cummings** concluded this represents a reallocation of expenditures.

Commissioner Moore indicated as a result of a review of the 2006 through 2008 budgets and modifications, the cost of living expenses went up 15% for each of the two years; the County and residents cannot afford these increases; opined adjustments can

be done now after conclusion of recovery efforts following Hurricane Charley; and he had suggested cuts in the Board Office but Commissioners have not agreed. **Chairman Loftus** stated the Board Office budget is being reduced by \$87,000. Mr. Loucks explained the reductions. **Chairman Loftus** suggested considering xeriscaping for reductions in lawn maintenance and water usage; referenced increases including one for \$151,000 for promotional efforts and brochures; reiterated the Board should consider needs over wants; and indicated concern about the \$110,000 for travel and per diem for Utilities. **Commissioner Duffy** suggested looking at cuts from promotional efforts and outside consultants. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated the County does not equalize taxes e.g. homestead exemptions for current versus new residents and commented on the importance of maintaining services even with budget trims. **Chairman Loftus** commented on the need to recoup lighting costs from usage groups. **Commissioner Cummings** stated the \$20 million gap for roads should be addressed that equates to a \$100 million gap over five years; projections for gas tax revenues to be returned to the County will go down e.g. the County previously received back \$.90 on the dollar versus \$.12 on the dollar; inequities in ad valorem should be addressed but the Legislature has closed many doors for County revenue streams by prohibiting the County's ability to increase impact fees, ad valorem taxes, etc. **Commissioner Cummings** advised counties are being forced to pick up ever increasing loads without sufficient revenue streams. **Commissioner D'Aprile** expressed opposition to actions imposed by the State Legislature and pointed out the County is trying to reduce the budget to comply with State mandates and still provide services to residents.

Commissioner Duffy suggested Board Members stop looking at the past and focus on budget cuts and recalled **Commissioner's Moore** suggestion to cut one position in the Board Office that she supported. **Chairman Loftus** concurred with cutting the receptionist position. **Commissioner Cummings** advised the Board Office tried a few times to do without a receptionist; opined the Office, because it is under constant scrutiny, is operated on a shoe string budget; and the receptionist position allows the Executive Assistants efforts to be better utilized. **Chairman Loftus** announced three Board Members concur. **Commissioner Duffy** opined the Board Office needs to take the lead. Mr. Loucks stated the July 16, 2007 budget meeting should

be cancelled as a result of this discussion. Mr. Loucks clarified the \$26 for increased health insurance premiums would be paid by all employees. **Commissioner Cummings** reported, assuming the change is made in the Board Office, the position is the second lowest paid full time employee in the County. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated he would agree with the elimination of one position and questioned how to compensate for the loss of the receptionist and suggested rotation of Executive Assistants at the front desk. **Commissioner Duffy** suggested someone from Administration might be of assistance. Mr. Loucks recommended people coming off the elevators access Administration staff who would call over to the Executive Assistants. **Commissioner Cummings** recalled a prior idea to establish one central receptionist for the entire fifth floor but there were issues with the reconfiguration based on Fire Codes. **Commissioner Duffy** questioned the lack of a reduction in the Charlotte Behavior budget. Mr. Loucks stated no budget cuts have been proposed for that department. **Commissioner Duffy** commented on a new type of land fill system that would provide energy to 100,000's of homes and ethanol as an additional revenue source. Mr. Loucks requested a vote to cancel the July 16, 2007 budget workshop at 1:30 PM.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO CANCEL THE BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR JULY 16, 2007 AT 1:30 PM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Motion Carried 5:0.

Commissioner Cummings pointed out direction is needed on the Program Services position. Mr. Sandrock requested direction on moving forward with reductions mentioned during the discussion and on page two. **Chairman Loftus** stated the Assistant Sea Grant position is a nice thing to have but it is not needed. **Commissioner Duffy** suggested placing the 4-H Program Assistant position in a non-profit organization. Mr. Loucks stated the Board will need to incrementally cut positions over the next five years based on revenue caps imposed by the State and costs relative to these positions are still costs. Mr. Loucks stated the Sea Grant position will be placed in the budget and questioned the Board's position on the 4-H Program positions. **Commissioner D'Aprile** commented in support of keeping both positions for one year. **Commissioners Cummings and Moore** concurred.

RECESS: 11:00 AM - 11:10 AM

(3) County Attorney - **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** a) Request the Board repeal Resolution No. 2007-075 which declared a temporary state of local emergency in Charlotte County due to extreme drought conditions and the threat of wildfires; and b) Request the Board repeal Ordinance 2007-040 which banned open fires and burnings in Charlotte County due to extreme drought conditions and the threat of wildfires.

Daniel Gallagher updated the Board on the purpose for the requested actions to repeal the former resolution and ordinance regarding open fires and burns and advised the index is within similar levels.

**COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2007-092, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY.
Motion Carried 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY.
Motion Carried 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2007-053, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.
Motion Carried 5:0.**

VI. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA - No Items

VII. PRESENTATION AGENDA - No Items

VIII. PUBLIC WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items

IX. BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items

X. CITIZEN INPUT - None

AA. County Administrator - No Items

BB. County Attorney

Attorney Knowlton reported an item will be placed on the July 24, 2007 regular agenda for the Board to select an individual to serve on the Governing Board of the Babcock Ranch Community Independent Special District; this will be the second liaison position; and the first appointee was William Wilcox to the Preservation Management Board.

CC. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Moore expressed appreciation to Budget and Administration for all efforts on the budget. **Commissioner D'Aprile** reported he was invited by Pete Colversion, Pandion Systems, Inc., to join in the Management Advisory Group (MAG) for the Babcock Ranch Preservation Conceptual Management Plan. **(Board consensus for Commissioner D'Aprile to serve.)** **Commissioner D'Aprile** related a citizen complaint about street lighting that must be located 300 feet apart. Mr. Loucks advised the Greater Charlotte Taxing District will see a reduction in lighting and nothing precludes individual home owners from installing lights. **Commissioner D'Aprile** commented on the West County Fire Station that cost more than anticipated, stated the acquisition of a fire engine might have to be eliminated, and he recently received notice that CIP funds are available for the acquisition. Mr. Loucks suggested bringing back the use of Sales Tax revenues for the acquisition. **Commissioner Cummings** pointed out Sales Tax revenues may be utilized for the pipeline agreement for the interconnect that would benefit County and City of Punta Gorda residents. **Commissioner Cummings** expressed understanding that the Stump Pass Beach Innovative Project was to be at the channel but it was not and serious erosion has been directly attributable to that project and suggested the project be moved closer to the channel. **Commissioner Cummings** requested a letter be sent regarding the Corps of Engineers. Attorney Knowlton stated comments are being developed for submittal by Friday including a request for a public hearing.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE LETTER UNDER SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Chairman Loftus requested comments on the County Administrator's evaluation sheet. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated it is a great evaluation sheet and expressed a willingness to use it. **Commissioner Duffy** stated the first part is the same and the second part ties the evaluation to Board goals and it is a good evaluation tool to get feedback.

Motion Carried 5:0.

ADJOURNED: 11:30 AM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Chairman

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk

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