

Notes Meeting Regarding Mosaic Mining Plans and the Impact on North Port on February 1, 2017

Attendees

Mayor Linda Yates, City of North Port Commission
Juliana B. Bellia, Director, City of North Port Department of Public Works
Allain Hale, Resident, North Port
Don Rice
Ms. ?, Resident (*Did not get name*)

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Yates had asked Ms. Bellia some background questions about the potable water supply and the City's aquifer. Ms. Bellia suggested contacting Mr. Marc Swartz, Utilities Department Water/Wastewater Plants Operations Manager via phone. Mr. Swartz was contacted via phone and provided the following background information to Ms. Bellia and Mayor Yates:

Background Information - Potable Water Supply and Aquifer

- **Primary Potable Water Supply:** Myakkahatchee Creek (*Water from the Creek goes into the Aquifer Recover Storage (ASR) well.*)
- **Secondary Water Supply:** Cocoplum Waterway
- **Backup Water Supply Peace River Water Authority, Alternative Service Provider:** Peace River
- **The City of North Port has 6 wells** (*There is 1 well on the Water Plant property on North Port Boulevard and 5 wells on the Dallas White property along Greenwood Avenue). These wells are 360 feet deep and cased 320.'* These wells feed the Reverse Osmosis Plant only. These wells are constructed through several layers of aquifer.
- **Industrial Zone:** Water drawn from this zone and then treated.
- **Domestic Well:** These wells are 90' to 120' deep. The well driller views the cuttings until they see the clay layer (*confining layer*). They drive the casing through the clay layer and then into the next layer. The superficial layer is 0' feet to 25'
- **Abandoned Wells:** Pump breaks, wires are cut and then the well is abandoned. The casings will turn into Swiss cheese. The abandoned wells within the City need to be located and plugged. This effort would need to be coordinated with the Sarasota County Health Department.

Meeting Notes

Ms. Bellia gave an overview of the City's stormwater system and potable water supply system.

Mr. Rice explained the mining process. Clay is injected into the ground and becomes like jelly to create the mine. This process takes away from the aquifer and doesn't allow the aquifer to be recharged. There could be impacts from mining to the Big Slough. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage can tell us if the flow is being impacted from the mining. The proposed Mosaic Desoto West and Desoto East mine areas require permits from the following agencies:

- State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Desoto County
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mayor Yates asked if Mosaic would have to prove that the phosphate mine will not impact the surface water of the Big Slough?

Mr. Rice replied that Mosaic shows that ground water and surface water coincides. The following provides a status of the Mosaic permits for various areas:

- Area wide Environmental Impact Statement: Currently being drafted
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit for South Pasture Extension: Permit issued and lawsuit filed in December 2016
- Wingate East: Permit to be considered on February 15, 2017
- South Pasture Extension: In progress
- Desoto West: No pending permit applications
- Oramine: In progress

Mr. Rice advised that Mosaic gave Manatee County, Hardee County, Polk County and Hillsborough County, three wells and 1.69 million gallons per day to make up for the loss of aquifer. The City of North Port needs to decide what they will require from Mosaic.

Mr. Rice explained the concept of ASR wells. The arsenic levels need to be monitored. Upper Florida levels are 320 feet. When you are considering Desoto West ask about the *bubble*. How is arsenic not flowing away? It is recommended that a study is conducted by the USGS or a consultant. It is not recommended that Ardaman and Associates or CH2M be utilized for this purpose as they have both performed consulting work for Mosaic. It is also recommended that a groundwater flow model be conducted. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has a model for this entire area. Mr. Rice said he feels the Big Slough will be severely negatively impacted by the Mosaic phosphate mining.

Mayor Yates said that we need to plan for potential impacts from the phosphate mining.

Mr. Rice said that Sarasota County has an ordinance prohibiting phosphate mining.

**Julie offered to obtain a copy of the Sarasota County ordinance prohibiting phosphate mining and forward to City Manager Lewis.*

Mayor Yates proposed that the following tasks be pursued:

1. Invited Mr. Rice, Mr. Hale and resident in attendance at today's meeting to attend a follow-up meeting with representatives from the City of North Port Departments of Utilities and Public Works; SWFWMD Hydrologist; representative from the Peace River Water Management Authority and City Manager Lewis.

2. City of North Port to adopt an ordinance prohibiting phosphate mining.

3. Ground Water Issues to be Addressed

- Where does the water that goes to the well come from?
- Where does water go when you pump the water down in a period of ten days, ten months or ten years? How much can you recover from what you put in? Pump it, store it and pump it out.
- If SWFWMD is conducting an ongoing study, then should we ask them for a peer review.
- When two different types of water mix it disrupts the arsenic.
- Need to address how the disposal of arsenic that is collected.