

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:32 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: FOR Centralized Wastewater; Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island; Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; No Sewer LGI ; Docket #20240032-SU; Re: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Antonia Hover

From: Brittany Essig <brittanybythebay@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com; ltgovernorjeanette.nunez@eog.myflorida.com
Subject: FOR Centralized Wastewater

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

If not now, when? Our environment, specifically our waterways, are at great risk. The evidence is clear. As a local resident of Englewood, a soon to be property owner in Charlotte County (1654 Tarpon Ave), and a business owner in Charlotte County, I am in strong support for the implementation of a centralized sewer system. The current reliance on septic systems is having a detrimental effect on our local environment, community and economy.

I have two businesses in Charlotte County; one of which is real estate. When I was showing property on Little Gasparilla Island last year, after a high tide, there was clear evidence of septic waste on the road. The buyers were disgusted. The effect of this is multifaceted. First, it was a safety concern. Second, it negatively impacted the buyers (and my) desire to be on the island, let alone make an investment there. And lastly, our poor wildlife and beauty of such a place is being compromised. Shouldn't fragile, more vulnerable land such as these barrier islands be protected from septic waste? I understand that many many years ago centralized sewer systems weren't even an option but now they are. Why wouldn't we want to preserve what we have before it's negatively impacted? Our land value will hold and hopefully increase with this improvement.

The bottomline is simple: the environment, the wildlife, and our waterways are all being hurt by the lack of a centralized sewer system. Now is the time. You know that saying, "More money, more problems"? Well, that goes with this. More people, more poop. Yikes. If not now, when? Please, please help.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Brittany Essig (LMHC & Realtor)

--

Warmest Regards,

Brittany Essig, Realtor®
Licensed Sales Associate



Cell: [941-626-0632](tel:941-626-0632) | Fax: [941-698-1403](tel:941-698-1403)
Email: Brittanybythebay@gmail.com
Search for your piece of paradise: www.ParadiseExclusive.com

Main Office | 8300 Wiltshire Drive, Suite 3, Port Charlotte, FL 33981
Placida Office | 5855 Placida Road, #302, Englewood, FL 34224
Boca Grande Office | 471 Park Avenue, Boca Grande, FL 33921
Dearborn Office | 200 W Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL 34223

Antonia Hover

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:10 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
To: Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.stste.fl.us <commissssioner.passidomo@psc.stste.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 04:02:13 PM EDT
Subject: Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
To: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us>;
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.us
<commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 12:14:40 PM EDT
Subject: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

Dear Commissioners,

I spoke at the FPSC hearing and sent a letter in favor of septic to sewer conversion. I was shocked to hear that we were turned down. I do not think they understood that we were requesting septic to sewer. I live on LGI, and am a full time resident. This is our only home. No second home. We built our home and moved here from Hernando County. We had a smaller home on the island and decided to live out our retirement on LGI. So we sold our vacation home and built our new home. We moved in 2010. We had to put in an ATU, County permit #273187. When we moved in we had no idea what that meant until the County came to inspect our unit and I received a bill for inspection, The inspector explained everything to me, including his opinion, "that septic to sewer would most likely be in the near future for the barrier islands." He stated that 'it would be environmentally better for our ECO SYSYTEM."

Currently, we pay the County for the permit and inspection, but they never come to inspect (we have video cameras) and we pay Martin Septic service, who do come out and inspect every 6 mo.

My concern is that currently, we only have ONE service provider, who will come out to the island to maintain and pump out our septic systems. I am asking the Board to please let us know how this will be handled if Martin Septic decides not to service our Island any longer OR if we lose the barge service needed to get service trucks over to the island. Right now the barge service comes out of ELDREDS MARINA. THEY ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT TO SELL THE MARINA. SO THIS COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM!

It is very disappointing to know, that presently there is a company who is willing and able to establish septic to sewer conversion, who has been turned down. I am deeply concerned that we will one day, unexpectedly, have a huge problem on our hands.

I requested that the County send their contingency plan for the Island regarding Sewer systems, maintaining and assuring barge service for their trucks. To date, we have received no reply.

We would feel much better knowing that our elected officials are preparing for the future of our barrier Islands and the surrounding waters.

Sincerely,
Karyn & Art Flatau
9148 Grand Ave.
Placida, Fl 33946

Home 941 697 0186
Cell 352 650 5751

Antonia Hover

From: Doug Young <sentinelsuites@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Board Members,

We again object to the EU application for a variety of reasons. First of all we thought this was settled business. How many times do we all have to go through process, every two years?
If and when Charlotte County determines that there is a definite need for city sewer service on our island then Charlotte County should provide it and not abdicate their responsibility to the citizenry by passing it off to some opportunist with a solution looking for a problem to solve.
What makes EU qualified for a project of this magnitude. If in fact a sewer system is deemed necessary why not solicit bids from companies that actually have experience and a track record that we all can look at so we can make an informed decision.
In conclusion this sewer proposition is something that the vast majority don't want, it has yet to be determined necessary, and if it is Charlotte County should be the entity that provides it.

Thanks for listening,

Doug & Joyce Young
221 N Gulf Blvd
6 Pointe Way

Antonia Hover

From: Kristen & Colin <kristenandcolin@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:16 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Clerk of the Commission,

I am an owner of 9752 Little Gasparilla Island and would like to ask you to deny Environment Utilities (EU) application to install wastewater service on the barrier island especially Little Gasparilla Island (LGI).

No proven need for service

On LGI there are a handful of full-time residents and the rest of the houses are only used occasionally on weekends as vacation homes, so the volume is not as much as it is with a full-time resident with large families. The low volume can be determined by looking at the water consumption. Additionally, water quality testing by independent/reputable firms have not been conducted so there is no creditable reason for converting to sewer.

Private property rights

Nobody seems to have an answer when asked why water lines were allowed to be run on private property. Utility easements on our private property especially for a tank and equipment is not acceptable as it we are giving up our rights for any sort of equipment to be placed there which could be a loud pump, unsightly tank, etc.

Monthly costs and EU's lack of experience

If this is truly a need Charlotte county should devise a better plan to roll this out versus entertaining a new company that has never done sewer. EU is owned by the same company that does the current water, and the service for the water has come under scrutiny of how they reach out to residents when there is a water main break or need for a boil water advisory, etc. If there is a spill for the sewer, they have no track record of being able to deal with this timely and effectively. It has been documented that the monthly cost for sewer will be over \$200 which coupled with the existing water cost of \$135, this is \$4,020 per year which is double what we pay for our full-time residence in Pinellas County for our family of 5.

Initial costs

We purchased our house less than 4 years ago and wanted to be good Stewards of the environment and decided at the time to replace the septic system with a new tank and drain field to ensure our house did not contribute to any wastewater issues. The proposal by EU to this new system mentions that our new system will be removed and replaced with a smaller holding tank which does not make sense. Coupled with the financial issues we have run into with Hurricane Ian, and the rising insurance costs, this is a huge financial burden for us and the other homeowners which will force many folks off the island. Additionally, the \$12,000 initial cost seems outdated and we are concerned that it will exceed this and homeowners will be forced to pay this exorbitant bill.

I hope that you will deny EU's application.

Kristen Lagor
kristenandcolin@outlook.com
9752 Little Gasparilla Island Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: John Day <johnday1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:21 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: No Sewer LGI

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My personal perspective as a concerned homeowner of Little Gasparilla Island and environmental proponent is that the proposed wastewater service will have a devastating impact on the island and islanders. The service proposal has not demonstrated evidence to be better for the environment or residents/owners. It is, however, beneficial for those who stand to profit from the installation and forced hook up for ongoing service. This is an untenable situation. I can't fathom how the installation of such a system wouldn't create massive upheaval to the landscape, not to mention at a high cost to all owners. There seems to be little to no advantage of this project and it represents a major can-of-worms with potential problems in my mind. PLEASE deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Thank you!

John Day
9552 And 9548 Buccaneer Trl
Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL. 33946
Sent from my iPhone

Antonia Hover

From: Laura Roberts <lvr2570@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:24 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My Name is Laura Roberts and I am a homeowner on Don Pedro Island

I would like to log my objection to the proposed sewer application for Don Pedro, Knight and Palm Island submitted by EU.

My concerns are many, starting with a private utility being awarded a contract to install sewers. I do not believe they will be able to fulfill the obligation to install and service the system proposed as they have no prior experience in this area. I further believe the system proposed is flawed and will ultimately cause harm to our beautiful island. The system proposed will not effectively remove our waste and will require it to be pumped out on a regular basis. The tanks proposed are also made out of fiberglass; there is a very real risk of them coming out of the ground during one of our frequent Florida storms. The system will be powered by each resident's electricity, thus requiring the service of licensed electricians to install power to each individual pump. Residents will also have to install generators in case the power goes out or risk backups into our homes, further increasing the already high price of installation and maintenance of this poorly designed system. The fees this private company submitted are very low compared to what residents historically use.

I understand Charlotte County wants what is best for the environment as do I, but I beg you to consider all the options before authorization is given. Including having the county install real sewers or letting us continue to use the septic systems that are working just fine, and will continue to function with proper maintenance.

Our island is unique in many ways. Please visit here to assess if there truly is a need before you make a blanket decision that will cause more harm than good.

Sincerely,
Laura Roberts
450 S. Gulf Blvd. (Don Pedro Island)
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: W COOPER <erniesheryl_cooper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:56 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Re: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

April 24, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding Docket #20240032-SU

I am opposed to a central wastewater sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), as I do not see any proven need for one. I am requesting the Florida Public Service Commission deny Environmental Utilities, LLC's application to install and operate a central wastewater sewer system on LGI.

I have owned my home on the island since 1976 and have always had a reliable septic tank and drain field. I have not requested sewer service and do not see the need for this service on LGI. We are not permanent residents on the Island, however, we and our family are frequent visitors to our home on the Island. We have raised our children and now have grandchildren and great-grandchildren that enjoy spending quality family time on LGI.

I am very concerned that the Environmental Utilities (EU) is a private, for-profit entity and they lack prior experience in owning and operating a wastewater utility. We have heard that the initial cost for connecting to the system would be at least \$20,000+ per household. There would be additional costs associated with having septic tank and drain field removed, and excessive monthly costs thereafter. This is ludicrous and not affordable to a private homeowner who is retired, on a fixed income, and did not ask for this service.

We strongly oppose the approval of Environmental Utilities (EU) application for original certificate of authorization and initial rates and charges for wastewater service.

Please DO NOT approve this application.

Respectfully,

W. Ernest and Sheryl S. Cooper

8316 Grand Ave.

Little Gasparilla Island

erniesheryl_cooper@yahoo.com

Phone: 863) 512-0951