

JANUARY 29, 2019

A [Strategic Planning Meeting](#) of the [Board of Lee County Commissioners](#) was held on this date at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort, 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive, Fort Myers, Florida, with the following Commissioners present:

Brian Hamman, Vice Chairman  
 Cecil Pendergrass  
 John E. Manning  
 Franklin B. Mann  
 (Commissioner Kiker was absent for the entire meeting)

Moderator: Herb Marlowe, Ph.D.

Vice-Chairman Brian Hamman called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m., welcoming the Board, County Staff, and members of the public. Following brief opening comments, County Manager Roger Desjarlais thanked Guest Moderator Herb Marlowe, Ph.D., and pointed out that Dr. Marlowe returns today for his sixth consecutive Annual Strategic Planning Session. Utilizing a [PowerPoint presentation](#), he briefly reviewed the agenda and outlined objectives, noting that today's focus would include:

- 1) Back to Basics: Five Years of Success;
- 2) Needs of One Million Residents
- 3) Planning for Future Quality of Life for the Citizens of Lee County;
- 4) BoCC Topics;
- 5) Staff Perspectives;
- 6) Recap and Next Steps.

Mr. Desjarlais highlighted a timeline - 2014-2019 – pointing out Board milestones, General Fund History, Additional Investment, Five-Year CIP and Conservation 20/20, with input provided by Staff and the individual Commissioners. Dr. Marlowe moderated discussions of BoCC Topics and Staff Perspectives, with input from Assistant County Manager Doug Meurer, Assistant County Manager Christine Brady, Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer, Assistant County Manager Dave Harner, and Assistant County Manager/Chief Financial Officer Pete Winton. There was comprehensive discussion by the Board on the following [categories](#): Constitutional Offices, County Facilities, Economy, Environment, Funding, Growth Management, Health Care, Housing, Human Services, Public Safety, Recreation, Technology, Transportation, Utilities/Solid Waste, and Water Quality that culminated in discussions of implications and essential strategies in order to meet the needs of 1 million Lee County residents. Some of the highlights of the discussion were:

- *One million residents* projected by the year 2040 resulting in 7.4 million gallons of drinking water, 7 million of sewer output and an additional 1.8 million pounds of trash requiring eight additional EMS stations and 1,800 acres of parklands.
- *Transportation*: The cost for acquisition of the majority of rights of way for Alico Road Extension - \$50 to \$60 million; Corkscrew Road extension: \$50 million; S.R. 951-to be determined. Discussion and consensus to build out Alico Road as soon as possible. Look at alternate funding, review signaling county-wide; accelerate corridors and look at new transportation technology, ingress and egress..
- *Human Services*: Discussion of Affordable Housing Crisis, Need to address problem of homelessness; high cost of rentals in this area and ways of providing assistance to renters; Commissioner Mann remarked that he may be inclined for a discussion of a dependent children's council with county oversight rather than an independent council as proposed by Pennies for Progress.
- *Economic Development*: Commissioners Pendergrass and Hamman discussed the need to help our local businesses and continue competing to win non-traditional industries to this area. Commissioner Manning asked about the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance and whether to continue funding assistance.
- *Technology*: Assistant County Manager Christine Brady discussed checking into camera systems to look at real time traffic, transit and law enforcement through monitoring with a camera system to help alleviate ingress-egress issues. Discussions of the need to better understand the use of autonomous vehicles.
- *Funding*: Discussion of additional funding resources i.e., referendum, millage rate change, unincorporated MSBU deficits; tax increase. Commissioner Pendergrass brought up the issue of unfunded mandates by the State.
- *Solid Waste*: Assistant County Manager Doug Meurer reported that negotiations are ongoing for 63 acres in Hendry County to modify buffer and height limitations based on our current levels of service and plans to increase incinerator capacity.
- *Water Quality*: Points of discussion included harmful nutrients and runoff; 2022 Herbert Hoover Dike - 2022, and management of releases, purchase of additional property for TMDL usage.

Final dialog consisted of comments by each of the Commissioners, all in concurrence for today’s high level of productivity. Commissioner Mann extended gratitude to the County Manager, Staff and Dr. Marlowe for looking 20 years ahead at extremely important issues to be dealt with by the County and giving the Board a better understanding of where we are headed. Mr. Desjarlais expressed gratitude to Staff and Dr. Marlowe, stating that this was a Great Day, remarking that the dialog was the most productive yet. Vice-Chairman Hamman reiterated the Board’s gratitude to Staff and thanked everyone for their efforts in this endeavor.

The Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

ATTEST:  
LINDA DOGGETT, CLERK

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Deputy Clerk

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Vice-Chairman, Lee County Commission