

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - SUMMARY OF SWT WITH MCU MEETING

Meeting Date: May 22, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.

Location: Marion County Utilities Facility

Attendees:

- Tony Cunningham, Director, Marion County Utilities (MCU)
- Josh Kramer, Assistant Director, Marion County Utilities (MCU)
- Neal Rehse, SWT Representative/Chair and Technical Advisor



FLORIDA DEP CONSENT ORDER

Marion County Utilities advised that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Consent Order remains in the legal review process. The matter is anticipated to be presented to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners for approval and signature at either the June 16, 2026, or July 7, 2026 Commissioner's meeting.

STATUS OF SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

MCU reported that it is awaiting the final engineering inspection report before determining what corrective actions may be required.

Preliminary inspections have identified areas of concern, including Lift Stations LS-01 and LS-05. The inspection process remains extensive in scope, and MCU advised that completion of the overall assessment is expected to take several more months.

Once the final engineering report is received, MCU will review the findings and recommendations before determining future actions.

WASTEWATER FACILITY EXPANSION UPDATE

MCU advised that plans for the expansion and relocation of portions of the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility have been modified.

Marion County has acquired property west of the existing facility and is approximately 30% through the design and development phase of the project.

A significant component of the project includes construction of a new dedicated access roadway entering the facility from SW 95th Circle. This roadway will substantially reduce facility-related traffic within Oak Run by routing construction vehicles, deliveries, employee traffic, and operational vehicles directly to the facility.

Residents should understand that MCU vehicles will continue to enter Oak Run when servicing infrastructure located within the community.

To further reduce impact on neighboring residents, MCU advised that noise-generating equipment, including the new blower systems currently scheduled for installation in late July or August, along with associated pumping equipment, will be relocated farther west toward the center of the future facility footprint.

Additionally, solids-handling operations are planned to be relocated farther west toward SW 95th Circle.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

MCU confirmed that the proposed BJ's Wholesale Club and Home Depot developments north of Oak Run will not be connected to the Oak Run wastewater processing system.

According to MCU:

- One development will be routed to the City of Ocala wastewater system.
 - The second development will be routed to the On Top of the World wastewater system.
-

LIFT STATION PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Marion County advised that it continues efforts to obtain property parcels associated with Lift Stations LS-01, LS-02, LS-03, and LS-04 from Oak Run.

The acquisition process was expected to have been completed previously but remains ongoing.

MCU advised that future improvements are planned for these locations, including aesthetically designed wood fencing intended to screen equipment while blending with the surrounding environment.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

STATUS OF FORCE MAIN CLEANING

SWT inquired about the status of jetting and cleaning wastewater infrastructure throughout Oak Run.

MCU advised that force mains cannot currently be cleaned using conventional jetting methods because there are no available bypass systems to temporarily divert flow during maintenance operations.

Engineering staff are currently evaluating the connection between LS-05 and LS-01 and will provide recommendations upon completion of their review.

LANDSCAPING AND BERM PROJECT UPDATE

MCU provided an update regarding the ongoing landscaping and berm project surrounding the wastewater facility.

The project, which exceeds \$200,000 in cost, has encountered permitting challenges related to installation of a planned eight-foot fence at the crest of the berm.

According to MCU, local code requirements and wind-load regulations did not permit the originally proposed design.

Engineers are currently evaluating modifications that would increase the height of the berm while reducing the fence height to six feet, allowing the project to achieve the intended visual screening and mitigation objectives.

SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

SWT AND MCU DISCUSSED THE HANDLING OF SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED INFORMATION.

Both parties agreed that certain information, including GIS mapping data and other infrastructure-sensitive materials, should be maintained and distributed only through authorized SWT leadership channels.

No unauthorized reproduction or distribution of such materials will occur.

IN CLOSING:

The meeting was productive, informative, and conducted in a cooperative manner. All parties exchanged information openly and discussed ongoing efforts intended to improve conditions for Oak Run residents while supporting Marion County's long-term infrastructure objectives.

The wastewater improvement program remains a large-scale, multi-phase undertaking. SWT believes Marion County Utilities has heard and acknowledged the

concerns expressed by residents regarding wastewater odors, sewer gas releases, infrastructure reliability, and future regional growth.

SWT remains committed to working collaboratively with Marion County Utilities, regulatory agencies, and community stakeholders to ensure residents remain informed and that meaningful progress continues toward long-term solutions.

Our SWT Motto: Unity in Community

Approved for Release:

Ana Ortiz-Warga, Chair

Neal Rehse, Co-Chair and Technical Advisor

Seniors Working Together (SWT)

Email: seniors_working_together_oakrun@aol.com

Phone: 352-783-2185

Website: <https://www.seniorstogetheroakrun.com/>

May 29, 2026

