



November 13, 2023

Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting

Regional Wastewater Treatment Opportunities

Discussion on Potential Partnership

T.J. Fish – Groveland Director of Transportation & Public Works

City of Groveland – Wastewater Treatment Systems

- Groveland operates two (2) Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF) – one in northern service area and one in the southern service area
- The Sunshine WWTF serves the northern service area – properties north of the Palatlakaha River
- The southern Sampey WWTF is nearing capacity with an upgrade and expansion project designed and now funded for construction through a loan agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – completion 2026
- The northern Sunshine WWTF is averaging 53 percent capacity of the one-million-gallon treatment capacity



Groveland Utilities Master Plan - Partnership with Woodard & Curran

- Groveland contracted utilities operations and maintenance of water, sewer, and reclaimed water services in 2019
- Woodard & Curran was selected as the O&M contractor – has proven to be effective partnership now in 5th year
- Woodard & Curran was selected to develop the City's first-ever Utilities Master Plan
- First developed a Drinking Water Facilities Plan and a Clean Water Facilities Plan (wastewater) that was approved by City Council and by DEP in 2021 – included projects eligible for grant funding and very-low-interest loans – DEP loans funds for existing needs through the State Revolving Fund
- Then completed in 2022 the Utilities Master Plan that includes existing needs as well as future needs to be funded via developer investments



Groveland Already Partnering with Mascotte

- Groveland originally executed agreement with City of Mascotte in 2013 to accept wastewater for treatment – minimal flows the first eight years
- Mascotte owns collection system of sewer lines, force mains and lift stations
- Groveland accepts wastewater into force mains at the boundary of the two municipalities and currently treats at the Sampey WWTF
- Original agreement was not well-defined (contemplated pay-as-you-go)
- Agreement was updated and restated to define a process for the purchase of capacity
- Capacity purchase agreement allows Mascotte to OWN the capacity – then Mascotte allocates available capacity to developments meeting requirements
- Both municipalities coordinate the management of the purchased capacity



Groveland-Mascotte Partnership

- Mascotte connected force main to Groveland system at SR 50 via grant funding
- After restated agreement was executed last year, Mascotte received a legislative appropriation enabling the purchase of 275,000 gallons of wastewater treatment capacity
- First step was to purchase Mascotte's portion of the design of the Sampey WWTF upgrade/expansion project - \$450,000
- Next step is pending purchase of Mascotte's portion of the construction cost - \$4.5 million
- Mascotte collects impact fees from developments benefitting from the wastewater treatment capacity – has allowed approved/desired development to move forward
- Municipalities are currently coordinating a Groveland update of rates and impact fees
- Regional partnership is embraced by State DEP



Partnership Opportunities – A Regional Approach

- Groveland's Sunshine WWTF is located south of Howey-in-the-Hills on the eastern side of State Road 19 between Florida's Turnpike and US 27
- The facility is located four miles south of Revels Road and 5.5 miles south of Central Avenue
- Capacity exists should the Town of Howey wish to take a regional approach to controlling its local destiny
- Grant and very-low-interest loan funding is available for this type of regional approach

DEP EMBRACES PARTNERSHIPS

Funds regional projects



Partnership Opportunities – A Regional Approach

- Partnership avoids expensive and redundant facilities or undesirable package plants
- Management of WWTF is more complex than water treatment or maintaining collections system – shortage of certified operators a driving factor in Groveland outsourcing
- Groveland's Utilities Master Plan also contemplates a new regional wastewater treatment facility rather than expanding the Sunshine WWTF – environmentally constrained
- Location is planned west of Ford Commerce Park – in preliminary engineering phase
- Sunshine WWTF could be utilized by Howey as an interim solution while regional WWTF goes through a design-build – completion anticipated 2028
- Ample capacity to serve Groveland, Howey, and Mascotte – planning up to 8 million gallons



How would Howey-in-the-Hills Initiate Partnership?

- Town Council could consider formal action to engage City of Groveland on potential wastewater treatment partnership – resolution stating interest
- Town Council could consider consultant to develop Clean Water Facilities Plan to address wastewater needs in conjunction with DEP
- Once need is documented and confirmed by DEP for the Town to have additional wastewater treatment capacity, DEP will confirm funding options
- When funding is in place, the project can be designed and constructed to connect the Town of Howey to Groveland's Sunshine WWTF
- Meanwhile, Howey and Groveland would work toward an agreement that defines responsibilities including terms of purchase of wastewater capacity – Town would own its own wastewater treatment capacity



Questions?

- City of Groveland is a willing partner that understands the challenges facing local governments and small municipalities
- Groveland's interest is in the leveraging of additional capital resources to take a regional approach to addressing environmental needs – better public facilities to benefit many
- Groveland now has a strong track record of managing utilities and managing growth
- Regional partnering is robustly supported by the Florida DEP



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Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the possibilities

T.J. Fish, Director of Transportation & Public Works

