

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Harmer, Town Manager

FROM: Carolyn Brown, Support Services Director
Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Allen Parsons, Planning, Zoning & Building Director

REPORT DATE: February 4, 2022

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Green (Environmental) Initiatives Update

Recommended Action
None, informational only.

Background

The Town of Longboat Key has a long and diverse commitment to protecting the environment and the Town's invaluable natural resources. The Town continually works to further coordinate and enhance environmental awareness and proven sustainable practices to ensure the health and viability of our community. As a follow-up to the Town Commission's Strategic Planning Retreat on October 18, 2021, staff has organized an internal group to coordinate and facilitate future additions to the actions. Support Services, Public Works, and Planning, Zoning & Building Departments are coordinating their efforts with Carolyn Brown appointed by the Manager to lead the Team. In addition to an integrated coordination and planning effort under a broad umbrella of Green/Environmental Initiatives, the team will be periodically reporting on progress, so that the public can be informed of efforts the Town continues to engage in.

For this initial report, staff will be cataloging the Completed, Active, or Planned Initiatives that have been categorized into the following broad groupings:

- Shoreline Protection
- Water Quality
- Environmental/Energy Efficiency Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Educational Outreach

This report provides a brief overview of the Completed Initiatives, Active or Planned Initiatives that support the Town's environmental commitments.

Completed Initiatives

Shoreline Protection

- Completed Phase 1 and finalizing Phase 2 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study
- Joined the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition
- Participating in Manatee County's Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan update
- Completed the 2021 Beach re-nourishment Project and North End Structural Stabilization Project
- Coordinated with the LKB North Beach Volunteers for trash-pick up
- Updated the Town's Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance (Ord. 2021-01 adopted on July 2, 2021)
- Updated the Town's seawall ordinance to increase height requirements for future seawalls

Water Quality

- Implemented an updated Wastewater Operations Manual to formalize wastewater system maintenance and monitoring
- Installed system flow and pressure meter enhancements to assist the Town and Manatee County in monitoring wastewater system
- Received \$1.25M in State funding appropriation to assist with relining the mainland portion of the wastewater line
- Fertilizer Ordinance in place, which prohibits the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus during the Summer rainy season (June 1-September 30), and requires at least 50 percent slow-release fertilizer during the rest of the year
- Monitor red tide conditions when present and support clean-up efforts in conjunction with Manatee County taking lead

Environmental/Energy Efficiency

- Initiated a pilot program in Public Works to test a battery-powered blower with rechargeable batteries. Order has been placed, but on backorder.
- Replacement of existing Gulf of Mexico Drive and Neighborhood Street Lights with energy efficient LED light bulbs as part of the Utilities Undergrounding Project
- Renewed contract through June 20, 2024 with Waste Management for curbside pick-up single stream recycling services
- Signed up and paid for a tennis ball recycling program for balls used at the Town's Tennis Center
- Maintained budget for Australian Pine removal program
- Implemented the new Sound Ordinance, incorporating language to encourage use of equipment to minimize noise and other environmental impacts

Infrastructure

- Installed Wa-Stop valves in the Village and Sleeping Lagoon area to help mitigate bayside back flow into low lying neighborhoods

- Town Code includes a requirement for new construction to meet Base Flood Elevation (BFE +1)
- The new Fire Station 92 plans and proposed finish floor level were reviewed by our Sea Level Rise consultant prior to construction to make sure it is was properly raised to meet the anticipated future life of the building
- Continued administration of Florida Building Code and Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements for the construction of resilient and flood zone elevated buildings and infrastructure

Educational Outreach

- 2022 Sea Turtle Nesting Season new Town Code requirements
- Completed annual outreach on Fertilizer Ordinance requirements and commercial registration for fertilizer applicators
- Two Green Living workshops conducted in Spring 2020

Active or Planned Initiatives

Shoreline Protection

- Complete groin structure tightening project at New Pass
- Continued implementation of the Town's Beach Management Program
- Complete permitting and implement spit management plan on Greer Island
- Phase 2 Sea Level Rise Study being finalized. Phase 3 and 4 scheduled for completion this year.
- Develop Implementation Plan for Sea Level Rise recommendations, including incorporation into the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Lyons Lane improvements under construction
- Assess flooding in Buttonwood and Sleepy Lagoon neighborhoods and develop recommendations and funding strategies
- Partner with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program for a shoreline demonstration project at Bayfront Park
- Continue to work with Beach Volunteers for trash and plastics pick up

Water Quality

- State appropriation request for \$800,000 pending for additional relining work associated with the wastewater line on the mainland
- Continue to plan and permit for a redundant wastewater line under Sarasota Bay
- Continued monitoring of red tide conditions when present and support clean-up efforts in conjunction with Manatee County taking lead

Environmental/Energy Efficiency

- Evaluating the effectiveness of battery-powered blower and re-chargeable batteries associated with Town facility maintenance

- Continue planning in the FY23 Budget for the purchase of 2 - 4 electric vehicles as part of the Town's vehicle replacement plan
- Plan for the purchase and installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station(s) to accommodate Town EV vehicles
- Plan for and conduct an energy audit for Town-owned buildings in FY23
- Perform sea grass mitigation for coastal projects requiring mitigation
- Continue to budget for the Australian Pine removal program

Infrastructure

- Emphasize proven and practical green/sustainable construction in all future Town facilities/structures, so that features provide tangible and intangible benefits, and return on investment aligned with Town values.
- Develop plans to implement overall Sea Level Rise recommendations for Town infrastructure.
- Continued work to develop the GMD Complete Streets Corridor Plan which will enhance multi-modal (pedestrian / bicycle) opportunities on the island.
- Potential addition of rock rip-rap or other stabilizing features along Town seawalls

Educational Outreach

- Conduct a water conservation education program on low-flow toilets, faucets and other plumbing fixtures in FY23
- Participate in the Earth Day program in FY22 at Longboat Island Chapel
- Continued education and enforcement of new Turtle Protection Ordinance for the upcoming 2022 Turtle Season
- Continue annual outreach on fertilizer restrictions in advance of the Summer raining season
- Conduct a public update on the impacts of the new FEMA flood maps in FY22
- Process an update to the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Element as part of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan batch updates
- Film a *Talk of the Town* segment on Sarasota and Manatee County transit systems encouraging use of public transit.
- Continue discussions with Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) and Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) for a single level of public transit on the island.
- Provide citizen awareness campaign in 2022 on the Town's recycling program.
- Schedule at least two Sustainability Classes and/or other learning opportunities in 2022 in partnership with Sarasota County, Manatee County or other scientifically based organizations.
- Dedicate a *Talk of the Town* segment focusing on the Town's Green efforts in 2022
- Add questions to the 2023 Annual Citizen Survey regarding green initiatives

Next Steps

- Incorporate Commission comments into the planning effort
- Continue to move forward with the on-going and planned activities

- Discuss future issues that require budget action with the Commission during the FY23 Budget process
- Prepare periodic reports to the Commission on progress with initiatives

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only

Attachments

PowerPoint presentation (available in the Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item